

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Phot 40, Beginning Photography
Section 05, Fall, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sean Peeler
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Email:	seankellypeeler@gmail.com
Office Hours:	Tuesday 4:00 – 5:00PM or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 12:00 – 2:50PM
Classroom:	Duncan Hall 410
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

Technology Intensive Course

You need a digital camera with manual mode and RAW file capabilities as well as a laptop computer for this course and the current edition of Adobe Lightroom (free to all SJSU students). You can download it at <http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/adobe>. You will also need a memory card and some external storage drive.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com/>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu/> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

A Beginning photography course which introduces basic aesthetic issues in (primarily black and white) image making. Introduces photographic technique utilizing digital cameras, electronic image processing and digital printing. Requires a DSLR (digital single lens reflex) type camera and Adobe Lightroom.

Course Content and Objective

Every medium has a language of its own. This Beginning course in digital photography will not only provide you with the basic skills necessary to produce technically proficient photographs, but will introduce you to the language of image making, with assignments designed to both hone your technical skills and develop your ability to communicate conceptually as an artist.

The first part of the semester will provide you with a technical foundation that includes camera controls, exposure techniques, and digital ink jet printing. The second half of the semester will put greater emphasis on the development of your aesthetic and conceptual skills. There will be 3 larger photographic “projects”, with smaller, in-class, more technically oriented graded assignments. Projects and class critiques will encourage thoughtful work and the exchange of ideas within our group. You will probably find that the opinions of your peers are at least as important as my own (sometimes more important). The skills, experience and goals of the members of this class may vary a great deal. But each of you will contribute the value of your past experiences, interests, skills and opinions to the group.

In addition to technical lectures which will cover basic camera use, exposure, and composition, you will also be introduced to a variety of photographic work through digital slide lectures and discussions covering not only well-known historically significant photographic artists, but more recent trends in photography as well. We will take one or more class field trips to local venues.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Understand the basic formal elements of the photographic image.
2. Possess at least a beginning level photographic vocabulary.
3. Understand digital camera settings and controls and their effect on exposure/image.
4. Shoot, import, enhance, export/print images using Adobe Lightroom.
5. Possess an overview of relevant historic and contemporary photographic artists and issues.
6. Create imagery within a conceptual framework.
7. Use inkjet printers and print your own images.
8. Gain an understanding of the importance of presentation and present your work in a professional manner (whether traditional or unconventional).

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

No textbook required for this course. Readings and assignments related to readings will be announced in class and distributed via Canvas, please check Canvas regularly for updates.

Other Readings

Most exercises for Lightroom will be covered in class demonstration. Demos, lectures, and Lightroom tutorials will be provided via Canvas.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

1) Digital Camera

- a) *Must have a **megapixel quality of 12 or higher**. (Negotiable)*
- b) *Must be able to capture images in full **Manual Mode**.*
(able to manually adjust both shutter speed and f/stops)
- c) *Must be able to capture images in **Camera Raw**.*

The more automatic your camera is, the less control you will have over your images, and the less opportunity you will have to experiment.

Suggested DSLR & Mirrorless Digital Cameras:

- Nikon – D5300, D610
- Canon - EOS Rebel T6, 70D, 6D, 5D(series)
- Olympus – OM-D(series)
- Fujifilm – X(series)
- Sony – a68, a6000, a7(series)

- 2) **Memory card** for your camera, backup(s) recommended.
- 3) **Laptop** is required for this class.
- 4) **Adobe Lightroom** installed for image managing/editing. ******(available free through SJSU)
- 5) **USB Flashdrive** or external hard drive for turning in assignments and printing.
- 6) **Card Reader or USB Cable** for transferring photographs, unless your laptop has the necessary port.
- 7) **Portfolio or Portfolio Box** - used to transport your prints.
- 8) **Presentation Materials** such as mat board or alternative materials for presentation of work.

Suggested Local Vendors:

Foto Express- 304 E Santa Clara Street, San Jose (408) 971-3977
Kaufman's Camera- 154 W. 25th Ave, San Mateo (650) 574-3429
Bear Images- 417 Lambert Ave., Palo Alto, 94306 (650) 813-9820
Adolf Gasser- 181 2nd Street, SF (415) 495-3852
Samy's Camera- 1090 Bryant Street, SF (415)621-8400

Online Vendors:

Adorama (NY)
B&H (NY)
Freestyle Photo (freestylephoto.biz)

Library Liaison

Elisabeth Thomas (elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu)

Website: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/collectiondevelopment/CDhumanities>

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

Final Examination

Tuesday, December 19 [9:45AM – 12:00PM]

