

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
PHOT 197: Senior Photography Project
Section 02, Fall Semester 2019

Course and Contact Information

Professor:	Binh Danh
Office Location:	Duncan Hall (DH) 401C
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Email:	binh.danh@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, Monday and Wednesday; and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	6 PM to 8:50 PM on Monday and Wednesday
Classroom:	Industrial Studies 219C
Prerequisites:	15 units of upper division photography courses
Units:	3

Additional Contact Information

- * E-mail is generally the best method of contact during non-office hours.
- * Please allow 48-hours for an e-mail response.
- * Emergency: 911 Campus Escort: 42222
- * Individuals with disabilities may contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), Administrative Building 110, 408/ 924-6000, for a variety of formats such as Braille, large print, sign interpreters, assistive listening devices, audio tape and accommodations for physical accessibility.

Course Format

Activity and lecture

MYSJSU Messaging and CANVAS

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, readings, slide presentations, grades, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Your login is your student ID#. 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. Items on Canvas can be printed anytime you wish. Due to our efforts to make the Department of Art and Art History "paperless," hard copies will not be handed out.

Course Description

An undergraduate exit class in creating professional artist portfolios, developing methods of approaching galleries or the commercial side of photography, refining a professional web presence and other relevant forms of career development. The course emphasizes developing a single, major self-directed project, a professional portfolio, and because of recent advances and accessibility in printing technology, self-publishing photo books.

Furthermore, we will explore how contemporary artists engage with photographic materials and methods in pursuit of their ideas. This course introduces students to both established and emerging artists working in photography in recent years up to the present day through lectures, screenings, student presentations, readings, and writing assignments. We will use the internet as a constantly refreshing resource, accessing blogs and online curatorial spaces on issues related to contemporary photography. We will hear from current graduate students about their creative practices and decision that led them to a life of creative pursuits.

Course Goals

- Students will gain awareness of the history of photography and photography in the fine arts (possible off-campus visit to museums/galleries).
- Students will be able to analyze and critique photographic images as a way to inform their creative practice.
- Students will develop their visual perception and learn how to use the photographic medium as a form of creative expression.
- Students will explore how photography operates in their chosen fields of fine art or commercial realms, explore entrepreneur possibilities in the creative fields, and set goals and decisions for continuing success with a BFA degree.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO1 - Gain an understanding and utilize photographic related vocabulary.

CLO2 - Create a semester final project that demonstrates a high level of technical and conceptual mastery of photographic medium.

CLO3 - Utilize and apply professional practices for photographers and art professionals that will allow the student to have a successful art/photography career in the future.

CLO4 - Develop written and oral communication skills that will allow the students to effectively communicate what their work is about and how it relates to the contemporary art discourse and/or commercial art applications.

CLO5 - Present their photography work in a professional manner through the creation of a portfolio website, self-published hard copy photo book and other promotional materials.

CLO6 - Speak and write about their work in an effective way that communicates their ideas and is industry appropriate.

CLO7 - Begin a successful photography career in the fine art or commercial world that is sustainable and financially viable.

CLO8 - Develop a studio practice that feeds their creativity and allows them to continue to grow as artists.

CLO9 - Prep for the next stepping-stones in the photographic field

CLO10 - Gain an understanding of what Photography is, where it has come from, and where it is going

Required Texts/Readings

Heather Darcy Bhandari and Jonathan Melber, Art/Work - Revised & Updated: Everything You Need to Know (and Do) As You Pursue Your Art Career, ISBN-10: 1501146165

<https://www.amazon.com/Art-Work-Revised-Updated-Everything/dp/1501146165>

Reading schedule for this book will be on a separated handout.

Online readings available in Canvas course website

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

Email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

King Library 4th Floor: Administration Offices

Phone: 408-808-2094

Supplies and Materials:

Photographic chemicals are included. The cost of this course will vary greatly depending upon the student. However, be prepared to spend around \$200 to \$500.

Other equipment / material requirements

- DSLR/mirrorless/film camera and lens(s)
- Laptop Computer
- Memory card (at least 16gb)
- Card Reader (unless laptop has one)
- USB Stick and External Hard Drive (you will be taking A LOT of images)
- Tripod (strongly recommended, but can be borrowed from check out window)
- Portfolio case/box/folder for storing and transporting images
- Money for presentation materials like art supplies, matting, framing etc.

