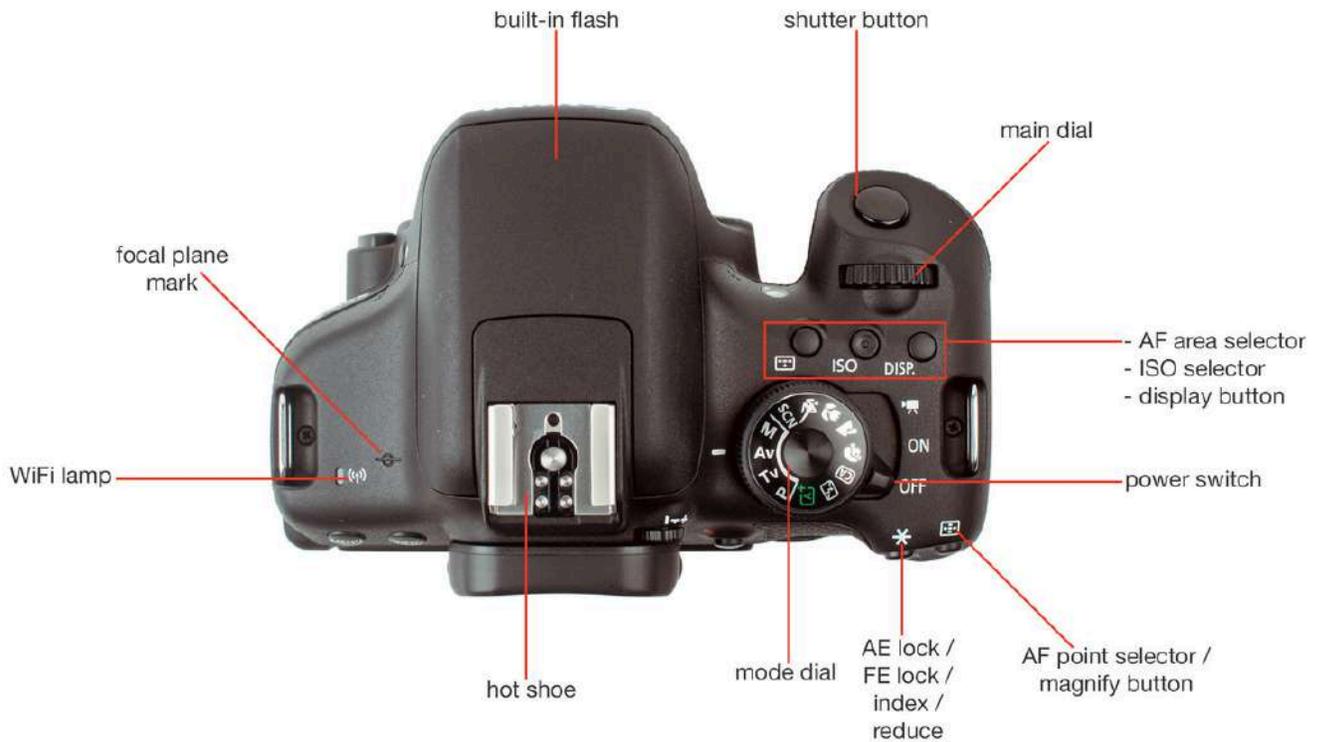# UMKC Communication Studies Dept
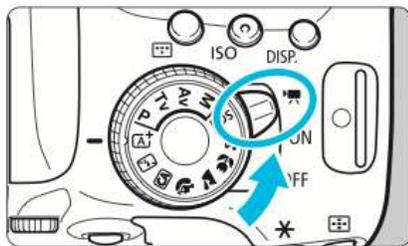# Canon DSLR Basic Operating Instructions
(This is for a T6i model, but other Canon DSLR's will have similar settings)

Power & Shooting Mode settings

- **Power switch** should be set to movie mode = camera icon.

Set the power switch to < >.
▶ The reflex mirror will make a sound, then the image will appear on the LCD monitor.

- **Shooting mode** should be set to **M** for manual on the mode dial.

Set the Mode Dial to <M>.

Recording Mode settings & SD Card Format

- Go to the main menu, then to movie record size. Set it to the **1920x1080** resolution, **23.98P fps (**frames per second) frame rate.

