

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
ART 2, The Artist in Contemporary Culture, Section 1, Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Nathan Cox
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Office Hours:	Monday, 10:15 – 11:00 AM (at ART 119) Wednesday, 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM(at SJSU Foundry) By Appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays/Wednesdays, 9:00 – 10:15 AM
Classroom:	ART 108
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu Email: art@sjsu.edu

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce art beginners to the various roles that artists play (and have played) in contemporary culture. Through studio projects, critical reading/writing, discussions and problem-solving exercises, students will examine the principles of form, theory and research as they are applied to real-world situations frequently confronted by contemporary artists.

Learning Outcomes

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Artists think creatively and visually across all media, and they have take on many roles in society. Over the course of the semester, we will through various methods investigate a broad selection of these, focusing on their historical development, present incarnations, and relationships to one another. Artists' contributions to be considered will include (but are not limited to): history, activism, information, intellect, work and business.

This course is a seminar which includes lectures, discussions, presentations, readings and studio-practice work to be completed both in and of class-time. Students will also be expected to attend at least one art-related lecture and at least one off-campus art exhibition.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

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

LO1: build upon skills in creative problem-solving, brainstorming, and visual communication

LO2: deploy their skills in visual research and in applying theory to new situations

LO3: demonstrate familiarity with the language of visual critique

LO4: expand their skills in writing to include formats of written proposal, formal description and analysis, and critical essay

LO5: decipher the cultural roles played by various contemporary artists

LO6: distinguish between roles played by artists and those played by designers

Course Web Page

Course materials (such as Green Sheet, handouts and announcements, assignment instructions, etc) can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. To access Canvas, visit the aforementioned address and log in using your SJSUOne information. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas site, as well as email and our course Green Sheet, to remain informed.

Required Texts/Readings

Required readings for the semester will be drawn from a variety of sources, including (but not limited to) text book excerpts, art periodicals and artists' writings/interviews. These documents will be made available through Canvas, either as files for download or as web links, and will be presented at the beginning of each relevant unit.

Additional Recommended Readings and Resources

Art history survey textbook (options will be discussed in during class-time)

Art:21 – Art in the 21st Century (PBS series)

Kendall Buster and Paula Crawford, *The Critique Handbook: the Art Student's Sourcebook and Survival Guide*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010.

David Carrier, *Writing About Visual Art*. New York: Allworth Press, 2003.

Current Art Periodicals (*Art Forum*, *Art in America*, etc)

Visual Resource Library (website ID and password TBA in class) <http://arth.sjsu.edu/vrl>

Other equipment / material requirements

Due to the diversity of training and background represented by each class, students will be asked to supply their own materials for studio assignments, the nature of which will vary based on the specifics of the project (see “Course Requirements” section for additional details). All students, however, will be required to obtain a small sketchbook (8.5x11, 9x12, or a similar size) and basic drawing supplies, to be used for journal exercises (outlined below).

Students are also encouraged to take the Shop Safety Test, which includes a \$20 processing fee (see “Course Requirements” section for additional details).

Library Liaison

Our library Liaison is Rebecca Kohn. She can be reached via email at Rebecca.Kohn@sjsu.edu and by phone at (408) 808-2061. Her office is located on the 4th floor of the King Library and she welcomes students to contact her with research questions. Art and Art History Library Resources are available online at: libguides.sjsu.edu/art. All of the University Library Resources can be accessed at: libguides.sjsu.edu/az.php

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. 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>.

This course will be divided into six units (details in “Calendar” section), each relating to one of the roles that artists have been known to play in contemporary culture and society. Each unit will be introduced with an in-class presentation (lecture, slides, etc), and will include reading material (to be distributed through Canvas), a short journal assignment, in-class discussion and a written response. Additionally, there will be two larger studio projects, each combining several elements of the units preceding it. All assignments are to be submitted at the times listed in the calendar, and will be explained more fully as they are introduced in class (additional details to be found on Canvas).

