

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
ART 208, Graduate Photography Critique, sec. 1
Spring 2017

Contact Information

Instructor:	Brian Taylor
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Email:	brian.taylor@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Th 4:30-6:30 by appointment T 11-12
Class Days/Time:	Tu 6:00 -8:45 PM
Classroom:	IS 219c
Prerequisites:	Classified status in Art or instructor consent
Department Office	Art 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: 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

“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.”

This gathering of advanced peers is a rare opportunity to explore and discuss issues in today’s art world, and to receive valuable feedback on our own art during classroom critiques. This is your class– let’s make it one of the best experiences of your graduate studies! We’ll concentrate on developing each student’s creative work, and offering our constructive insights and opinions to the other artists in the class. These new insights may well shape the direction of our future artwork.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

On successful completion of this course, students shall 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

Interesting and relevant articles will be available as PDF files online prior to each class meeting. Over time, each of us may submit articles that we feel are important, relevant to our own work and current concerns, and that would be of interest to everyone. We'll come to class prepared and ready to discuss these readings at the beginning of each weekly meeting. Class participation is a significant percentage of one's final grade, so making notes in preparation for our talks will be helpful to you.

Library Liaison

Rebecca Kohn at: rebecca.kohn@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

During the semester, we'll have great discussions based on readings, Internet explorations, slide and video presentations, field trips, and guest lectures. Most importantly, we'll critique each other's work and benefit from constructive feedback. We'll also gain valuable experience in giving presentations and speaking about art— especially since most of us hope to be teachers... Let's create an atmosphere where everyone's opinions are respected— a class where ideas can be openly exchanged. Take courage in knowing that we're discussing issues in which nobody can be absolutely "right" or "wrong." Take risks, take a stand, and state your beliefs, agreements and disagreements. Your comments are welcome at any time and will make this class all the richer.

Grading Policy

We have the potential for an amazing class this semester. It's important to be here and on time. I promise to be flexible when you have important, legitimate time conflicts. Your participation in class discussions and critiques is a significant factor in determining your grade. Class participation involves sharing your thoughts, opinions, questions, doubts, and insights. Be brave— speak up at any time— your thoughts and opinions are valid.

This course will be conducted as a discussion and critique seminar in which regular class attendance and active participation are very important. It is assumed that class participants are committed to their art and are willing to help others in pursuing theirs. Grades are based on your ability to explore concepts, develop skills, and to evolve as both a communicator of ideas and as an artist. Unexcused absences or a lack of commitment to this class will result in a disappointing final grade.

Class participation: energy for discussions, contributions	50%
Class presentations	30%
Final Exam	20%

(your art, related artists, topics, articles)

A final exam will take place in our classroom during our specified exam time (see daily syllabus schedule below). The exam will consist of a final essay: a formal Artist's Statement written by each student regarding their most recent body of work. This one page statement will be evaluated for style, clarity, correct grammar and aesthetic content.

Classroom Protocol

Please Silence All Cell Phones and Limit Laptop Usage to Classroom Activities

Apple Introduced the first computer for the masses –the Macintosh– in 1984, and the first “laptop” appeared in 1989. All great 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... I often get complaints from students (who aren't using their computers) about how distracting it is to sit next to someone surfing the internet during class.

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/. 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/>.

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/>.

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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](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. In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University's continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) 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](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.

Art 208: Graduate Photography Critique

Spring 2017, Course Schedule

This schedule will undoubtedly change-- I'll send you an email with updated information, and also update on our course Canvas site.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 31	Introduction, Class Overview, Getting Organized
2	Feb 7	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
3	Feb 14	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
4	Feb 21	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
5	Feb 28	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
6	March 7	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
7	March 14	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
8	March 21	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
9	March 28	Spring Recess
10	April 4	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
11	April 11	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
12	April 18	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
13	April 25	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
14	May 2	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork
15	May 9	Discussion of Readings, Internet Viewing, Student Presentations, Critique of Student Research and Artwork

16	May 16	Last Day of Instruction, Final Class activities
Final Exam	Tuesday May 23	6pm in Classroom