

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Phot 40, Beginning Photography**  
**Section 04, Spring, 2018**

**Course and Contact Information**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Instructor:</b>         | Sean Peeler   |
| <b>Office Location:</b>    | Duncan Hall 401A  |
| <b>Telephone:</b>          | [please email]  |
| <b>Email:</b>              | <a href="mailto:seankellypeeler@gmail.com">seankellypeeler@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>Office Hours:</b>       | Tuesday 10:30 – 11:30AM or by appointment   |
| <b>Class Days/Time:</b>    | MW 6:00 – 8:50 PM   |
| <b>Classroom:</b>          | Industrial Studies 219C   |
| <b>Department Office:</b>  | ART 116   |
| <b>Department Contact:</b> | Website: <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/art">www.sjsu.edu/art</a> Email: <a href="mailto:art@sjsu.edu">art@sjsu.edu</a> |

**Technology Intensive Course**

You need a digital camera with manual mode and RAW file capabilities as well as a laptop computer for this course and the current edition of Adobe Lightroom (free to all SJSU students). You can download it at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/index.html>. You will also need a memory card and some external storage drive.

**Faculty Web Page and 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.

**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) type camera and Adobe Lightroom.

## **Course Content and Objective**

Every medium has a language of its own. This Beginning course in digital photography will not only provide you with the basic skills necessary to produce technically proficient photographs, but will introduce you to the language of image making, with assignments designed to both hone your technical skills and develop your ability to communicate conceptually as an artist.

The first part of the semester will provide you with a technical foundation that includes camera controls, exposure techniques, and digital ink jet printing. The second half of the semester will put greater emphasis on the development of your aesthetic and conceptual skills. There will be 3 larger photographic “projects”, with smaller, in-class, more technically oriented graded assignments. Projects and class critiques will encourage thoughtful work and the exchange of ideas within our group. You will probably find that the opinions of your peers are at least as important as my own (sometimes more important). The skills, experience and goals of the members of this class may vary a great deal. But each of you will contribute the value of your past experiences, interests, skills and opinions to the group.

In addition to technical lectures which 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 one or more class field trips to local venues.

## **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

1. Understand the basic formal elements of the photographic image.
2. Possess at least a beginning level photographic vocabulary.
3. Understand digital camera settings and controls and their effect on exposure/image.
4. Shoot, import, enhance, export/print images using Adobe Lightroom.
5. Possess an overview of relevant historic and contemporary photographic artists and issues.
6. Create imagery within a conceptual framework.
7. Use inkjet printers and print your own images.
8. Gain an understanding of the importance of presentation and present your work in a professional manner (whether traditional or unconventional).

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

No textbook required for this course. Readings and assignments related to readings will be announced in class and distributed via Canvas, please check Canvas regularly for updates.

### **Other Readings**

Most exercises for Lightroom will be covered in class demonstration. Demos, lectures, and Lightroom tutorials will be provided via Canvas.

## Other technology requirements / equipment / material

### 1) Digital Camera

- a) *Must have a **megapixel quality of 12 or higher**. (Negotiable)*
- b) *Must be able to capture images in full **Manual Mode**.*  
(able to manually adjust both shutter speed and f/stops)
- c) *Must be able to capture images in **Camera Raw**.*

The more automatic your camera is, the less control you will have over your images, and the less opportunity you will have to experiment.

### Suggested DSLR & Mirrorless Digital Cameras:

- Nikon – D5300, D610
- Canon - EOS Rebel T6, 70D, 6D, 5D(series)
- Olympus – OM-D(series)
- Fujifilm – X(series)
- Sony – a68, a6000, a7(series)

2) **Memory card** for your camera, backup(s) recommended.

3) **Laptop** is required for this class.

4) **Adobe Lightroom** installed for image managing/editing. **\*\***(available free through SJSU)

5) **USB Flashdrive** or external hard drive for turning in assignments and printing.

6) **Card Reader or USB Cable** for transferring photographs, unless your laptop has the necessary port.

7) **Portfolio or Portfolio Box** - used to transport your prints.

8) **Presentation Materials** such as mat board or alternative materials for presentation of work.