Journal Exercises (LO 1, 2, 5)

Short exercises, to be completed in sketchbooks and handed in during class. These are meant to engage, in an informal fashion, topics relevant to each unit, with content that may include (but is not limited to):

- Planning and proposals
- Sketches, blueprints or schematics
- Note-taking
- Research and bibliographical work

Studio Projects

Larger formally-presented projects, in any appropriate medium, which incorporate, combine and reinforce concepts and concerns from several of the preceding units.

Units 1-3: Communication and Variability (LO 1-3)

Units 4-6: Public Art Proposal (LO 1-4)

Written Responses (LO 3-6)

A series of short critical essays (400-500 words each) concerning the source material for the relevant unit (reading, lecture, or off-campus exhibition). Each response should contain a thoughtful analysis of the material (rather than just a summary) and will be guided by questions or concepts outlined in the relevant prompt (available through Canvas), connecting to the students' own experience and/or practice when appropriate.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Journal Exercises

Journal Exercises are to be handed in on the days listed in the calendar, and will be evaluated as satisfactory, incomplete or missing.

Studio Projects

Studio Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- application of the concepts and principles outlined in each prompt
- technical proficiency and aesthetic considerations
- inventiveness of conception and/or execution
- demonstrated effort

Written Responses

Written responses will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- demonstrated understanding of the source material
- application of the concepts, principles and/or questions detailed in each prompt
- clarity of thought and quality of writing

Participation

Participation includes: discussion of work (both yours and that of your colleagues) during critiques, presence at demonstrations and presentations, input during group discussions, maintenance of work spaces (cleaning equipment after use, returning tools, etc), along with other evidence of active engagement in the course. You will be expected to be present, prepared and engaged for each class meeting, as the aforementioned behaviors provide valuable evidence of your progress.

Late Work

Each assignment is due on the day and time indicated by the course calendar. Any work submitted late will be marked down a full letter grade per class period after the due date. Under extenuating circumstances, special arrangements may be made at the discretion of the instructor for students to hand in late work without penalty (this should be completed as soon as possible after the original due date). No late work will be accepted after the final regular class meeting.

Grade Availability

Numerical grades for individual assignments will be posted to Canvas as they are calculated (this will generally occur soon after the due date). As our time during class will be limited, students are free to contact the instructor to obtain a more detailed explanation of grades given on any particular assignment. **It is the student's responsibility to check grades as they become available, report any potential errors and seek additional information as needed.**

Grade Breakdown and Scale

All assignments must be completed and submitted according to ascribed deadlines and instructions. These assignments will contribute to your final grade as follows:

- Journal Projects: 30% (six submissions, 5% each)
- Studio Projects: 25% (two projects, 10% and 15% respectively)
- Written Responses: 30% (six responses, 5% each)
- Participation: 15%

The following table indicates how final grades will be calculated (based on the percentages supplied above):

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96.99-93%	A- = 92.99-90%
B+ = 89.99-87%	B = 86.99-83%	B- = 82.99-80%
C+ = 79.99-77%	C = 76.99-73%	C- = 72.99-70%
D+ = 69.99-67%	D = 66.99-63%	D- = 62.99-60%
F = 59.99-0% Unsatisfactory		

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

General

Along with submitted work, active participation is a vital tool for me to evaluate your progress, so it is necessary that you be present and engaged for the duration of every class period. If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact me and make arrangements for any activities and/or work that you might miss. As you will be working in a shared space, you must be mindful of your surroundings and considerate toward your colleagues. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited in all work spaces and working on laptops will be permitted for note-taking during lectures and for appropriate studio projects, provided that their use does not prove to be disruptive. Though our class time will include some scheduled work periods, the majority of your assignments are intended to be completed outside of class, and you should expect to spend at least five hours each week putting in the appropriate effort.

Shop and Studio Conduct

It is essential that department and university safety requirements are followed at all times, both during and outside of class. Demonstrations for specific tools and equipment will be given in class before their use will be allowed. If you miss a demonstration, or are unclear about any operational or safety details, please contact the instructor or technician to schedule a make-up demonstration. **Do not use a piece of equipment unless you have been given the relevant demonstration.**

Proper shop attire includes closed-toe shoes, removal of loose clothing or dangling jewelry, and securing of long hair. As your safety is our primary concern, be prepared to comply with any instructions given by myself or the shop staff.

