

Department of Art & Art History

ARTH & PHOT 126: *History of Photography, sec. 1* Spring 2017

Contact Information

Instructor:	Brian Taylor
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Office Hours:	TTh 4:30-6:30pm TTh 11-12 by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TTh 3- 4:15pm
Classroom:	Art Building room 135
Prerequisites:	Art History 70B or Instructor consent

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Explore Our *Canvas* Class Site: Course materials such as our syllabus, assigned readings, handouts, discussion blog, and other important information can be found on our *Canvas* learning management 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

“The History of Photography – A survey of aesthetic and technical trends in photography from its invention in the 19th century to the present day, conducted in art historical context.”

This course will trace the technical and aesthetic development of photography from its discovery in the early 19th century to the present day. Refinements in the photographic process will be discussed, yet an emphasis will be placed upon the significant aesthetic trends and philosophies responsible for photography's powerful presence as an art form.

Each class will consist of a slide lecture describing a different theme, movement, or photographer's approach to the medium. The work of 19th century photographers will be covered in the first half of the semester, with 20th century photography being covered in the second half. Your thoughts and questions are very welcome at any time, and will make the class all the more interesting.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

On successful completion of this course, students shall be able to:

- 1.) Compare and contrast aesthetic trends that occur chronologically in photography's history
- 2.) Explain various technical improvements and innovations in the medium
- 3.) Articulate general ways in which the medium has influenced its surrounding society
- 4.) Describe the work and ideas of important and prominent photographers in the medium
- 5.) Demonstrate skills in researching & writing clearly about historical issues in Photography

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Seizing the Light: A History of Photography, by Robert Hirsch; McGraw-Hill Pub., 2nd Edition. This is the newest and best text on the subject, a little dry in the early chapters, but written in an informative and friendly style with a very good contemporary section. You can also use an earlier version of the book, the 1st edition is fine too (and now cheaper).

Library Liaison

Rebecca Kohn at: rebecca.kohn@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

As you might expect, attendance is very important, for the best way to study this influential medium is to be here and explore it. This course will be conducted in the spirit and pace of an art history class. Skipping classes will inevitably lead to a disappointing grade, since the majority of exam questions are taken from the lectures. Follow required readings in the text.

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. Using your phone or laptop for anything other than taking notes in class will impair your ability to hear the lectures and adversely affect your grade. (Science has shown that we actually can't do more than one thing at a time!) More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be the result of three examinations distributed evenly throughout the semester, as well as a five-page Term Paper on a topic of your choice relevant to the history of photography. The exams will include slide identification, multiple choice, and true/false questions. The exams are not cumulative— each exam will deal only with information covered since the last exam. The three exams are counted equally, each being 30% of your final grade, and the paper is 10%. Due to the fast pace of this course, every class meeting is quite full: make-up exams are allowed only by prior arrangement or valid medical/family excuses. More information regarding the required Term Paper will be available in our online *Canvas* site.

Extra Credit Gallery Report (once only) One well-prepared typewritten, one page paper describing a photo exhibition you saw at a local gallery or museum *off campus* this semester counts as extra credit if you wish to raise one test score two grade levels. You'll find detailed instructions on this Gallery Report in our online *Canvas* site. Take a friend, visit an art museum, get some culture! Due the last day of class.

Classroom Protocol

Please Silence All Cell Phones

Apple Introduced the first computer for the masses –the Macintosh– in 1984, and the first “laptop” appeared in 1989. All impressive things before the 1990s were accomplished without the aid of laptop computers: The Great Pyramids were built, the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge, Einstein carried out his brilliant research on a chalkboard before the 1930s. Every major discovery in the history of the world occurred without the aid of computers before the 1950s. Most likely, the doctor who delivered you took notes by hand in medical school and graduated without ever owning a laptop computer... Feel free to speak with me if you wish to use your computer to type notes in class; you can also tape record this class if you wish.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90–5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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/. 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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class.

Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Photo & Art History: The History of Photography

Spring 2016, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change and I’ll send you an email with updated information, also updated on our course Canvas site.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan. 26	Course Introduction and Slide Overview, Administration
2	Jan 31, Feb 2	Pre-photography, Cameras, Light Sensitive Materials and Research Invention of Photography: Niepce, Daguerre, Talbot
3	Feb. 7,9	New Processes and Refinements: Stereo, Albumen, Collodian Photography as a Fine Art, Manipulation vs. Straight Techniques

4 4	Feb. 14 Feb. 16	Era of Exploration: Travel Photography Photography for the Masses: Eastman Kodak
5	Feb. 21 23	Photography as a Weapon for Social Change Pictorialism at the End of the 19 th Century
6	Feb 28 March 2	First Exam: Study Chapters 1-9 in Hirsch Text, and 1 st part Ch. 12 Photography Enters the 20 th Century: Stieglitz and Photo Secession
7	March 7,9	Photography Enters the 20 th Century (continued) Steichen and His Career; Fashion & Commercial Photography
8	March 14 16	Naïve Photography Photography Between the Two World Wars, Art Movements
9	March 21 23	The Decisive Moment: Cartier Bresson, Kertesz, Brassai FSA: Evans, Lange and others
10	March 28 30	SPRING BREAK
11	April 4 April 6	Class Field Trip to SJ Museum Photojournalism #1
12	April 11 13	Photojournalism #2 2 nd Exam: Study Textbook Chapters 8-14
13	April 18 20	f/64 Movement: Weston, Adams, Cunningham and others f/64 and Ansel Adams continued
14	April 25 27	Minor White & Aperture Magazine, Robert Frank & The Americans Photography in the 1960s
15	May 2 4	Photography in the 1970s Photography in the 1980s
16	May 9 11 16	Photography in the 1990s Contemporary Photography Today Contemporary Photography Today
Final Exam	Thursday May 18	2:45 in classroom

