

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art and Art History**  
**Photo 40, Beginning Photography, Section 03, Spring 2021**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s):	Heather Brown
Office Location:	Virtual Office via Zoom
Telephone:	408-924-4320
Email:	<a href="mailto:heather.brown@sjsu.edu">heather.brown@sjsu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	Monday, 3:00pm-4:00pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday, Thursday 8:00am-10:50am
Classroom:	Virtual Classroom via Zoom

**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. Requires Adobe Lightroom Classic.

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstname.lastname> and/or on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://one.sjsu.edu) on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

**Course Goals**

This course will introduce you to the basics of photography including operating a DSLR camera and editing images using Adobe Lightroom Classic. You will also learn the basic principles of light and optics in order to create technically and conceptually successful photographs in various types of environments. This course will additionally incorporate the analysis of work of both historical and contemporary photographers to better understand the context of photography in the greater fine art realm.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

CLO1 – Successfully operate a DSLR camera in full manual mode

CLO2 – Create photographic images which are properly focused, exposed, composed, and edited

CLO3 – Utilize Adobe Lightroom Classic to organize and edit digital images

CLO4 – Understand the importance of influential historical and contemporary photographers  
CLO5 – Create a cohesive and fully developed body of work containing several original images

### **Required Texts/Readings**

All required readings will be posted to the course Canvas page.

### **Course Web Materials**

You can access all course materials online via the SJSU Canvas site for this section. Your Username is your 9-digit SJSU ID number, and your password is your SJSU-One account password.

### **Library Liaison**

#### **Gareth Scott**

Email: [gareth.scott@sjsu.edu](mailto: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**

The grading percentage breakdown for this course is as follows:

#### **Activities (15% of total grade)**

- Scavenger hunt
- Photo walk
- Portraits
- Photo Jeopardy
- Small group discussions

#### **Projects/Critiques (30% of total grade)**

- Genres of photography (10%)
- Humans vs. nature (10%)
- Photographer emulation (10%)

#### **Basics of Photography Quiz (5% of total grade)**

#### **Research Project/Presentation (15% of total grade)**

#### **Final Exam (25% of total grade)**

- Book project and critique

#### **Participation (10% of total grade)**

- Class discussions
- Class activities
- Critiques
- Having zoom camera turned on and engaging actively in the class

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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## Course Materials

The materials required for this course are as follows:

- A professional-grade operational DSLR or mirrorless camera with a minimum image quality of 12 megapixels. The camera must be able to capture images in RAW format using a fully manual mode and should support interchangeable lenses. You can check out DSLR cameras for free from the photo equipment room (access varies depending on current university policy in regard to COVID-19).
- A high-speed memory card for your camera with at least 32 GB of storage.
- A laptop with at least 40GB of free storage and the ability to run Adobe CC programs.
- Adobe Lightroom Classic CC. You have access to the entire Adobe CC Suite for free through SJSU. The Student Access Request Form can be found here: <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/index.html>
- An external hard drive with at least 500GB of storage or access to a cloud drive to back up your work. You are also encouraged to purchase a flash drive or memory stick for quickly sharing and transferring files.
- A USB cable or card reader for transferring images from your camera to your computer.
- \$25-40 to cover the cost of the photo book (required for final exam)

## Final Examination (Final Book Project)

University policy requires that all courses have a culminating activity during their allotted final time slot which students are required to attend. The final exam for this course will be a group critique of the final book project. The final book project is due at the beginning of the exam period. Attendance is required for the entire exam period. Tardiness or leaving early will result in a severe grade deduction and possible failure of the final exam.

The final exam for this class is scheduled for: Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 7:15am-9:30am

## Grading Information

### Determination of Grades

The work created for this course will be evaluated using the following criteria:

**A:** Outstanding. The ideas and concepts are complex and thoughtful and have been presented in a clear, organized, and engaging manner; the work shows dedicated consideration far beyond the basic requirements.

**B:** Good. The ideas and concepts are interesting and successfully presented. The work shows potential, but is not necessarily distinctive or complex, or otherwise stops just short of being fully developed.

**C:** Average. The work achieves minimum requirements of the assignment, but seriously lacks clarity, consideration, or ambition. Quality of work meets minimum requirements but is markedly light on

conceptual and/or technical knowledge or creative risk. This includes promising ideas or concepts that have ultimately been presented in an incomplete state.

