# San José State University
## Department of Art and Art History
## PHOT 40.01, Beg Photography, Spring 2021

## Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Binh Danh |
| Office Location: | On Zoom |
| Email: | binh.danh@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Monday and Wednesday: 6 PM to 7 PM |
| Class Days/Time: | Monday and Wednesday: 12 PM to 2:50 PM |
| Classroom: | On Zoom |

## Course Description

A beginning photography course that introduces students to fundamental aesthetic issues in image-making of black and white photography, as well as photographic technique utilizing digital cameras, electronic image processing, and "printing." Requires a DSLR type camera (or other approved digital camera) and Adobe Lightroom.

Have you ever given a moment to consider how photography touches every part of your life, from the day you were born to the family photographs on your cell phone, to the recent doctor's visit, or the powerful images from citizen journalists that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement? Photography, since its invention, has changed our lives in almost every way. How does photography serve as evidence, as history, as research, and as art?

This course is an introduction to Black and White Photography, emphasizing personal, social, and aesthetic concerns with the camera. Class lectures will introduce you to contemporary and historical photographers and various philosophical and technical approaches to the medium. We will be covering technical foundations that include camera controls, exposure techniques, and online presentations during the semester. Class lectures, assignments, readings, and project critiques encourage lively and thoughtful dialogue among class participants.

## Course Format

We will meet over Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays at the scheduled class time. Students are required to photograph out of class time.

## Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

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 to learn of any updates.

For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CLO1 - Become proficient in the manual functions and settings of a DSLR as a means to creatively and adequately expose an image

- CLO2 - Learn how to organize, edit, enhance, and sequence digital images in Adobe Lightroom, and prepare digital files for online presentation

- CLO3 - Gain awareness of the history of photography, photography in the fine arts, and how photographs are used in the mass media to sell, persuade, and exploit

- CLO4 - Analyze and critique photographic images as a way to inform your creative practice

- CLO5 – Develop visual perception and learn how to use the photographic medium as a form of creative expression

- CLO6 - Develop a body of professionally presented work as evidence of photographic knowledge

## Texts/Readings/Online Lightroom Tutorials

- The Elements of Photography: Understanding and Creating Sophisticated Images, Faris Belt, Angela (Taylor & Francis Group, 2011) *Available on ProQuest Ebook Central at SJSU Library*

  https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/reader.action?docID=745407

  **Read:**

  Foreword

  Preface: It's Elemental (optional)

  Introduction

  Ch 1: Before you Begin (pages 3 to 21)

  Ch 2: Metering and Exposure (pages 23 to 48, CLO1)

  Ch 3: Framing Borders, and Multiple Frames (pages 51 to 94, part 1: framing, CLO1)

  Ch 4: Apertures: Focus, Lenses, and Clarity (pages 161 to 202, CLO1)

  Ch 5: Shutter speeds: Time and Motion (pages 223 to 245, part 1 Shutter speeds, The Third Photographic Element, CLO1)

- Lynda.com available via SJSU Library: https://www.lynda.com/portal/patron?org=sjlibrary.org

  Learning Lightroom Classic with Theresa Jackson (2 hours, CLO2)

  https://www.lynda.com/Lightroom-tutorials/Learning-Lightroom-Classic/2852002-2.html?org=sjlibrary.org

  Lightroom and Photoshop: Black and White Photography with Bryan O'Neil Hughes (Intro to Ch. 3, CLO2)

https://www.lynda.com/Lightroom-tutorials/Lightroom-Photoshop-Black-White-Photography-Revision/5038217-2.html?org=sjlibrary.org

Lightroom Classic Essential Training with Theresa Jackson (3 hours and 41 minutes, optional)

https://www.lynda.com/Lightroom-tutorials/Lightroom-Classic-Essential-Training-DUPE/2836002-2.html?org=sjlibrary.org

Photography Foundations: Exposure (part 1) with Ben Long (2 hours 29 minutes, optional)

https://www.lynda.com/course-tutorials/Photography-Foundations-Exposure-part-1-Revision/734659-2.html?org=sjlibrary.org

Photography Foundations: Exposure (part 2) with Ben Long (1 hour 39 minutes, optional)

https://www.lynda.com/course-tutorials/Photography-Foundations-Exposure-Revision/721908-2.html?org=sjlibrary.org

## Other technology requirements / equipment / material

- DSLR/mirrorless/or other digital camera and lens(s)
- Laptop Computer to run Adobe Lightroom

**Adobe Software Programs** - Creative Cloud from this website:  https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html

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.

## Library Liaison

**Gareth Scott**
email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu
phone: (408) 808-2094
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
4th Floor Administration Offices

## 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

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

**Critiques and Assignments**

As one of the essential elements in art study, crits (critique) will play a vital role in this course. We will have a crit for each project, and attendance at crits are mandatory. You are required to show up for critiques prepared with your finished work. I will grade your assignments following the crits. I will accept late assignments only under unusual, extenuating, or emergency circumstances. Additionally, you must be prepared to discuss your work and your classmates' work in a manner that is educational, analytical, and objective. Participating in crit discussions are as essential as showing up for them. I will consider your level of participation in your final grade.

Grades are calculated on the below assignments and projects:

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| Four Photo Projects: | 400 points, 40% (CLO4,5,6) |
| Six Canvas assignments: | 300 points, 30% (readings discussions, and video tutorials, CLO3,4,5) |
| Final Portfolio: | 200 points, 20% (CLO6) |
| Participation: | 100 points, 10% |
| | 1000 points, 100% |

The criteria to earn an excellent grade:
• Technical proficiency in subject matter with the camera, Adobe Lightroom, 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 crits and class discussions.
• Punctual daily attendance
• Evidence that you have challenged yourself above and beyond the status quo

Participation:
Please keep in mind that for classes such as this one, active participation is essential. I require you to attend all class meetings, including those you are not presenting or having work critiqued. I expect you to actively participate in discussions about your peers' work, readings, lectures, etc. 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.

