

San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
**ART 208, Graduate Photography Critique, section 1, Fall 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Beverly Rayner
<b>Office Location:</b>	IS 208
<b>Telephone:</b>	No on-campus phone. Please contact via email
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:beverly.rayner@sjsu.edu">beverly.rayner@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday, 5:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	6:00 -8:50 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	IS 219-C
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Classified status in Art or instructor consent
<b>Department Office:</b>	ART 116
<b>Department Contact:</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/art">www.sjsu.edu/art</a> Email: <a href="mailto:art@sjsu.edu">art@sjsu.edu</a>

**Canvas Class Site:** Course materials such as our syllabus, assigned readings, handouts, web link postings and other important information can be found on our course Canvas site. **You can access our class Canvas site by going to:** <https://sjsu.instructure.com> Your Username is your 9 digit SJSU ID. Your Password is your current SJSU One password.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Professional practice in the discipline of fine art photography is multi faceted and complex. To embrace this diversity, Art 208 Graduate Photography Critique offers rotating topics that influence portfolio development, emphasize an ongoing critique of work, and build a healthy professional practice. Repeatable for up to 18 units when course topic changes.

It is a rare treat in this world to be able to cultivate your individual interests and stimulate your creative output within a group of people with similar goals and concerns. This gathering of creative minds offers a place to clarify your direction on your path forward as an artist. We will focus on sharing and discussing research and ideas that each artist finds useful or informative to their creative practice, intently taking time to understand the impetus behind what they create. We will also carefully investigate and critique each other's artistic output, collectively providing feedback and support by raising and (hopefully) answering questions about the work's aesthetic qualities and its effectiveness in communicating ideas.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Utilize skills in presenting and describing the ideas and content of one's own artwork
2. Compare and contrast aesthetic trends present in contemporary photography
3. Articulate general ways in which the medium has influenced its surrounding society
4. Describe the ideas of important and contemporary photographers in the medium

## REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS

Topical articles will be made available as PDF files on our course Canvas site well in advance of each class meeting. Each student will research and submit articles that inform their individual artistic practice and/or are relevant to contemporary issues or trends in the arts and world culture, and that would be of interest to everyone. All students will review each article, make notes of observations and reactions, and be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of each weekly meeting.

## LIBRARY LIAISON (REQUIRED)

Elisabeth Thomas at: [elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu](mailto:elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

This course is all about you: what are your interests and concerns, and how might you best address them? As a group, we have a collective brainpower far greater, and with more resources, than our own individual points of view, and we will work together to provide a whole range of perspectives on what each member of the class is investigating and creating.

To this end, each of you will carry out research that is stimulating, thought-provoking, or just plain useful to you as an artist. We will share articles and Internet research on an ongoing basis. Each week, one of you will provide one such reading to share and discuss with the group. Every week, all of you will also post links to web research you carry out, creating a collective online database of postings about current issues, culture and artworks for everyone to access. There may also be various opportunities for field trips to museums, galleries, or artist's studios, guest lectures, slide presentations, and who knows what else... We will do our best to take advantage of whatever opportunities are available this semester.

And, most vital to a critique class, we will spend the bulk of our time each week giving our careful attention to, and constructive feedback about each other's work. Talking and writing about your own work is a skill that is refined over and over again throughout the trajectory of an art career, and each of you will have a captive audience on which to practice and sharpen these skills. This group should be a respectful and helpful atmosphere in which you may feel comfortable testing the waters

of your vast pool of ideas, refining work in progress, examining your effectiveness in communicating ideas, or even to taking a leap and moving on from what is comfortable to something new and challenging. We will foster an atmosphere of inquiry, testing and problem solving, all of which are at the core of any creative endeavor.

Oral communication is obviously key to this experience. You will talk about your research, about your own work, and about the research and work of others. This can be uncomfortable for some people, but I am living proof that shyness and terror of public speaking can be overcome. My hope is that we create a place together where ideas and opinions may be freely exchanged and received with the respect they deserve. So, please, let your ideas be heard! Ask questions, talk about your reactions, offer differences of opinion, make suggestions... the more you contribute to the discussion, the better for everyone, including yourself. In return, be open and receptive to the opinions and feedback of your peers.

