Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Junyan Hou (aka Rorschach)
Office Location: IS 220
Telephone: 669-226-9492
Email: houphotography@hotmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-6pm
Class Days/Time: Mo/We from 3-5:50 pm
Classroom: Industrial Studies Building 219C
Prerequisites: None
Course Fees: Approximately $45 of that fee helps to supply the materials or services made available in this class: chemistry, ink, printers, servicing equipment, etc.
Please be advised that additional costs for materials will be necessary in order for you to complete the course successfully.

Canvas Information – Assignments, Readings, Handouts

Assignments, readings, handouts and other information will be located on Canvas.
The course materials such as syllabi, assignment information, instruction handouts, etc. can be found in our CANVAS class site.
Please be sure to check the site regularly to notify yourself of any updates or changes in the course schedule, and I will send you emails regarding any changes (such as due dates).
To access CANVAS, go to: https://sjsu.instructure.com

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. Examine iconic work of classic and contemporary photographers in order to acquire meaning and aesthetic influence to your own picture making. Adobe Light Room is required to operate your own digital darkroom.

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 inkjet printing. The second half of the semester will put greater emphasis on the development of your aesthetic and conceptual skills. There will be 3 shooting assignments and a final, (4 assignments total) with smaller, in-class, more technically oriented graded exercises. Assignments 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.

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. Print days are an important part of our schedule. Students are not allowed to
print without instructor supervision, so it is especially important that you be here and prepared to print on printing days. You will not have opportunities to print outside of class, though you should plan to work on other aspects of your projects (shooting, editing and preparing your work for critique through some form of presentation: considering sequencing for earlier projects, matting, mounting, etc. for later projects).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Understand the basic compositional and 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 and resulting image.
4. Learn to successfully shoot, import, enhance, export/print images using Adobe Lightroom.
5. Gain an overview of relevant historic and contemporary photographic artists and issues.
6. Develop ability to create imagery with a strong conceptual basis.
7. Learn to use our 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 experimental).
9. Learn to work within deadlines: complete three projects, in class exercises, and reading/writing assignments within assigned deadlines.
10. By the end of the course: develop a small body of very finished, professionally presented work with strong, thoughtful content

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook is recommended, but not required:

Introduction of the book: Photography in the Digital Age is a groundbreaking introductory book that clearly and concisely provides the instruction and building blocks necessary to create thought provoking digitally based photographs. It is an adventurous idea book that features numerous classroom-tested assignments and exercises from leading photographic educators to encourage you to critically explore and make images from the photographers' eye, an aesthetic point of view.

Other Readings
On Photography-Susan Sontag
Charlotte Cotton, The Photograph as Contemporary Art

Other equipment / material requirements
1. Digital Camera with a minimum of 6-mega-pixel capacity and a full "manual mode" (able to manually adjust both shutter speed and f/stops). RAW shooting capability recommended. The more automatic your camera is, the less control you will have over your images, and the less opportunity you will have to experiment. The following are some suggested digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras with full manual controls:
   - Nikon – D5200, D7200, D61, D750, D810
   - Canon - EOS Digital Rebel, EOS 70D, EOS 7D, EOS 6D, EOS 5D Mark3
2. Memory card for your camera (4GB+ is recommended).
3. Card reader/cable for memory card above (if needed for your computer).
4. You MUST have your own laptop computer to take this course. Macs are strongly suggested and preferred. They will make life easier, since demos are given on a Mac.
5. You MUST have the latest edition of Adobe Lightroom, Student Teacher Edition from Adobe's website. You no longer purchase software through Adobe. Instead, you purchase a subscription to the software and pay on a monthly basis. The price varies depending on which applications are included. Don't purchase anything until I provide you with more information. For Lightroom: [http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/adobe/](http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/adobe/)

6. You will need plenty of room on your laptop hard drive (at least 40 GB), plus a good size USB jump drive/memory stick/flash drive.

7. Paper will be provided for most assignments (unless you wish to purchase special paper for a particular project). 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. Companies that charge less often use cheaper materials. Grade will be based on the success of the project, not on the expense of the book, so cheaper companies are okay to use. Just know that they tend to produce a lower quality product (thinner paper, and sometimes lower quality images).

8. Canned air: strongly recommended for scanning

9. White cotton gloves: strongly recommended for handling paper during printing

10. Portfolio or portfolio box - used to transport your prints - must be labeled with your name. Can be an inexpensive version. Should be brought on print days. You will also use this to turn in your work. We will not accept prints submitted loose.

12. Presentation materials such as mat board – cost varies widely depending on what you choose.

- **Reminder:** Students can buy all kinds of equipment above online (B&H or other website) or from the local photography shop. But I strongly recommend students buy them online. The price will be a lot cheaper than in the shop. For example, shopping on B&H website is tax-free. But if you go to B&H retail store, you have to pay tax. We have a big final project that need all students finish print their images in class. Students don’t have to pay to print. It’s already including in your tuition.