- The go to the menu, and set **picture style**. Generally, set to either **N** for neutral or **S** for standard. Neutral will be a flat image. Standard will be more saturated.

- Insert an SD card into the slot on the right side of the camera. Go to the menu, then to **format card**. Click OK. Do this every time when using a **NEW** card. This function deletes all data and footage from the card, leaving it completely blank for new recordings.
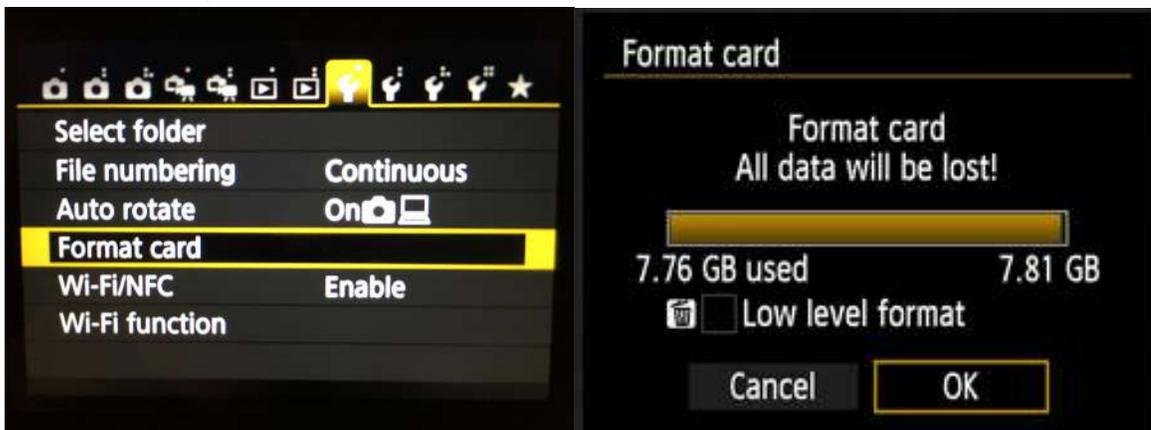
ISO and White Balance Settings

- The **ISO** selects the sensitivity of the image sensor and is set by pressing the ISO button which brings up a menu of numbers from 100 to 6400. 100 or 200 are typical ISO settings for sunny exteriors. Interiors would likely require a higher setting like 400 or 800. Try to keep the ISO at no more than 800. Settings higher than 400-800 introduce visual noise to the picture. Also avoid using the AUTO function, as it will likely push the ISO past 800 causing a noisy picture.
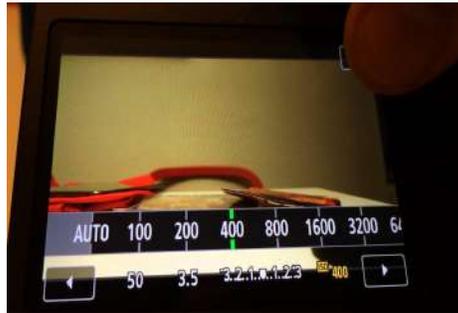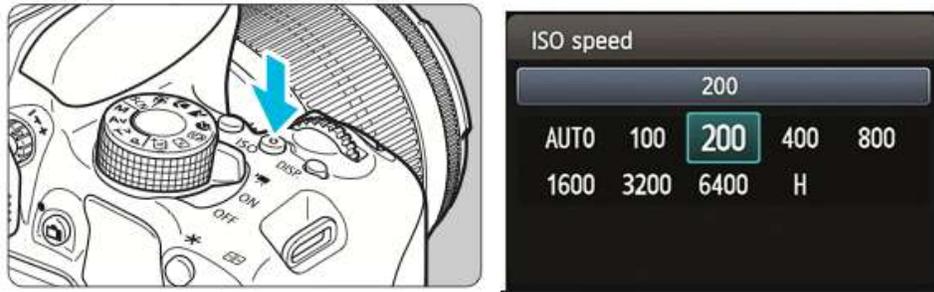
- **White balance** is the next thing to set. It can be set a couple of ways: a **Quick White Balance Preset**, or a **Custom White Balance** setting.
    - **Quick WB Preset**
        - First select the **quick control** button on the back of the camera & then select an appropriate preset white balance for the lighting condition for which you're shooting, using the touch screen.

