

**San José State University
Department of Art & Art History**

Phot 40 - 21751, Beginning Photography, Section 01, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Victoria Heilweil
Office Location:	DH 401A
Telephone:	Please email
Email:	victoriaheilweil@gmail.com
Office Hours:	Mondays/Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday/Wednesday 12:00pm-2:50pm
Classroom:	DH 410
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

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.

Catalog 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) camera. Requires Adobe Lightroom.

Course Content and Objectives

This beginning course will teach you the technical, aesthetic and conceptual components of black and white digital photography. The class will introduce you to the language of image making, with assignments designed to hone both your technical skills, and develop your ability to communicate as an artist. This semester you will learn the ins and outs of handling your DSLR camera, adjusting your images using Adobe Lightroom, and making gorgeous inkjet prints of your photographs.

The class includes four shooting assignments, a photographic book, two papers and one exam. In addition there will be four smaller exercises, done both in-class and as homework, to help you build your technical and composition skills. Each assignment is designed to inspire your personal vision and creativity. Self-expression through the medium of photography is strongly encouraged. You will leave the course with a group of photographs that you should be proud to put on your wall.

In addition to technical lectures that 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 a class field trip to the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, and will participate in the Photo Program Field trip to San Francisco this semester.

Some open lab time will be scheduled during class to allow you to work on your projects, though you will find that you will need additional time to allow you to work at your own pace. Students are not allowed to print without instructor supervision, so it is vital that you be here on time and prepared to print on print days.

You will not have opportunities to print outside of class at SJSU.

Time management is important for great work and you should plan to work on other aspects of your projects (shooting, post production, and preparing your work for critique) on your own.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1 Understand manual DSLR camera operation

CLO 2 Understand the basic compositional and formal elements of the photographic image

CLO 3 Understand digital camera settings and controls and their effects

CLO 4 Learn to successfully import, enhance, export/print images using Adobe Lightroom

CLO 5 Gain an overview of relevant historic and contemporary photographic artists

CLO 6 Express complex concepts visually using black and white digital photography

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CLO 7 Understand and utilize color management and printing

CLO 8 Develop a small portfolio of professionally presented and thoughtful work

CLO 8 Learn to work within deadlines: complete five assignments, four exercises, and two writing assignments within assigned deadlines

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age - Robert Hirsch - 2012 edition

ISBN:-13: 978-0240818276

Available through Amazon and other online sources.

Other Readings

Additional readings may be assigned and made available on the class Canvas page and distributed in class.

Equipment / Material Requirements

I will discuss materials more specifically the first day of class.

- Digital DSLR Camera: Must have a minimum of 6-mega-pixel capacity and a full "manual mode" (able to manually adjust both shutter speed and aperture). Must be able to shoot RAW.
- Memory card for your camera: At least 1GB is recommended.
- Laptop: You are required to have your own laptop computer to take this course. You will need at least 40GB of space on your hard drive for this course.
- Card Reader/Cable: if needed for your computer.
- Adobe Lightroom: This is free to download through the university.
- USB Thumb Drive/Memory Stick: 1GB minimum
- Hard Drive: Recommended
- Portfolio Box: To hold prints, I will go over size in class.
- Envelope to turn in assignments
- Paper will be provided, however you will produce a book for your final project and will be responsible for covering the cost of the book yourself. Cost will vary based on physical size of book (dimensions), number of pages, and quality.
- Mat Board: At least two 16 x 20", 4 ply, white acid free mat boards. You will not need this until later in the semester and I will go over this in more detail then.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

All studio classes that use any “hazardous materials” should include one graded assignment that helps students understand HAZMAT regulations and develop consistently safe practices—this might be as simple as a labeling assignment. Note that food containers cannot be used for chemical storage and that common household items (bleach, vinegar, etc.) are deemed hazardous materials and must be stored appropriately. The campus EHS (Environmental Health & Safety) office and the County will schedule inspections with increasing frequency; fines assessed by the County are now high enough to put us out of business, so this is a serious matter. The techs are NOT responsible for cleaning up facilities and classrooms and offices—this is your responsibility. If you need information or help, please let us know. Additional note: clutter is deemed a hazard, and we can be fined for clutter.