**Library Liaison**

Rebecca Kohn: rebecca.kohn@sjsu.edu

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](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 also mandatory. 20% 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 lower the given assignment grade by a half letter grade, and could effect your Class Participation grade as well. Your voice is critical to the success of this class. I am equally disappointed by missed discussions. 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.

Make Ups and Late Work

It is your responsibility to make up missed class sessions or late work. 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. Any deadline missed will result in lowering the assignment grade one letter for each week that it is late. 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.

Grading Policy

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 any assignment.

---

**Final Grade**

Your final grade will be based on an average of 3 projects plus your final project (60%) + class participation (20%) + reading and writing assignments (20%).

**Project grading rubric:**

- **Project 1:** 20%
- **Project 2:** 20%
- **Project 3:** 20%
- **Final Project:** 40%

Take risks, break the rules, speak your mind, take yourself and your work seriously and it will pay off in ways you cannot presently foresee.

---

**Extra Credit**

One of the following assignments is available for you to improve your grade.

1. **Gallery Report.** Do at least a two-page (3 pages in other classes) report on your visit to a gallery or museum that is showing a photographic exhibition.

2. **Do at least a two-page report on a photographer of your choice critically analyzing the photographer’s contribution to photography.**

3. **Get your photograph exhibited in a show. Class show doesn’t count**

---

**Classroom Protocol**

**Laptop Etiquette**

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.

**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**

**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](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. FYI: Last day to drop: Tu. 2/9; Last day to add: Tu. 2/17

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:

- “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 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. The phone number at IRC is: 924-2888

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 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

Emergency phone numbers
Emergency: 911; Escort Service: 42222

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
**Course Schedule**

*Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Notice will be given verbally, in class, and sent via email.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mo 2/1</td>
<td>Introduction: Take attendance, go through greensheet together, group discussion, in-class writing assignment. ‘in-class writing’ assignment is very simple. Write a short paragraph to describe why you choose this class, and how do you like photography, and what do you want to do with photography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>We 2/3</td>
<td>Bring work to share with class - your own, and an artist who has influenced you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mo 2/8</td>
<td>Continuing introduce your work and artist who has influenced you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>We 2/10</td>
<td>First technical lecture &amp; introductory in-class practice assignment – bring laptops, cameras &amp; any necessary cables or card reader (if required by your camera). First assignment on canvas (BE ADVISED 2/9 is the Last day of Drop class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mo 2/15</td>
<td>Demos on Lightroom --you will need Lightroom for this. (BE ADVISED 2/16 is the last day of add class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>We 2/17</td>
<td>In class practices. Bring your camera and laptop to the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mo 2/22</td>
<td>First assignment due today! Critique for the first group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>We 2/24</td>
<td>Critique for the second group!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mo 2/29</td>
<td>2nd assignment introduced - lecture/demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>We 3/2</td>
<td>Printing Demo&amp; Lecture about how to write an artist statement, Discussion about why printing is still important for a photographer in digital world. (Please be advised that the coming week is printing week. Make sure you have 6 mages for your 2nd project.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mo 3/7</td>
<td>Printing day for the first group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>We 3/9</td>
<td>2nd group print. Next week is your work critique week. Be prepared for giving a professional presentation about your work. The art work itself doesn’t require framing this time. Artist statement due today!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mo 3/14</td>
<td>Critique 1st group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>We 3/16</td>
<td>Critique 2nd group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mo 3/21</td>
<td>3rd Assignment Introduced/ Guest Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>We 3/23</td>
<td>Field Trip!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mo 3/28</td>
<td>Spring Break!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>We 3/30</td>
<td>Spring Break!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mo 4/4</td>
<td>Printing Day Be advised, you will have a class show on 5/3. I strongly encourage everyone join the show. Each photographer can bring one print to the show. Take advantage of printing days in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>We 4/6</td>
<td>Printing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mo 4/11</td>
<td>Critique for 1st group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>We 4/13</td>
<td>ATC Presentations begin in MLK Library, 2nd floor, Room 255, 8:55AM-5PM Open Lab and/or Attend ATC Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mo 4/18</td>
<td>Critique for 2nd group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>We 4/20</td>
<td>Final Project introduces. And the final project will exhibit in the gallery on campus. Assign for job of the installation on 4/29 Friday, 12:00. And art work statement is due on 4/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mo 4/25</td>
<td>Open lab- get working on your final project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>We 4/27</td>
<td>Artist Statement Due, Art work check for the show on 5/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mo 5/2</td>
<td>Printing Day &amp; Open lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>We 5/4</td>
<td>Field Trip to San Jose Museum of Art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mo 5/9</td>
<td>Printing day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>We 5/11</td>
<td>1st group critique.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mo 5/16</td>
<td>2nd group critique.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>We 5/18</td>
<td>Final make-up date. The last day to turn in late materials. You still will get some credit of the late material. And more important is Potluck and White elephant (Print trade) Day! Bring one print of your work, and food!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://info.sjsu.edu/static/schedules/final-exam-schedule-fall.html