The Shop Safety Test

All students wishing to use the Art and Design shop facilities will be required to take the Shop Safety Test. This test (designed to give a basic overview of the safety and operational requirements of the shop facilities) must be scheduled as a group with the shop staff, and will be preceded by an introductory video and review. Additionally, there is a \$20 fee that must be paid to the Bursar's office, the receipt for which must be presented to shop staff before the test can be administered. Once the test has been passed, students will be able to use the shop facilities and check out equipment.

Hazardous Materials and Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS)

These forms, obtained from vendors and detailing important safety information, must be on file for all potentially hazardous materials before they can be used in any of the Art & Design facilities. Submit one copy of the material's MSDS to the faculty member or technician responsible for the facility where the material will be used.

Operating Hours and Facilities Access

During the Spring 2017 semester, the central shop will be open Monday through Friday, and will remain open until evening on at least two of those days. Specific operating hours are subject to staff availability, and will be made available as soon as they are determined.

Additionally, students will have 24-hour access to ART 108, which can be entered using a password (TBA) at the east doorway.

Contact Information and Communication

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions concerning an assignment, the course in general, or any other relevant topic. I am always happy to suggest resources and am willing to discuss your class work at any stage (within reason). On that note, it is important that you keep a valid e-mail address on file with the University, as the bulk of our out-of-class communication will be done in this format. It is also useful to exchange contact information with a few classmates, for organizing out-of-class work time, obtaining supplies and materials or arranging transportation.

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 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, 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 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 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>, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

1. “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.”
1. 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.
2. 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.
1. “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 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 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 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 (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student 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 Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) 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. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. 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 [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Art 2 / The Artist in Contemporary Culture, Spring 2017, Course Schedule

This calendar represents our intended trajectory for the semester. Though we will do our best to follow this schedule, it may be necessary to make revisions due to extenuating circumstances. You will be given ample written warning whenever such a situation occurs.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/30/17	Course introduction Green Sheet review
1	02/01/17	Introduction for Unit 1 – Art and Work
2	02/06/17	View art exhibits at MLK Library Journal Exercise due
2	02/08/17	Class Discussion Written Response due
3	02/13/17	Introduction for Unit 2 – Art and Information
3	02/15/17	Introduction for first Studio Project (Variability and Communication) Journal Exercise due
4	02/20/17	Class Discussion Written Response due
4	02/22/17	Introduction for Unit 3 – Art and Intellect
5	02/27/17	Guest Speaker (TBA) Journal Exercise due
5	03/01/17	Class Discussion Written Response due
6	03/06/17	Individual consultations and work period for Studio Project
6	03/08/17	Critique Studio Project
7	03/13/17	Critique Studio Project
7	03/15/17	Critique Studio Project
8	03/20/17	Introduction for Unit 4 – Art and History
8	03/22/17	Introduction for second Studio Project (Public Art Proposal) Journal Exercise due
9	03/27/17	No class (Spring Recess)
9	03/29/17	No class (Spring Recess)
10	04/03/17	Class Discussion Written Response due
10	04/05/17	Introduction for Unit 5 – Art and Activism
11	04/10/17	Guest Speaker (TBA) Journal Exercise due
11	04/12/17	Class Discussion

		Written Response due
12	04/17/17	Introduction for Unit 6 – Art and Business
12	04/19/17	Site Specific Art presentation Journal Exercise due
13	04/24/17	Class Discussion View Graduate ATC exhibitions (time permitting) Written Response due
13	04/26/17	No Class (Graduate ATC presentations)
14	05/01/17	Individual consultations and work period for Public Art Proposals
14	05/03/17	Individual consultations and work period for Public Art Proposals (complete digital submissions by individual presentation date)
15	05/08/17	Critique Public Art Proposals
15	05/10/17	Critique Public Art Proposals
16	05/15/17	Critique Public Art Proposals
Final Exam	05/22/17	Present elevator pitches for Public Art Proposal (7:15 – 9:30 AM in ART 108)