- **Custom WB Preset**
  - For the **most accurate white balance**, use the custom setting.
    - Take a picture of something white like a piece of paper or a wall in the area you're shooting and under the lighting you plan to use.
    - Then go to the menu and find custom white balance.
   - Open it and select your white image.

  - Then using the **quick control** button, select the WB setting and choose the **custom white balance**.

|	
AWB	Automatic White Balance
☀	Daylight (5600k)
⌂	Shadow (7000K)
☁	Cloudy (6000K)
☀	Tungsten (3200K)
⌇	Fluorescent (4000K)
⚡	Flash (5500K)
⌣	Custom White Balance
K	User Defined
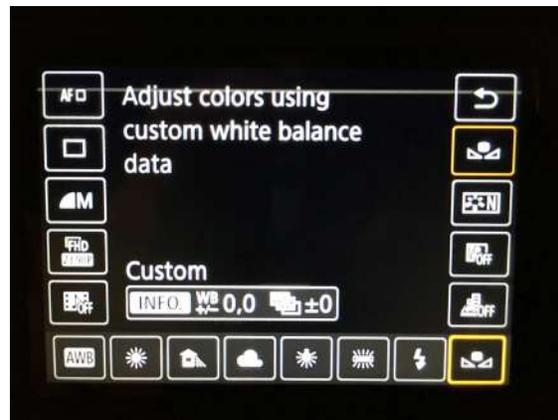
**<u>Setting Exposure</u>** *(the amount and time duration of **light** the camera is allowed to see).*

- First, set the **shutter speed**. The current shutter speed is indicated at the bottom on the live view display.
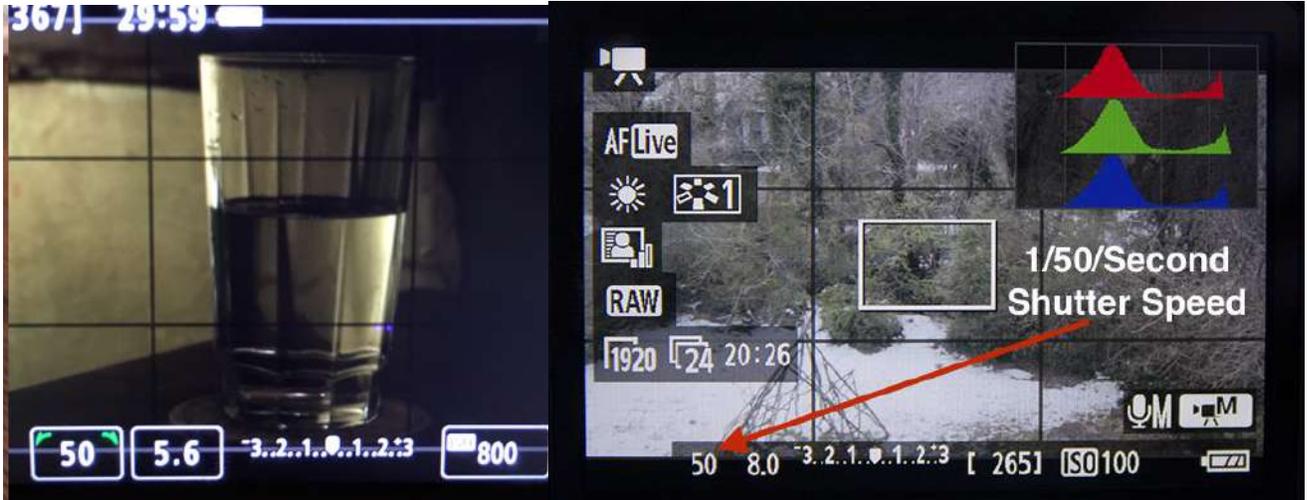
- Shutter speed should be about twice the number of the frame rate. If the frame rate is set to 23.98P, the shutter speed should be approximately 1/50th of a second. Set it using the touch screen or with the main dial with < ⚙ >. The green "quotes" indicate what can actively be changed with the main dial.
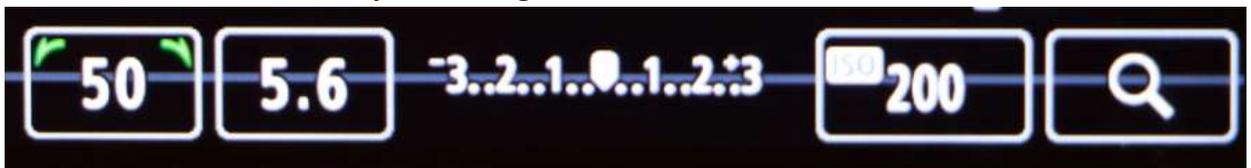
- Next is to set the **Aperture** of the lens. Setting the aperture means how much or little light the lens is allowing to pass through. This is measured in *f-stops.* Adjust the aperture by holding down the < Av ⊞ > button on the back of the camera (usually with your thumb). This will switch the green "quotes" from the shutter speed to the f-stop indicator. Simultaneously switching between f-stops with < ⚙ >, the main dial. **Be careful you don't change the Shutter Speed from 1/50. It's real easy to do by mistake!**
- You can also change the **Aperture** using touch screen by selecting the f-stop indicator and scrolling through the f-stops.
- As a reminder, the lower the f-stop number, the wider the aperture, which lets more light into the lens.
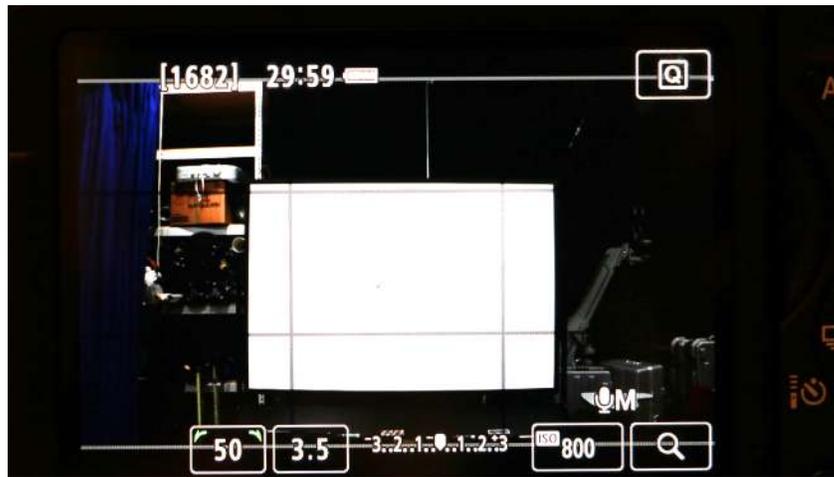
f/1.4   f/2   f/2.8   f/4

