

San José State University

Department of Art & Art History

PHOT 197 Senior Projects

Section I, Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Barbara Boissevain
Office Location:	IS 208
Telephone:	(650) 804-8408 (cell)
Email:	photogal@gmail.com
Office Hours:	MW 4:50PM to 5:50PM
Class Days/Time:	MW 6:00PM to 8:50PM
Classroom:	IS, Room 219
Prerequisites:	Prerequisite: 15 units of upper division courses in PHOT

Department Office: ART 116

Department Contact: Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/barbara.boissevain>

Course Description

This is an advanced photography course where students create a new, semester-long project with the goal of producing a mature body of work for their culminating project in the SJSU Photography program. This project will display a high level of technical mastery of photographic skills as well as intensive creative and conceptual exploration. In addition, the course emphasizes developing

professional exit skills including portfolio procurement, website design and the oral communication/presentation skills needed to begin successful careers as professional artists and photographers.

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

1. **Create** a Culminating final project that **demonstrates** a high level of technical mastery of photographic skills as well as intensive creative and conceptual exploration.
2. **Utilize and apply** professional practices for photographers and art professionals that will allow the student to have a successful art/photography career in the future.
3. **Develop** written and oral communication skills that will allow the students to effectively communicate what their work is about and how it relates to the contemporary art discourse and/or commercial art applications.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- Present their photography work in a professional manner through the creation of a portfolio website, self-published hard copy photobook and other promotional materials.
- Speak and write about their work in an effective way that communicates their ideas and is industry appropriate.
- Begin a successful photography career in the fine art or commercial world that is sustainable and financially viable.
- Develop a studio practice that feeds their creativity and allows them to continue to grow as artists.

Required Texts/Readings

Amy Whitaker, *Art Thinking: How to Carve Out Creative Space in a World of Schedules, Budgets and Bosses*, ISBN-10: 0062358278

<https://www.amazon.com/Art-Thinking-Creative-Schedules-Budgets/dp/0062358278>

Other Readings

Jennifer Schwartz, *Crusade for your Art: Best Practices for Fine Art Photographers*, ISBN-10: 0991277937

https://www.amazon.com/Schwartz-Jennifer-Crusade-Your-Photographers/dp/B00L711YWY/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1502862755&sr=1-2&keywords=Jennifer+Schwartz%2C+Crusade+for+your+Art%3A+Best+Practices+for+Fine+Art+Photographers%2C

Library Liaison

Elisabeth Thomas, email: elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu

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

Shop Safety

Shop safety test—please provide shop info to your students if they will use the shop for ANY assignments:

Students who use the shop facilities will be required to pay a \$20 fee to take the Shop Safety Test before they can use the facility. The fee must be paid prior to the student taking the Shop Safety Test.

The test and fee are required only once a calendar year, so if your students took the test during the Spring 2017 semester, they will not be required to pay this fee again until Spring 2018. If students paid the fee in Fall 2016, they must pay the fee again for Fall 2017. The shop test is valid for one (1) calendar year.

Returning students who passed the safety test last semester need only show proof of their enrollment in a 3-unit Art or Design course in order to have their shop access reactivated.

Safety tests for Fall 2017 will ONLY be given between August 23rd and September 15th.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade in this class will be based on the completion of 4 Written Responses (based on the required “Art Thinking” text), a ***Culminating final project of minimum of 10 new images*** (in the form of a Blurb book or Portfolio website), your oral presentation of your culminating final project, and classroom participation. All of the assignments and activities in this course contribute to your acquisition of important professional exit skills that will help you be successful in your post-university endeavors as a professional artist/photographer. For this reason it is important that you take this class very seriously and put in the maximum time and effort you are able to give.

5 Written Responses

(based on chapters assigned in the *Art Thinking* text)

25% of your grade

Interview of Artist/Photographer Professional

10% of your grade

Culminating Final Project, minimum 10 *new* images

(presented as a book or website)

40% of your grade

Oral Presentation of your Culminating Project

10% of your grade

Classroom discussion and participation

(especially giving fellow students feedback during critiques)

15% of your grade

Final Examination or Evaluation

The completion of your Culminating Final Project presented in a self published book or as a portfolio website will serve as your final examination for PHOT 197. In addition, on the day of the final each student will give a formal oral presentation of their Culminating Final Project in front of the class.