**D: Unsatisfactory.** The work does not satisfy the minimum requirements of the assignment, shows a complete lack of serious concept or consideration, or is otherwise generally unsatisfactory in terms of quality and clarity.

**F: Failed.** No assignment was submitted, or materials submitted do not meet basic assignment criteria.

Grade	Percentage
A plus	96 to 100%
A	93 to 95%
A minus	90 to 92%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

## Critiques

Attendance is required only on critique days as well as the final exam. Absence from a critique, except in cases of emergency or extreme situations, will result in a failing grade for the project. Students who do not have their finished project by the beginning of the first critique period will also receive a failing grade.

## Weighted Grades

The lowest grade from the semester, excluding the final exam, will be dropped and not affect the student's final grade for the course. Additionally, grades from the last portion of the course may be weighted in situations where it will benefit, but never harm, the student.

## Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are always available for this course. If a student wishes to receive extra credit for an assignment, they must request so from the instructor. If approved, the instructor will assign an activity or allow for a former activity or project to be turned in again. The amount of extra credit points permitted is decided upon exclusively by the instructor. If you are concerned about your grade or made a mistake in the early portion of the course, it is vital to communicate your desire to improve your grade to the instructor. We understand that mistakes happen or situations in life can be challenging, and it's important to fix that mistake rather than give up and accept failure.

## **Classroom Protocol**

### **Respect**

The instructor will always do their best to create an inclusive, non-judgmental, respectful, and safe classroom space for all students. You as a student are required to always be respectful and mature towards the instructor and all other students. Any disruptive, mean-spirited, hateful, exclusive, or antagonizing behavior will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right to ask disruptive students to leave the classroom at any point in time.

### **Participation**

During virtual class sessions, students are required to leave their cameras turned on during the entirety of class (unless receiving prior approval from instructor). When the instructor calls on a student, the student must respond verbally or by using the chat box available on zoom. Failure to participate in class activities and critiques may result in a severe grade deduction.

### **Critiques**

Verbal participation in critiques is mandatory for all students. Criticism must always be constructive, specific, relevant, and respectful. That being said, it is important to not 'sugar-coat' or give only positive feedback as everyone, instructor included, can always improve their work. Art is entirely subjective so all opinions, even if you do not agree, are valid and welcome. (We will go over the etiquette of critiques before your first one.)

### **Academic Integrity**

Submitting projects already turned in in another class qualifies as cheating. All work made in this class must be new and created solely by the individual student submitting the project. In addition, each assignment must consist of new images taken specifically for that assignment. If you wish to appropriate old work or work from other courses you may only do so upon receiving permission from instructor prior to completion of the project or activity.

### **University Policies**

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<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) (<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.

### **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>. 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/](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.

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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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.”
- “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.”