### **Final examination/evaluation**

#### **Due for Final Exam:**

1. A final revision of your artist's statement to be evaluated for content (description of the visual qualities, content and conceptual focus of your artwork), as well as clarity, conciseness, accessibility, style and correct grammar.
2. A synopsis and analysis of:
  - the learning outcomes of your research
  - the developments and/or setbacks you felt you made in your artistic production, as well as any problem solving for possible solutions
  - and a brief assessment of future goals as an artist.

### **GRADING POLICY**

This course will be conducted as a discussion and critique seminar in which regular class attendance and consistent participation are critically important. Class participation involves being here on time, prepared to present and/or discuss whatever is on the agenda for each meeting, during which you should generously share your thoughts, opinions, questions, doubts, and insights. Your active and productive contributions to class discussions and critiques are the biggest factor in determining your grade. As a participant in this class, each of you must demonstrate that you are committed to the development of your artistic ideas and practice and that you are willing to help others in pursuing theirs. Grades are based on your commitment to exploring concepts, developing communication skills, and evolving in your ideas and output as an artist.

Since we only meet only once per week, it is very important not to miss class meetings. If at some point you have a legitimate time conflict that keeps you from attending a meeting, you must inform me in advance. Unexcused absences and/or an apparent lack of commitment to this class will have a negative impact on your final grade.

## Rubric

- **Class participation - 50%:** level of engagement in, and contributions to, discussions of research and critiques of artwork.
- **Research and presentation - 30%:** researching and presenting relevant articles, web research links, and other relevant information. Presenting your own work and ideas through critiques, slide presentation, and artist's statement.
- **Final Exam/Evaluation - 20%:** 1) final edit of artist's statement 2) written summary/analysis of semester research and progress, future goals. Final exam will take place in our classroom during our specified exam time (see daily syllabus schedule below). See content of final exam in final exam/evaluation section above.

## CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

As mentioned above, please respect the time and efforts of your instructor and peers by being on time, being prepared and attending all class meetings. When in class, please give your full attention to whoever is speaking or presenting. This means no private conversations going on in the background – they can be incredibly distracting. Speaking of distractions, I ask that there be no unnecessary excursions of your mental focus veering off into your devices – cell phones, laptops, tablets, whatever. It is scientifically proven that no human can successfully pay attention to anything when their attention is divided between the physical world their body inhabits and the virtual space of technology. Your mind will just ping pong between the two, being everywhere and nowhere at all. So, be here, now.... please. Please silence your cell phones. If you need to receive a communication from the world outside our classroom bubble, please leave the room.

I can't stress enough how important it will be to have a respectful and supportive environment in this class. Any disrespectful, discriminatory, or threatening behavior will result in immediate removal from the class meeting.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes

### Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](#) at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

### **Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers

workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook

**ART 208, GRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHY CRITIQUE, SECTION 1, FALL 2017 COURSE SCHEDULE**

*This schedule is an outline and may change to accommodate unforeseen opportunities/events. I will notify of any schedule changes via email. Schedule will be updated on Canvas.*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Tuesday, Aug. 29	Introduction, Class overview, Planning
2	Tuesday, Sept. 5	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
3	Tuesday, Sept. 12	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
4	Tuesday, Sept. 19	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
5	Tuesday, Sept. 26	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
6	Tuesday, Oct. 3	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
7	Tuesday, Oct. 10	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
8	Tuesday, Oct. 17	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
9	Tuesday, Oct. 24	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
10	Tuesday, Oct. 31	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
11	Tuesday, Nov. 7	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
12	Tuesday, Nov. 14	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
13	Tuesday, Nov. 21	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
14	Tuesday, Nov. 28	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
15	Tuesday, Dec. 5	Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork
16	Tuesday, Dec. 12	Last Day of Instruction, Discussion of readings and internet/other research, student presentations, critique of student presentations/artwork

Final Exam	Tuesday, Dec. 19	6:00 pm in classroom, review and assessment of outcomes and goals
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