Projects:

Project 1 - **200 points**
Project 2 - **200 points**
Project 3 - **200 points**

Writing:

Research Paper - **100 points**

In Class:

Exercises - **100 points**
Participation - **150 points**
Quiz – **50 points**

-1000 Points Total-

Grading Policy

I *strongly encourage* risk taking in this class, and thoughtful experimentation will help increase your grade. Your assignments will be graded on your technical achievements and your creative solutions to the challenges given. The work created in class will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- A **Outstanding:** thoughtful and intelligent ideas presented in a clear, organized, and engaging manner; among the very best.
- B **Above Average - Good:** the ideas are interesting and successfully presented; shows potential, but not necessarily distinctive; roughly equal in quality to the majority of work completed by other students.
- C **Average - mediocre:** achieves minimum requirements of the assignment, but not particularly clear, nor ambitious. Quality of work is below that of most other projects submitted. May be above average idea presented in incomplete state.
- D **Unsatisfactory:** does not satisfy the minimum requirements of the assignment; generally unsatisfactory in terms of quality and clarity.
- F You didn't submit an assignment.

Grading Breakdown

3 Photographic Projects 60%
Research Paper 10%
In-Class Exercises 10%
Class Participation 15%
Quiz 5%

Extra Credit

Photography Department field trip (dates are to be determined) **(50 points)**. 2 Gallery Report's (writing assignment 1 page, guidelines will be posted to Canvas) **(25 points each)**.

Class Participation

The best way to develop your skills and ideas is to be here and actively participate. There will be a number of lectures and demos and we'll have many discussions that you will not experience if you are not present. Your participation in the form of regular involvement in activities and discussions is not only required but mandatory. 15% of your final grade will be based on your overall class participation. Assignments take two days to critique in a class of this size. **I expect you to attend both days of the critique.** Failure to do so will negatively affect your Class Participation grade. Your voice is critical to the success of this class. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances it is your responsibility to make me aware of your situation when it occurs.

Make Ups and Late Work

Late work is not accepted past one week after assignment is due. Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade during the first week it is late, unless advance notice is given to me and I have approved the late submission. Documented personal, family and health emergencies are exempt from this late policy. **If you must miss a class, please send me an e-mail (preferably before the missed day)**, so that I may let you know what you will be missing. Many class lectures and demonstrations cannot be repeated or made up. Again, talk to me if you are having problems. Again, do not miss critique days, even if you don't have work to show. I will be much more likely to accept excuses for late work if you attended the critique.

Classroom Protocol

First and foremost, I expect our classroom to be a fun and safe learning space. You will be expected to be on time, engaged and present throughout class meetings, critiques and lectures. This class will have an open door policy, having to use the restroom or stretch your legs is fine, but (if possible) please check in first in case I am about to give a lecture or demonstration. Students are encouraged not only to engage with their instructor regarding their work, but also with the other students within the class. Participation in group critique is both expected and mandatory. We are learning not only how to make better pictures, but also to dissect, digest and talk about them - let's have a conversation!

Cell Phone Etiquette

Cell phone use is absolutely prohibited in class unless given prior permission. Although I will not always interrupt class discussion or critique, cell phone use is not only disruptive but often noticeable and can negatively affect your class participation grade.

Laptop Etiquette

Please use your laptops in respectful manner. It is fine to have laptops open during open lab time, or during demos or lectures when I've asked you to follow along or take notes. **Laptops should remain closed during critiques, films or demos that do not require your participation.** You know the drill: answering email, checking your FB page, running irrelevant Google searches or working on projects from another class are all off limits during anything other than open lab time. Please show respect for me and those around you. Inappropriate laptop use can negatively affect your class participation grade.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. **FYI: Last day to drop without an entry on student's permanent record (D): Wed. 9/6; Last day to add & register late: Wed. 9/13.** For more information regarding add/drop policies:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> -DroppingAdding

Shop Safety

If you plan to use the Shop (located in the Art Building) for realization of any of your work this semester, you must take and pass the Shop safety test. Using the Shop is not specifically required for this course. Tests cost \$20 a year and are only conducted at the start of the semester. If you took and passed the test last semester, you do not need to take it again this semester. If you are interested in taking the test this semester, you should go to the shop asap and inquire about the testing dates. If you miss this opportunity, you will not be able to use the shop until after you take and pass the test next semester, during the testing period.