**Final Examination**

"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 assignments."

*Our Final Exam is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 20 from 9:45 AM to 12:00 PM*

**Grading Information**

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

Grading Policy
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.

**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.

**Classroom Protocol**

Students are expected to be punctual for class and actively engaged during all class meetings. Cell phones, smartphones, or other devices that detract from full attention should turn off or silenced. Regularly checking your phone during lectures, demos, and critiques will lower your participation grades.

**Explicit Content**
Some materials viewed and/or discussed in this class may contain explicit language or images (true to the controversial nature in the dialogue of contemporary art). Topics may involve aspects of identity such as sexuality, gender, political or spiritual ideology and/ or issues about race, class, and societal/cultural differences. Our goal as a class is to engage in these discussions—uncomfortable as they may be—bring them into a creative framework, and foster a greater understanding and respect for varying perspectives, using art as a language to express the nuances and complexities of where each of us stand.

**Preferred Names and Pronouns**
This course welcomes and affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Furthermore, please notify me of your preferred gender pronoun.

**University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9 *(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)*, relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g., learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

**Academic Integrity:**
Students at SJSU are required to demonstrate academic integrity and follow SJSU's Code of Academic Conduct. 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.

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## Course Schedule

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

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 | **Wed. Jan 27** | Course orientation and summary, syllabus, attendance, Canvas, readings, materials list, etc.<br>Lecture: Why make photographs?<br>Cameras<br>Lightroom<br>Homework:<br>• Have your DSLR ready<br>• Read your camera's manual from cover to cover.<br>• Readings: The Elements of Photography: "Foreword" and "Introduction" |
| 2 | **Mon. Feb 1** | Short history of photography (from film to digital)<br>DSLR Camera |

| | | Install Lightroom<br>Homework:<br>• Readings: <u>The Elements of Photography</u>:<br>Ch 1: Before you Begin (pages 3 to 21)<br>Ch 2: Metering and Exposure (pages 23 to 48)<br><br>• Lynda.com tutorial: Photography Foundations: Exposure (part 1) with Ben Long (2 hours 29 minutes, optional) |
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| | **Wed. Feb 3** | Lightroom overview<br>Camera settings<br>Photo project #1: "Hunting and gathering"<br>Lynda.com tutorial: Learn Lightroom Classic with Theresa Jackson (2 hours)<br><br>Homework:<br>• Readings: <u>The Elements of Photography</u>:<br>Ch 3: Framing Borders, and Multiple Frames (pages 51 to 94, part 1: framing)<br>• Complete Canvas Assignment #1 |
| 3 | **Mon. Feb 8** | Photo conversation: Strategies for crit sessions<br>Slide lecture<br>Homework:<br>• Readings: <u>The Elements of Photography</u>:<br>Ch 4: Apertures: Focus, Lenses, and Clarity (pages 161 to 202)<br>• Complete Canvas Assignment #2 |
| | **Wed. Feb 10** | Workday (log into Zoom for group help)<br>Homework:<br>• Readings: <u>The Elements of Photography</u>:<br>Ch 5: Shutter speeds: Time and Motion (pages 223 to 245, part 1 Shutter speeds, The Third Photographic Element) |
| 4 | **Mon. Feb 15** | Outputting your photos: Book, Slideshow, Print, and Web |
| | **Wed. Feb 17** | Workday (log into Zoom for group help)<br>Homework:<br>• Lynda.com tutorial: Lightroom and Photoshop: Black and White Photography with Bryan O'Neil Hughes (Intro to Ch 3)<br>• Complete Canvas Assignment #3 |

| 5 | Mon. Feb 22 | **Crit Photo Project #1 "Hunting and gathering"** |
| | Wed. Feb 24 | **Crit Photo Project #1 "Hunting and gathering"** |
| 6 | Mon. Mar 1 | Lecture: Defining Landscape and Documentary Photography<br>Photo project #2: "Site seen and unseen"<br>Homework:<br> • Complete Canvas Assignment #4 |
| | Wed. Mar 3 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| 7 | Mon. Mar 8 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| | Wed. Mar 10 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| 8 | Mon. Mar 15 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| | Wed. Mar 17 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| 9 | Mon. Mar 22 | **Crit Photo Project #2 "Site seen and unseen"** |
| | Wed. Mar 24 | **Crit Photo Project #2 "Site seen and unseen"** |
| 10 | | Spring Recess |
| 11 | Mon. Apr 5 | Lecture: Defining Portraiture Photography<br>Photo Project #3: "The Gaze"<br>Homework:<br> • Complete Canvas Assignment #5 |
| | Wed. Apr 7 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| 12 | Mon. Apr 12 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| | Wed. Apr 14 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| 13 | Mon. Apr 19 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| | Wed. Apr 21 | **Crit Photo Project #3 "The Gaze"** |
| 14 | Mon. Apr 26 | Lecture: Defining Directorial Photography<br>Photo Project #4: "The make-believe"<br>Prepare Final Exam Crit<br>Homework:<br> • Complete Canvas Assignment #6 |

| | Wed. Apr 28 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
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| 15 | Mon. May 3 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| | Wed. May 5 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| 16 | Mon. May 10 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| | Wed. May 12 | **Crit Photo Project #4: "The make-believe"** |
| 17 | Mon. May 17 | Workday (log into Zoom for group help) |
| Final Exam | Thursday, May 20, 9:45 AM to 12 PM | **Final Crit:  Final Portfolio due** |