### Suggested Local Vendors:

Foto Express- 304 E Santa Clara Street, San Jose (408) 971-3977

Kaufman's Camera- 154 W. 25th Ave, San Mateo (650) 574-3429

Bear Images- 417 Lambert Ave., Palo Alto, 94306 (650) 813-9820

Adolf Gasser- 181 2nd Street, SF (415) 495-3852

Samy's Camera- 1090 Bryant Street, SF (415)621-8400

### Online Vendors:

Adorama (NY)

B&H (NY)

Freestyle Photo (freestylephoto.biz)

### 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.

## Final Examination

Wednesday, May 16 [5:15PM – 7:30PM]

### Projects:

Project 1 - 200 points

Project 2 - 200 points

Project 3 - 200 points

### Writing:

Research Paper - 100 points

### In Class:

Exercises - 100 points

Participation - 150 points

Quiz – 50 points

**-1000 Points Total-**

## Grading Policy

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.

### Relative weight of course assignments:

3 Photographic Projects (60%)

Research Paper (10%)

In-Class Exercises (10%)

Class Participation (15%)

Quiz (5%)

### Numeric grade equivalents:

93% and above      A

92% - 90%          A-

89% - 88%          B+

87% - 83%          B

82% - 80%          B-

79% - 78%          C+

77% - 73%          C

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| 72% - 70% | C- |
| 69% - 68% | D+ |
| 67% - 63% | D  |
| 62% - 60% | D- |
| below 60% | F  |

### Extra Credit

Photography Department Field Trip (time and date to be determined) **[50 points]**.  
 1 Gallery Report (writing assignment 1 page, guidelines posted to Canvas) **[25 points]**.

### 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. 15% of your final grade will be based on your overall class participation. Assignments take two days to critique in a class of this size. **I expect you to attend both days of the critique.** Failure to do so will negatively affect 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.

### Make Ups and Late Work

Late work is not accepted past one week after assignment is due. Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade during the first 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. **If you must miss a class, please send me an e-mail (preferably before the missed day)**, so that I may let you know what you will be missing. Many class lectures and demonstrations cannot be repeated or made up. Again, talk to me if you are having problems. Again, do not miss critique days, even if you don't have work to show. I will be much more likely to accept excuses for late work if you attended the critique.

### Classroom Protocol

First and foremost, I expect our classroom to be a fun and safe learning space. You will be expected to be on time, engaged and present throughout class meetings, critiques and lectures. This class will have an open door policy, having to use the restroom or stretch your legs is fine, but (if possible) please check in first in case I am about to give a lecture or demonstration. Students are encouraged not only to engage with their instructor regarding their work, but also with the other students within the class. Participation in group critique is both expected and mandatory. We are learning not only how to make better pictures, but also to dissect, digest and talk about them - let's have a conversation!

### Cell Phone and Laptop Etiquette

Cell phone use is absolutely prohibited in class unless given prior permission. Although I will not always interrupt class discussion or critique, cell phone use is not only disruptive but often noticeable and can negatively affect your class participation grade.

Please use your laptops in respectful manner. It is fine to have laptops open during open lab time, or during demos or lectures when I've asked you to follow along or take notes. **Laptops should remain closed during critiques, films or demos that do not require your participation.** You know the drill: answering email,

checking your FB page, running irrelevant Google searches or working on projects from another class are all off limits during anything other than open lab time. Please show respect for me and those around you. Inappropriate laptop use can negatively affect your class participation grade.

## 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. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S16-15](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-15.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-15.pdf> and SJSU current semester's [Policies and Procedures](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/policies/policies.html) at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/policies/policies.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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

### Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic_affairs/resources/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic\\_affairs/resources/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic_affairs/resources/academic_calendars/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes (Late Drop Information).

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/), <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>. **[FYI] Last day to drop without an entry on student's permanent record (D): Mon 2/5. Last day to add courses & register late: Mon 2/12.**

### 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:

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."
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. "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 F15-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.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. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) website as 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](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.

## **Department Advising**

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](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

## **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

## **Shop Safety**

If you plan to use the Shop (located in the Art Building) for realization of any of your work this semester, you must take and pass the Shop safety test. Using the Shop is not specifically required for this course. Tests cost \$20 a year and are only conducted at the start of the semester. If you took and passed the test last semester, you do not need to take it again this semester. If you are interested in taking the test this semester, you should go to the shop asap and inquire about the testing dates. If you miss this opportunity, you will not be able to use the shop until after you take and pass the test next semester, during the testing period.

## Important Reminders:

For Monday 1/29

1. Bring your camera, do not forget a memory card and full battery!
2. First in-class exercise.
3. Make sure you attend class again, or you will be dropped. If you can't attend for some (valid) reason, you need to let me know AHEAD OF TIME (not after you miss class).