5.6

f/5.6   f/8   f/11   f/16
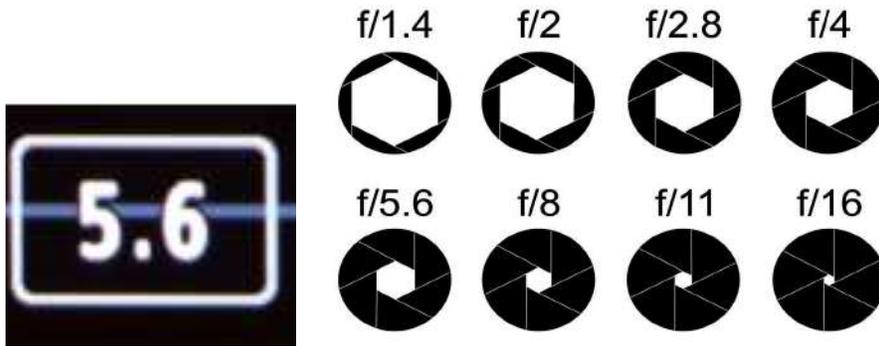
Focusing the Lens

- Focusing the lens. If using a kit lens, switch to manual focus or **MF.**

- Next point the camera at your subject and bring it into focus by turning the **focus ring** at the end of the lens.

- Another way to get sharp focus is by using the digital magnifier to closely look at a specific part of the subject. To do this you must point the camera at the subject, press the **magnifying button** which has two **(2)** intervals **(x5)** and **(x10)** magnification. Once the subject is taking up a large part of the view screen turn the **focus ring** until the subject is in focus.