Grading Information (Required)

A = Hand in all assignments of outstanding quality and on time. Also, hand in an outstanding culminating final project. Actively participate in class discussions.

B = All the above but below the highest quality.

C = All the above but of average quality.

D = All the above of average quality minus one assignment,

F = Work of poor quality minus more than one assignment, or failure to turn in 2 of the assignments, failure to demonstrate and apply the professional exit skills covered in the course.

EXTRA CREDIT

One of the following optional assignments is available for you to improve your grade if you are missing an assignment and have my approval to make it up with extra credit. Each are equivalent to one assignment (approximately 10%) and could make a significant difference for your final grade.

- Book Report. Do at least a three page report on a photography book of your choice. Critically analyze what you read.
- Gallery Report. Do at least a three page report on your visit to a gallery or museum that is showing a photographic exhibition. Critically analyze the show. Explaining how much you liked or did not like the show does not count.
- Get your photograph published. Get one or more of your photographs published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, book, etc.
- Get your photograph exhibited in a show. Get one or more of your photographs exhibited in a show in a gallery, coffee shop, museum, etc.

Classroom Protocol

Tardy/Lateness Policy: I make most of the important class announcements at the beginning of class. If you are late you will miss essential information that may later affect your grade. Chronic lateness may lead to being dropped from the class.

Also, please keep in mind that if you are not attending class, you are not participating, 15 percent of your grade is based upon class participation.

Texting and non-assignment related (i.e. social media) computer use in class is prohibited.

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/>"

LATE DROP POLICY

The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>

PHOT 197 / Senior Projects, Fall 2017, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice which will be made available to students through email and announcements made in class.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W, 08/23	Class Introduction, "Written Response No. 2" assignment given
1	M, 08/28	Lecture Presentation
2	W, 08/30	Proposal for Final Project Due
2	M, 09/04	No class, Labor Day!
3	W, 09/06	"Written Response No. 1" DUE, discuss in class
3	M, 09/11	"Written Response No. 2" assignment given
4	W, 09/13	Interview Assignment given

4	M, 09/18	Guest Photographer Visit
5	W, 09/20	“Written Response No. 2” DUE, discuss in class
5	M, 09/25	“Written Response No. 3” assignment given
6	W, 09/27	Interview Assignment DUE
6	M, 10/02	Guest Commercial Photographer Visit
7	W, 10/04	“Written Response No. 3” DUE, discuss in class
7	M, 10/09	Lecture and Presentation Website Design
8	W, 10/11	Mid-Term Critique of Final Project Group 1
8	M, 10/16	Mid-Term Critique of Final Project Group 2
9	W, 10/18	“Written Response No. 4” assignment given
9	M, 10/23	Lecture and Presentation Blurb Book Layout and Design
10	W, 10/25	Guest Photo Book Artist Visit
10	M, 10/30	Open Lab, work on Final Project
11	W, 11/01	Small Group Critique Final Project
11	M, 11/06	“Written Response No. 4” assignment DUE, discuss in class
12	W, 11/08	Open Lab, work on Final Project
12	M, 11/13	Lecture and Presentation: Approaching Galleries
13	W, 11/15	“Written Response No. 5” assignment given
13	M, 11/20	Open Lab, work on Final Project
14	W, 11/22	NO CLASS, Non-Instructional Day
14	M, 11/27	Guest Fine Art Gallerist/Curator
15	W, 11/29	“Written Response No. 5” assignment DUE, discuss in class
15	M, 12/04	Open Lab, work on Final Project
16	W, 12/06	Open Lab, work on Final Project
16	M, 12/11	Begin Critiques of Final projects
Final Exam*	W, 12/13	Venue and Time: IS 219, 7:45 PM to 10:00PM Be ready to give an oral presentation and present your Final project discussing your portfolio book or portfolio website.

*There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.