For Wednesday 1/31

1. Bring your camera with images from Monday's portrait exercise.
2. Bring your laptop with Lightroom already installed for demonstration.

## Phot 40/Beginning Photography, Course Schedule, Spring, 2018

| Week | Date    | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines  |
|------|---------|---|
| 1    | W 01/24 | Class overview and expectations, syllabus and materials. Ice Breaker<br><b>Homework:</b> Bring camera ready to shoot to next class!   |
| 2    | M 01/29 | Camera & Exposure: Exposure Triangle, Manual Mode, Histogram, Lenses<br>In-Class Exercise: Portraits<br><b>Homework:</b> Bring laptop with Lightroom installed to next class.                                     |
| 2    | W 1/31  | Lightroom: Interface, Importing, Rating, Collections, Exporting, Deleting<br>Camera Basics: Capture (RAW vs JPEG)<br><b>Homework:</b> Import Portrait images into Lightroom, choose best portraits.               |
| 3    | M 2/5   | Lightroom: Converting to black and white, creating digital Contact Sheets<br>Lightroom: Enhance/Edit, Tinting<br>Review in-class portraits<br><b>Homework:</b> Bring camera to next class for In-class assignment |
| 3    | W 2/7   | Design Considerations: Composition and Aesthetics (Form)<br>In-class Exercise: Scavenger Hunt<br><b>Homework:</b> Photograph & choose best image from the 8 categories in Scavenger Hunt                          |
| 4    | M 2/12  | <b>Introduce Project #1: The Self</b><br>Lightroom: Adjustment Brush<br>Review Scavenger Hunt photos<br><b>Homework:</b> Begin photographing Project #1, read "Concept vs Technique"                              |



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| 4  | W 2/14 | Camera Basics: Histogram, Lenses, DOF, Motion<br>In-Class Exercise: DOF/Motion<br><b>Homework:</b> Contact sheet for DOF/Motion Exercise. Read “Concept vs Technique”  |
| 5  | M 2/19 | Concept vs Technique<br>Review DOF/Motion<br><b>Homework:</b> Making photographs and contact sheets for Project #1.  |
| 5  | W 2/21 | Lightroom: Tonal Curves, Edge Burning, etc<br>Bring into class work of other photographers that influence you, 4 min max presentation (not graded, but part of participation grade)<br><b>Homework:</b> Read “Form, Content, and Critique” on Canvas |
| 6  | M 2/26 | Form, Content, and Critique<br>Print Demo<br><b>Homework:</b> <u>read</u> “The Critique Handbook” on Canvas  |
| 6  | W 2/28 | Printing Contact Sheets for Project #1<br><b>Homework:</b> Complete Project #1, research and select photographer from list of photographers for research paper.  |
| 7  | M 3/5  | Project #1 Due<br>Critique Project #1  |
| 7  | W 3/7  | Finish Project #1 Critique   |
| 8  | M 3/12 | Different Types of Photography (i.e. landscape, portrait, documentary, political etc.)<br><b>Introduce Project #2: Inspiration</b>   |
| 8  | W 3/14 | History of Antique Photography and Technology  |
| 9  | M 3/19 | Lab Day – Class optional for shooting  |
| 9  | W 3/21 | f/64 and The New Topographics<br><b>Homework:</b> Continue shooting for Inspiration.   |
| 10 | M 3/26 | Spring Break – No Class  |
| 10 | W 3/28 | Spring Break – No Class  |
| 11 | M 4/2  | Print/Lab day  |
| 11 | W 4/4  | Print/Lab day<br><b>Homework:</b> Study for Lightroom Quiz.  |
| 12 | M 4/9  | Inspiration Project #2 Due!<br>Critique Project #2   |
| 12 | W 4/11 | Finish Project #2 Critique   |
| 13 | M 4/16 | <b>Introduce Project #3:</b>   |
| 13 | W 4/18 | Individual Check-ins and Work Time   |
| 14 | M 4/23 | Lightroom/Camera Quiz  |
| 14 | W 4/25 |  |
| 15 | M 4/30 | 3-Page Research Paper on Photographer of your choice due today!!   |
| 15 | W 5/2  |  |
| 16 | M 5/7  | Extra Credit Gallery Reports due today!!<br>Print/Lab day – must be ready to print today.  |

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| 16         | W 5/9                      | Print/Lab day – must be ready to print today.   |
| 17         | M 5/14                     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Project due today - Critique  |
| Final Exam | W 5/16<br>[5:15PM-7:30 PM] | Please note that the day of the week & time is different from our regular meeting time. |