SJSU | DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
Phot 40 - Beginning Photography, Section 04, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Felix F. Quintana
Office Location:	Zoom Personal Meeting Room – link will be provided
Telephone:	(424) 233-5627
Email:	Felix.quintana@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday / Thursday 8:00 am-10:50 am
Classroom:	Online

Course Format

This course is a combination of lecture, demonstration, activities, work time, and critique.

This course will be exclusively be conducted online. As the class will have typically have weekly synchronous class meetings over zoom, students ideally should have a reliable internet connection, a built-in or stand-alone webcam, and a working microphone. It is recommended that you attend the synchronous zoom class meetings on a laptop or desktop computer, as a phone screen is too small to adequately view images. Students should use the zoom application, rather than a web browser for the synchronous meetings. In addition to the course Canvas site, we will also be using Google drive.

This is a technology intensive course. Students are required to have a DSLR or mirrorless camera with manual controls that takes RAW files, and a memory card with sufficient storage for 200-500 images. Students are also required to have a computer with the current versions of Adobe Lightroom Classic installed. These programs are free to all SJSU students taking a class that requires it. In order to install and run these programs, you will need a 64-bit processor, 8GB of RAM, and a minimum of 8GB of hard disk space, with additional space for your photographs unless they are kept on an external hard drive. In addition, to run the most recent versions of these programs your operating system cannot be older than macOS v10.13 or Windows 10, version 1809.

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 Goals

This beginning course will teach you the technical, aesthetic and conceptual components of black and white digital photography. Participants will be introduced to the photographic language of image making, with assignments designed to hone both your technical skills, and develop your ability to communicate and express yourself freely through lens-based art. This semester you will learn the ins and outs of handling your DSLR camera, editing and adjusting your images using Adobe Lightroom Classic CC, and finally other experimental contemporary photographic methods.

Students in this course will complete a series of exercises and assignments that will help build technical and composition skills, conceptual ideas and storytelling. Each project is designed to inspire personal vision and creativity. Self-expression through the medium of photography is strongly encouraged. Students will leave the course with a group of photographs they should be proud to put on their walls.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Course Skill Learning Outcomes

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

CLO 1 - Understand manual DSLR camera operation.

CLO 2 - Understand digital camera settings and controls and their effects.

CLO 3 - Successfully import, enhance, export images using Adobe Lightroom Classic CC.

CLO 4 – Understand basic printing and presentation methods

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have mastered:

CLO 5 - The basic compositional and formal elements of the photographic image.

CLO 6 - Be versed in an overview of relevant historic and contemporary photographic artists.

CLO 7 – How to express complex concepts visually using black and white digital photography

CLO 8 – How to develop a small portfolio of professionally presented and thoughtful work.

MYSJSU Messaging - Canvas Information

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System](#) course login website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. Your Username is your 9-digit SJSU ID number, and your password is your SJSU-One account password.

For help with using Canvas see the [Canvas Student Resources](#) page.

Required Texts/Readings

There are no required readings for this course.

Suggested Readings

1. ***Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age*** by Robert Hirsch - PDF will be made available
2. ***Letters To A Young Poet*** by Rainer Maria Rilke

Supplementary learning materials will be available in the weekly modules located on the Canvas course website.

Equipment / Materials Requirements

I will discuss materials more specifically the first day of class

1. Digital DSLR or Mirrorless Camera: Must have a minimum of 10 megapixel capacity and full "manual mode" (be able to adjust both shutter speed and aperture). Must be able to shoot RAW.
2. Memory card for your camera (at least 16GB)
3. Laptop: You are required to have your own laptop computer to take this course. You will need at least 40GB of space in your hard drive for this course.
4. Adobe Software Programs (Lightroom Classic CC, Photoshop CC) You can request your free copy from the University here: https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html
5. USB thumb drive / memory stick – 1GB minimum
6. Hard Drive (highly recommended)
7. Tripod / Cable Release/Remote (check camera manual first)
8. Package of lens cleaning tissue and bottle of lens cleaning fluid

Online Vendors:

Adorama – NY https://www.adorama.com/

B&H – NY Closed on Saturdays and observes all major Jewish Holidays, plan ahead for shipping purposes, especially in the fall. https://www.bhphotovideo.com/

Freestyle Photo – Los Angeles https://www.freestylephoto.biz/

KEH – great for buying used camera equipment. https://www.keh.com/

Suggested Local Vendors:

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

San Jose Camera & Video - 1600 S Winchester Blvd, Campbell (408) 374-1880

Looking Glass Photo - 1045 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley CA (510)-548-6888 Kaufmann's Camera - 1502 El Camino Real, San Bruno (650) 574-3429

Samy's Camera - 1090 Bryant Street, SF (415)621-84003

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott
Email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu
Phone: (408) 808-2094
King Library, 4th Floor
Art and Art History Resources: **https://libguides.sjsu.edu/Art**

Course Requirements and Assignments

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. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. More details about student workload can be found in **University Policy S19-6** at **http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S19-6.pdf**.