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. 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/>

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the third floor of the Student Wellness Center, room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/>

Important Reminders:

For Monday 8/28

1. Bring your camera, do not forget a memory card and full battery!
2. First in-class exercise
3. Make sure you attend class again, or you will be dropped. If you can't attend for some (valid) reason, you need to let me know AHEAD OF TIME (not after you miss class).

For Wednesday 8/30

1. Bring your camera with images from Monday's portrait exercise
2. Bring laptop with Lightroom installed for demonstration
3. Be prepared to give informal and brief (2-4min) presentation in front of class introducing a few of your favorite photographers. More information on Canvas within the **Assignments** section. If we have time I will also present.

Phot 40/Beginning Photography, Fall, 2017, Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W 08/23	Class overview and expectations, syllabus and materials. Ice Breaker Homework: Bring camera ready to shoot to next class!
2	M 8/28	Camera Basics: Exposure Triangle, Manual Mode, Histogram, Lenses In-Class Exercise: Portraits Homework: Research 2-3 of your favorite photographers, each student brief presentation 8/30. Bring laptop with Lightroom installed to next class.
2	W 8/30	Lightroom: Interface, Importing, Rating, Collections, Exporting, Deleting Camera Basics: Capture (RAW vs JPEG) Bring into class work of other photographers that influence you, 4 min max presentation (not graded, but part of participation grade) Homework: Import Portrait images into Lightroom, choose best portraits.
3	M 9/4	<i>Labor Day – No Class – Enjoy!</i>

3	W 9/6	Lightroom: Converting to black and white, creating digital Contact Sheets Lightroom: Enhance/Edit, Adjustment Brush, Tinting Review in-class portraits Homework: Bring camera to next class for In-class assignment
4	M 9/11	Design: Composition and Aesthetics (Form) In-class Exercise: Scavenger Hunt Homework: Photograph & choose best image from the 8 categories in Scavenger Hunt
4	W 9/13	Introduce Project #1: Self Portrait (introduce artists who worked in self portraiture) Review Scavenger Hunt photos Homework: Begin photographing Self Portrait, read "Concept vs Technique"
5	M 9/18	Camera Basics: Equivalent Exposure, Bracketing, Depth of Field and Motion In-Class Exercise: DOF/Motion Homework: Contact sheet for DOF/Motion Exercise. Read "Concept vs Technique"
5	W 9/20	Concept vs Technique Camera: Lens "whacking" Review DOF/Motion Homework: Making photographs and contact sheets for Self Portrait project.
6	M 9/25	Lightroom: Tonal Curves, Edge Burning, etc Print Demo Printing Contact Sheets for Self Portrait Homework: Read "Form, Content, and Critique" on Canvas
6	W 9/27	Form, Content, and Critique Printing Contact Sheets for Self Portrait Homework: Complete Self Portrait project, <u>read</u> "The Critique Handbook" on Canvas
7	M 10/2	Self Portrait Project Due! Critique Self Portrait
7	W 10/4	Critique Self Portrait Homework: Research and select photographer from list of photographers for research paper.
8	M 10/9	Different Types of Photography (i.e. landscape, portrait, documentary, political, etc.) Introduce Project #2: Inspiration Confirm with me your chosen photographer for research paper.
8	W 10/11	History of Antique Photography and Technology Confirm with me your chosen photographer for Project #2: Inspiration
9	M 10/16	Southern Gothic Guest Speaker
9	W 10/18	f/64 and The New Topographics Work Time/Individual Meetings
10	M 10/23	Post Modern & Contemporary Photographers Guest Speaker
10	W 10/25	Work Time/Printing for Inspiration
11	M 10/30	Work Time/Printing for Inspiration
11	W 11/1	Inspiration Project Due! Critique Inspiration Homework: Study for Lightroom Quiz.

12	M 11/6	Critique Inspiration
12	W 11/8	Introduce Project #3 Truth, Fabrication, and Manipulation in Photography Lightroom/Camera Quiz
13	M 11/13	Field Trip: San Jose Museum of Art (meet at Museum)
13	W 11/15	ATC Presentation, attendance required during class time, Location TBA
14	M 11/20	Individual Check-ins and Work Time
14	W 11/22	Thanksgiving Break – No Class – Enjoy your break!
15	M 11/27	3-Page Research Paper on Photographer of your choice due today!! Print day – must be ready to print today.
15	W 11/29	Print day – must be ready to print today.
16	M 12/4	Extra Credit Gallery Reports due today!! Print day – must be ready to print today.
16	W 12/6	3rd Assignment due today - Critique
17	M 12/11	Critique Continues
Final Exam	T 12/19 [9:45AM-12:00PM]	Please note that the day of the week & time is different from our regular meeting time.