Basic training powerpoint: <http://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/docs/hazmatandlabsafetyguidance.pdf>

Library Liaison

Aliza Elkin (aliza.elkin@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. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

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. This includes asking questions, which can have a positive effect on your class participation grade. I expect you to attend all critiques, whether or not you have work to show. Failure to do so could negatively effect 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. Giving me a list of personal difficulties you had at the end of the semester won't be very effective in terms of attempting to lobby for a higher grade.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is a required class. Missing it without prior arrangements or a personal or family emergency will result in an F for your participation grade, and may result in not passing the class despite all previous work being turned in. At the Final Exam we will be finishing up our critiques of The Book and I will be returning all graded to work to you. The Final Exam is on **Wednesday, May 16th from 9:45am-12:00pm.**

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

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

Exercises	10%
3 Assignments	30%
Research Paper/Assignment	20%
Final Project/Book	20%
San Jose ICA Paper	5%
Exam	5%
Class Participation	10%

Numeric Grade Equivalents:

97 - 100%	A+
93 - 96.9%	A

90 - 92.9%	A-
87 - 89.9%	B+
83 - 86.9%	B
80 - 82.9%	B-
77 - 79.9%	C+
73 - 76.9%	C
70 - 72.9%	C-
67 - 69.9%	D+
63 - 66.9%	D
60 - 62.9%	D-
Below 60%	F

Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade for each 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.

Please note: Except in cases of documented emergencies which have been discussed with me, incomplete grades are not given in this course.

Extra credit

There are a variety of extra credit opportunities in class which include going on the Photo Department SF Field Trip, attending PhotoFairs in San Francisco and attending any photo related Tuesday night lectures at SJSU. You get additional extra credit for writing a paper on any of these events and you may do an additional gallery report to improve your grade. Papers require critical analysis, not just personal opinion.

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner conducive to a university learning environment. This includes being on-time to class. Walking in late is not only disrespectful, but you will also have missed important class information. You are expected to be respectful to your peers as well as myself.

Laptop Etiquette

Please use your laptops in respectful manner. Laptop use will be abundant for taking notes and for working in post process on your photographs. It will NOT BE USED for FB, email, or other non-relevant, to this course, use. Laptops should remain closed during critiques. Please show respect for me and those around you. Failure to follow the laptop etiquette will effect your class participation grade.

And BTW, we instructors know when you are on these sites. We do see you, we just do not always address it because it will break the tempo of the classroom lecture.

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Cell Phone Etiquette

Ringers on cell phones should be turned off during class time. Leaving the class to take a call should only be done in emergencies. Ditto for texting. Again, please show respect for those around you.

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/>

PHOT 40/Beginning Photography, Spring 2018, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Notice will be given verbally, in class, and sent via email. In the event of a more substantial change, you will be given an updated syllabus.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wed 1/24	Introductions Class overview and expectations, syllabus and materials. Homework: Bring camera to next class! Read Chapter 3
2	Mon 1/29	Camera Basics: Exposure Triangle, Manual Mode, Lenses In-Class Exercise: Lenses Exercise: 100 Photos Homework: Take 100 Photos. Read Chapter 6 Bring laptop with Lightroom installed to next class!
2	Wed 1/31	Lightroom: Interface, Importing, Rating, Collections, Exporting Review 100 Photos Homework: Read Chapters 5 & 10
3	Mon 2/5	Light Lightroom: Converting to black and white In-Class Exercise: Portraits