Online Photographic and Art Supplies:

- Freestyle Photographic Supplies: www.freestyle.biz
- B & H Camera: www.bhphotovideo.com

- Adorama Camera: www.adorama.com
- Photo Video EDU: <https://www.photovideoedu.com>

Adobe Software Programs - Creative Cloud from this website: <http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/adobe/>
SJSU is providing all students, faculty, staff and administrators with free Adobe software for campus and home computers, and you must have an active SJSU One ID and password to qualify for ordering and downloading this software.

The Shop Safety Test

Students who use the shop facilities will be required to pay a \$20 fee to take the Shop Safety Test before they can use the facility. The fee must be paid prior to the student taking the Shop Safety Test. Students must pay at the Bursar's Office, located in the Student Services Center, directly into Fund 62089 with cash or check. The test and fee are required only once a calendar year, so if your students took the test during the Spring 2018 semester, they will not be required to pay this fee again until Spring 2019. If students paid the fee in Fall 2017, they must pay the fee again for Fall 2018. The shop test is valid for one (1) calendar year.

In order for students to take the Shop Safety Test and use the School of Art & Design Shop Facilities, they must:

- Bring a receipt for the fee paid at the Bursar's Office into Fund 62089. The Bursar's Office ONLY accepts cash and checks.
- Be enrolled in at least one 3-unit Art or Design studio course during the Fall 2019 semester.

Returning students who passed the safety test last semester need only show proof of their enrollment in a 3-unit Art or Design course in order to have their shop access reactivated.

Safety tests for Fall 2019 will ONLY be given between August 21st and September 13th.

Course Requirements and Projects

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Attendance

This course is technique-intensive, and attendance is required at all lecture and critique sessions. Do not schedule appointments, work, or any other commitment during this class, as they will not be excused.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Monday, December 16, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

More details can be found in

[University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) *which states that*

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Critiques and Assignments

As one of the essential elements in the study of art, critiques will play a vital role in this course. We will have a critique for each project, and attendance at critiques is mandatory. You are required to show up for critiques prepared with your finished work. Your assignment will be graded following the critique, and late assignments will only be accepted under unusual, extenuating, or emergency circumstances. Additionally, you must be prepared to engage in discussion about your work as well as the work of your classmates in a manner that is educational, analytical, and objective. Participating in critique discussion is as essential as showing up for the critique, and your level of participation will be considered in your final grade.

Five Assignments:

- Assignment 1 10% (Art/Work, Ch 1-2)
 - Assignment 2 10% (Art/Work, Ch 2-3)
 - Assignment 3 10% (Ten to 15 minutes presentation on your artwork)
 - Assignment 4 10% (Art investigation)
 - Assignment 5 10% (Website)
- Semester project 30% (Semester long art project)
Group show 10% (Taking part)
Participation 10% (Critique and taking part in class activities)

100 % (100 point)

Participation:

Taking chances will be highly rewarded! Your good energy is always evident, even if some of your projects don't reach the level of success you initially imagined. I would much prefer to reward you for "failing" at a higher level, than succeeding at your current level of comfort. Each assignment will be graded on the quality of the technique and the quality of your ideas.

Additionally, the following criteria will be applied to evaluate individual projects:

- Exposure/Quality Focus – Good exposures that are neither under nor overexposed, subject in focus (as required), no camera shake
- Processing Technique – Good tonal range, including white highlights and detail in the shadow areas
- Artistic Merit – Composition, visual impact, subject interest
- Originality – Uniqueness of idea and vision, original concept, creative in thought and appearance
- Evidence of shooting beyond the realm of the SJSU campus and community

Grading Information

The criteria to earn an excellent grade:

- Technical proficiency in subject matter with the camera, darkroom, and image presentation
- A thorough understanding and creative interpretation of all assignments
- Often going beyond the minimum shooting requirements for each assignment
- Exhibiting thorough verbal engagement in critiques and class discussions.
- Punctual daily attendance
- A comprehensive and neatly organized Photography Notebook
- Respect for the photo area, cleaning up after yourself, and helping your peers do the same

- Evidence that you have challenged yourself above and beyond the status quo

Numeric grade equivalents:

100% and over	A+
93% - 99%	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

Please Note:

Except in cases of documented emergencies, incomplete grades are not given in this course.

“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.

Additional Note:

This syllabus is subject to change, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, or in the case that changes will significantly enhance the quality of the course. Students will collectively have the opportunity to shape the ways in which the course unfolds.