The class includes three photographic assignments, a photographic book, two papers, and one quiz. In addition, there will be some required discussion topics and discussions in modules on Canvas. Plan on spending **several hours each week** outside of class photographing and adjusting your images. I can't stress this enough - you will be photographing EVERY WEEK. Plan ahead for this.

Class Participation
The best way to develop your skills and ideas is to be here and actively participate. While attendance cannot be graded as part of your participation grade, there will be a number of lectures, demos and discussions that you will not experience if you are not present in the synchronous class meetings. Your participation in the form of regular involvement in activities and discussions (both in person and on Canvas) is not only required but truly appreciated by myself and your peers. I expect you to attend all critiques as they are critical learning opportunities. Any missed synchronous critiques, must be made up asynchronously. Your voice is critical to the success of this class.

Final Examination or Evaluation

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. I reserve the Final Exam date to finish up critiques and I will be return all graded to work to you.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades
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 your creative solutions to the challenges given.

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

The criteria to earn an excellent grade:
• Technical proficiency in assignments
• A thorough understanding and creative interpretation of all assignments
• Often going beyond the minimum requirements for each assignment
• Exhibiting thorough verbal engagement in critiques and class discussions
• Punctual attendance in the synchronous class meetings • Evidence that you have challenged yourself above and beyond the status quo

Determination of Grades

A **Outstanding**: thoughtful and intelligent ideas presented in a clear, organized, and engaging manner

B **Above Average - Good:** the ideas are interesting and successfully presented; shows potential, but not necessarily distinctive

C **Average - Mediocre:** achieves minimum requirements of the assignment, but not particularly clear, nor ambitious.

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.

Relative weight of course requirements

Exercises	5%
3 Assignments	45%
Final Book Project	20%
Research Paper	10%
Short Paper	5%
Photo Quiz	5%
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.

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 SJSU Studies (R, S, & V) shall be required of all students as a graduation requirement. Note that "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.

Extra Credit
There will be a variety of extra credit opportunities available throughout the semester.

Online Class Protocol
Unless indicated, class will meet via Zoom, and start promptly at 8am. Please arrive on time to the class meeting. It is distracting and unprofessional to arrive late, and you will inevitably miss important information. Class will rarely meet for the entire time on Zoom, and the remainder of the scheduled class time is to be used for required asynchronous activities on Canvas. I will be the Zoom Meeting Attendance Report to track attendance in the synchronous classes. Zoom provides a roster of people who attended the class meeting, along with the times they joined and left the meeting.

Questions and comments may be entered anytime during the synchronous class session in the "chat" box. Students are asked to remain on mute until called on to speak. Students who wish to speak should use the "hand raise" icon in the participant list. It is expected that students will have their video on for the entire class meeting. We are a community, and it is very difficult to connect with each other when you don't see facial expressions. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner conducive to a university learning environment. This includes finding a dedicated, quiet space where you can give your full attention to the class, turning your cell phone and other devices off, closing any non-essential programs and applications on your computer. Be respectful and thoughtful with your language, and in how you treat others in the class.

Recording Zoom Classes
This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission
Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Proctoring Software and Exams
Exams will be proctored in this course through Respondus Monitor and LockDown Browser. Please note it is the instructor's discretion to determine the method of proctoring. If cheating is suspected the proctored videos may be used for further inspection and may become part of the student's disciplinary record. Note that the proctoring software does not determine whether academic misconduct occurred, but does determine whether something irregular occurred that may require further investigation. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if unexpected interruptions (from a parent or roommate, for example) occur during an exam.

Technology Requirements
Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students.
Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette
- ● **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- ● **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** Find a quiet place to "attend" class, to the greatest extent possible.
  - ○ Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
  - ○ Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- ● **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- ● **Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
- ● **Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds:** If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

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/.

Academic Integrity

Submitting projects already turned in in another class counts as cheating. All work made in this class must be new work, created by the student submitting the project.

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/.

SJSU Cares

SJSU Cares provides resources and services for SJSU students facing any kind of financial crisis. If you're having trouble paying for food, housing or other bills, they will help you get the help you need, including a free food pantry for students daily. For additional information, visit the SJSU Cares website at https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/index.php

Learn Anywhere

The SJSU website includes a helpful section called Learn Anywhere that has a plethora of important information for students to successfully navigate online learning. Included are Canvas, Zoom and Adobe CC Installation tutorials, technology and campus resources.