		Homework: Select Portraits and convert to black and white. Read Chapters 2 & 4.
3	Wed 2/7	Review Portraits Composition and Aesthetics Camera Technique: Equivalent Exposure, Histogram, Metering Exercise: Scavenger Hunt Introduce Assignment #1: Light as Subject Homework: Photograph and Select Scavenger Hunt photos. Read Chapter 7.
4	Mon 2/12	Review Scavenger Hunt photos Camera Technique: Bracketing, Depth of Field and Motion Night Photography Lightroom: Contact sheets Homework: Photograph Light as Subject.
4	Wed 2/14	In-Class Exercise: DOF/Motion Homework: Convert DOF/Motion Exercise to black and white, make contact sheet for DOF/Motion Exercise. Continue photographing Light as Subject.
5	Mon 2/19	Review DOF/Motion Exercise Homework: Finish photographing Light as Subject. Read Chapter 8.
5	Wed 2/21	Lightroom: Basic Adjustments Print Demo/Printing Work Time Assignment #1 Homework: Finish Contact sheets and adjustments for Light as Subject.
	Sat 2/24	PhotoFairs at Fort Mason in San Francisco!
6	Mon 2/26	Introduce Assignment #2: The Visceral Photograph Work Time and Printing Assignment #1 Homework: Begin Photographing The Visceral Photograph.
6	Wed 2/28	Light as Subject Assignment Due/Critique! Review for Camera Quiz Homework: Continue Photographing The Visceral Photograph. Study for Camera Quiz
7	Mon 3/5	Camera Quiz Lightroom: Cropping, Edge Burning Work Time The Visceral Photograph

7	Wed 3/7	Work Time and Printing The Visceral Photograph Introduce Assignment #3: Inspiration Homework: Research and select photographer for paper. Read Chapter 1.
8	Mon 3/12	The Visceral Photograph Assignment Due/Critique! Lightroom: Adjustment Brush, Tinting Individual Meetings Homework: Begin researching and photographing for Inspiration. Read Chapter 11.
8	Wed 3/14	San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art Field Trip Homework: Writing and photographing for Inspiration. Write San Jose ICA paper.
9	Mon 3/19	Introduce The Book Individual Meetings Work Time/Printing for Inspiration Homework: Writing, photographing and adjusting images for Inspiration. Read Chapter 12.
9	Wed 3/21	Individual Meetings Work Time/Printing for Inspiration San Jose ICA Paper Due Homework: Write Proposal for The Book. Complete Inspiration.
10	Mon 3/26	Spring Break!
10	Wed 3/28	Spring Break!
11	Mon 4/2	The Book Proposal Due Review Book Proposals Final Work Time/Printing for Inspiration Homework: Begin photographing for The Book.
11	Wed 4/4	Inspiration Assignment Due/Critique! Critique Inspiration Homework: Continue photographing for The Book.
	Sat 4/7	Photo Department San Francisco Field Trip to SFMOMA!

12	Mon 4/9	Optional Extra Credit Paper Due Critique Inspiration Artist Statement Printing and designing book Homework: Continue working on The Book, Write draft of Artist Statement.
12	Wed 4/11	Mid-Critique for The Book: Review Images and Artist Statement Homework: Continue working on The Book. Revise Artist Statement for The Book
13	Mon 4/16	Work Time The Book Individual Meetings Homework: Continue working on The Book.
13	Wed 4/18	Introduce Revisit/Redo/Iterate Work Time The Book Individual Meetings Homework: Begin photographing Revisit/Redo/Iterate. Complete The Book and Artist Statement.
14	Mon 4/23	Send The Book to be printed! Work Time The Book Individual Meetings Homework: Continue photographing Revisit/Redo/Iterate. Read Chapter 9.
14	Wed 4/25	Demo Window Matting Printing and mounting for Class Exhibition Work Time Revisit/Redo/Iterate Homework: Continue working on Revisit/Redo/Iterate.
15	Mon 4/30	Install Class Exhibition Work Time Revisit/Redo/Iterate Class Exhibition Reception: Tuesday, 5/1 6-8pm Homework: Continue working on Revisit/Redo/Iterate.
15	Wed 5/2	Work Time and Printing Revisit/Redo/Iterate Homework: Continue working on Revisit/Redo/Iterate.
16	Mon 5/7	Final Work Time and Printing Revisit/Redo/Iterate Homework: Complete Revisit/Redo/Iterate.
16	Wed 5/9	Assignment Due/Critique: Revisit/Redo/Iterate

17	Mon 5/14	Assignment Due/Critique: The Book
Final Exam*	Wednesday 5/16 9:45am- 12:00pm	Class Party! Return all work to students. Additional Critiques as necessary.