Department Advising:

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a 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

Classroom Protocol:

Students are expected to be punctual for class and actively engaged during all class meetings. Cell phones, smart phones, or other devices that detract from full attention should turn off or silenced. Constantly checking your phone during lectures, demos, and critiques will lower your participation grades. You are allowed to have your laptop open for taking notes during lecture and demonstration. Laptops must be closed during critiques and feature long film screenings.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>."

Academic Integrity:

Students at SJSU are required to demonstrate academic integrity and follow SJSU's Code of Academic Conduct. <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/schedules/integrity.html>

This code prohibits:

- cheating,
- plagiarism (turning in work not written by you, or lacking proper citation),
- falsification and fabrication (lying or distorting the truth),
- helping others to cheat,
- unauthorized changes on official documents,
- pretending to be someone else or having someone else pretend to be you,
- making or accepting bribes, special favors, or threats, and
- any other behavior that violates academic integrity.

There are serious consequences to violations of the academic integrity policy. SJSU's policies and procedures provide students a fair hearing if a complaint is made against you.

Course Schedule

PHOT 197, Section 02: Senior Photography Project, Fall 2019

Subject to change

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wed. Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class orientation and summary • Attendance, add/drop, syllabus, materials list, etc. • Let's talk assignments, procedures, and what to expect. • Homework: Bring past work, readings: "Roland Barthes: Stadium and Punctum," <u>ART/WORK</u>, Ch 1 to 3 (CANVAS)
2	Mon. Aug 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View students' past work • Bring laptop to class • Photo conversation part 1: Strategies for critique sessions • Discuss Assignment 1: <u>ART/WORK</u> Ch 1 to 2 • Discuss Assignment 2: <u>ART/WORK</u>, Ch 2 to 3 • Compose your Resume or C.V. • Write your bio • Write your artist statement
	Wed. Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <u>ART/WORK</u>, Ch 6: Sustaining Your Practice (with Money and Stuff) • Exploring the commercial side of photography: Artist? Photographer? An art-photographer? • Cover Letter: Submission Materials

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Final Project proposal • Homework readings: <u>ART/WORK</u>, Ch 5 to 6
3	Mon. Sept 2 Tues. Sept 3: Wed. Sept 4	<p>Labor Day: No classes</p> <p>Lab opens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Assignment 3: Presentation on your artwork • Artist's talking about their work: The Artist's voice • Art Photography • Landscape Photography • Documentary Photography • Portraiture Photography • Commercial Photography
4	Mon. Sept 9 Wed. Sept 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Project proposal due in class and Canvas • Discuss Assignment 4: Art investigation
5	Mon. Sept 16 Wed. Sept 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 5 Due: "Submission material" • Read: <u>ART/WORK</u>, Ch 4: Promotion • Discuss Assignment 6: Website <p>Workday and Individual meetings</p>
6	Mon. Sept 23 Wed. Sept 25	<p>In class workday on your artist talk and help from me</p> <p>In class workday on your artist talk and help from me</p>
7	Mon. Sept 30 Wed. Oct 2	<p>Critique Assignment 3: Presentation of your work day 1</p> <p>Critique Assignment 3: Presentation of your work day 2</p>
8	Mon. Oct 7 Wed. Oct 9	<p>Individual meetings and check in with Assignment 6: Website</p> <p>Critique work in progress Assignment 4: Art investigation</p>
9	Mon. Oct 14 Wed. Oct 16	<p>Workday and Individual meetings</p> <p>Workday and Individual meetings</p>
10	Mon. Oct 21 Wed. Oct 23	<p>Slide lecture and individual meetings, produce show promotional/press materials</p> <p>Critique Assignment 4: Art investigation</p>

11	Mon. Oct 28 Wed. Oct 30	Individual meetings and check in with Assignment 5: Website Critique semester project: work in progress
12	Mon. Nov 4 Wed. Nov 6	Workday and individual meetings Workday and individual meetings
13	Mon. Nov 11 Wed. Nov 13	Assignment 5 Due: discussion and critique websites in class Discuss (date?) install day Workday and individual meetings
14	Mon. Nov 18 Wed. Nov 20	Workday and individual meetings Workday and individual meetings
15	Mon. Nov 25 Wed. Nov 27	Workday and individual meetings Non-instructional Day
16	Mon. Dec 2 Wed. Dec 4	Workday and individual meetings
17	Mon. Dec 9	Workday and individual meetings Last day to turn in all assignment and redos.
	FINAL	Monday, December 16, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM Final Project Due: Critique Potluck and Final Critique /portfolio due (Farewell on your journey of a creative life.)