Additional Note:

This semester is an exciting new paradigm for teaching and learning. As such, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, assignments and course requirements as needed to insure that students will be engaged and successful in the course. Your cooperation in this adventure is appreciated.

Course Schedule
PHOT 40-04: Beginning Photography, Fall 2020

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

Week (Optional)	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines *(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)*
1	8/20/20	Class Introductions Class overview, syllabus, and materials, class expectations **Discussion:** of the ordinary vs the extraordinary
2	8/25/20	**Exercise: Photographing a mood, word, or feeling** **For next class:** Download Lightroom CC
2	8/27/20	**Exercise #1: Photographing a mood, word, or feeling** **Demonstration:** Introduction to Adobe Lightroom CC **For next class:** Bring your camera!
3	9/1/20	**FIRST ASSIGNMENT INTROCUTION** **Camera Demonstration #1:** Digital Camera Functions
3	9/3/20	**Camera Demonstration #2:** Digital Camera Functions **Discussion: Touch base with group about first assignment ideas**
4	9/8/20	**Lightroom Demonstration #1:** Digital Workflow – Lightroom – Students will learn how to begin to edit their work in black and white, creating a contact sheet **Exercise #2:** Painting with light, long exposure photography **Discussion:** We will check in as a class and see how our assignments are moving along so far. Use this time to share your work and get feedback from class
4	9/10/20	**Demonstration:** Camera Functions: Exposure Triangle & Bracketing **Discussion:** Preparing for critique – how to critique artwork productively For next class: Upload your images to Canvas
5	9/15/20	**FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE** **Critique Day #1**– We critique Assignment #1 Projects (Group 1) **SECOND ASSIGNMENT INTRODUCTION**
5	9/17/20	**Critique Day #2**– We critique Assignment #1 Projects (Group 2)
6	9/22/20	**Lecture #1: Mystery of Photography: Black, Indigenous, People of color in history of photography Creative Motion in Photographs** **PAPER #1 Assigned – Meaningful Photography** **Discussion: Writing about photography**
6	9/24/20	**Lightroom Demonstration #2:** Contrast, Adjustments **Activity** – Create before and after images using skills learned from Lightroom
7	9/29/20	**SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE** **Critique Day #1**– We critique Assignment #2 Projects (Group 1) **THIRD ASSIGNMENT INTRODUCTION**
7	10/1/20	**Critique Day #2**– We critique Assignment #2 Projects (Group 2) **Review:** Photo Quiz
8	10/6/20	**PAPER #1 DUE** **Review:** Photo Quiz

Week (Optional)	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines *(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)*
8	10/8/20	**Lightroom Demonstration #3 – Crop, Edge Burn, Tint** **PHOTO QUIZ** – due by 8pm
9	10/13/20	**Lightroom Demonstration #4 –** Adjustment Brush, Batch editing **PAPER #2 INTRODUCTION**
9	10/15/20	**Photo Mystery Lecture #2 –** Themes of Photography **Studio Time:** Continue working on your Assignment #3
10	10/20/20	**THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE** **Critique Day #1**: Group 1 **FINAL ASSIGNMENT INTRODUCTION**
10	10/22/20	**THIRD ASSIGNMENT** – Introduction to Assignment **Critique Day #2**: Group 2 **Lecture:** Introduction to Photographers inspired by assignment
11	10/27/20	**FINAL ASSIGNMENT PROPOSAL DUE** **Activity:** Writing an Artist Statement
11	10/29/20	**Activity:** Laying out images / text for book
12	11/3/20	**PAPER #2 DUE / PRESENTATIONS**
12	11/5/20	**Individual Meetings**
13	11/10/20	**Studio Time:** Continue working on Final Assignment
13	11/12/20	**Studio Time:** Check in with class on Final Assignment Progress
14	11/17/20	**DEADLINE TO SEND BOOK TO BE PRINTED** **Activity:** Zine-making Workshop
14	11/19/20	**Guest Artist Talk / Studio Visit**
15	11/24/20	Individual Check-In Meetings **Activity:** Digital Double Exposure
15	11/26/20	**THANKSTAKING – NO CLASS**
16	12/1/20	Individual Check-In Meetings **Activity:** Digital Photo-Collage
16	12/3/20	**SOFT DEADLINE FOR FINAL ASSIGNMENT**
Final Exam	12/14/20	**FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE** **Final Critique / Review / Celebration!** EXAM TIME: 7:15am-9:30am