### **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](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.

# PHOT 40 / Beginning Photography, Section 03

Spring 2021

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/28/21	<b>Class Intro</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Getting to know each other</li><li>• Review of syllabus</li><li>• Activity: What's in the box?</li><li>• Homework: Make a digital collage of images which describe interesting things about you and post to canvas. We will use these next class to play an 'icebreaker' game.</li></ul>
2	2/02/21	<b>Understanding Light</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Icebreaker game: digital collages</li><li>• Lecture: understanding light, camera obscura</li><li>• Activity: turn your room into a camera obscura (virtual demo)</li><li>• Homework: find and have ready to show a photo you love and one you hate for next class</li></ul>
2	2/04/21	<b>Cameras 101</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture: types of cameras, parts of a camera, film vs. digital, DSLR vs. smartphones</li><li>• Group activity: choose a photo you love, and one you hate, then tell your group why you chose these images</li></ul>
3	2/09/21	<b>Basics of Photography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture: exposure triangle, proper exposures, depth of field, inverse square law, composition, rule of thirds</li><li>• Demo: inverse square law</li><li>• Homework: bring a fully charged and working DSLR camera (with at least 16gb memory card) to next class. Upload a copy of the camera manual to Canvas.</li></ul>
3	2/11/21	<b>Using a DSLR camera</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture: manual focus, shooting in manual mode, metering, raw vs. jpeg, camera settings</li><li>• Activity: photo scavenger hunt with DSLR</li><li>• Study guide for 1<sup>st</sup> quiz (basics of photography)</li><li>• Homework: Have a computer with Adobe Lightroom Classic installed ready to edit, and prepare 3-5 images from today's photo scavenger hunt for editing in-class</li></ul>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
4	2/16/21	<b>Intro to Lightroom Classic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demo: import/export, basic edits, file management</li> <li>• Activity: import, edit, and export photos from photo walk</li> <li>• Go over study guide for quiz (basics of photography)</li> </ul>
4	2/18/21	<b>Genres of Photography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: genres of photography part 1</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> project assignment: genres of photography</li> <li>• Lightroom editing</li> <li>• Homework: Study for quiz (next class)!</li> </ul>
5	2/23/21	<b>Quiz Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz: basics of photography</li> <li>• Lecture: how to do a photo critique</li> <li>• Activity: practice critique for edited photo scavenger hunt images</li> </ul>
5	2/25/21	<b>Genres of Photography continued</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: genres of photography part 2</li> <li>• Activity: Choose the correct f-stop, shutter speed, and ISO (live camera activity)</li> <li>• Lightroom editing for genres of photography project</li> </ul>
6	3/02/21	<b>In-class workday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity: edit photos from genres of photography project</li> <li>• Homework: submit fully edited photos from genres of photography project to Canvas</li> </ul>
6	3/04/21	<b>Critique Day (attendance mandatory)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critique: 1<sup>st</sup> project- genres of photography</li> </ul>
7	3/09/21	<b>Photographer Spotlight</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: Dorothea Lange, Robert Frank</li> <li>• Activity: watch video- migrant mother</li> <li>• Discussion: importance of documentary photography</li> <li>• Homework: work on genres of photography project, bring fully charged laptop and photos from project to edit in class</li> </ul>
7	3/11/21	<b>New Topographics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: history of landscape photography, new topographics</li> <li>• Discussion: humans changing the physical landscape</li> <li>• Introduce 2<sup>nd</sup> project assignment: Humans vs. Nature</li> <li>• Homework: listen to Radiolab podcast episode “Sight Unseen”</li> </ul>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
8	3/16/21	<b>Ethics discussion: Who has the right to take a photograph?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss podcast episode</li> <li>• Lightroom editing</li> </ul>
8	3/18/21	<b>Anthropocene Era</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: anthropocene, environmentalist photography</li> <li>• Lightroom editing</li> <li>• Introduce photo walk assignment</li> <li>• Homework: photo walk assignment; humans vs. nature</li> </ul>
9	3/23/21	<b>In-class workday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity: edit photos for Humans vs. Nature project</li> <li>• Homework: submit fully edited photos from humans vs. nature project to Canvas</li> </ul>
9	3/25/21	<b>Critique Day (attendance mandatory)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critique: Humans vs. Nature</li> </ul>
10	3/30/21	<b>Spring Break (no class)</b>
10	4/01/21	<b>Spring Break (no class)</b>
11	4/06/21	<b>Research Project Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce research project: established photographer</li> <li>• Introduce 3<sup>rd</sup> project assignment: photographer emulation</li> <li>• Activity: review photos from photo walk</li> </ul>
11	4/08/21	<b>File Maintenance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: file naming and organizing, file types, backing up your images</li> <li>• Assignment: organize your image library and back up images to an external hard drive or cloud service</li> </ul>
12	4/13/21	<b>Library Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will visit the SJSU library website so you can find a virtual book and/or article for your research project</li> <li>• Activity: work on research project</li> </ul>
12	4/15/21	<b>Photographer Spotlight</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: Zig Jackson, Edward Curtis</li> <li>• Discussion: what is cultural appropriation?</li> <li>• Lightroom editing</li> </ul>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
13	4/20/21	<b>Photographs in the media</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: advertising, propaganda, photoshop ethics, post truth</li> <li>• Introduce final book project</li> <li>• Homework: upload your research project presentation to Canvas before the start of next class; be prepared to present your project to the class</li> </ul>
13	4/22/21	<b>Research Project Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity: present your research project to the class in a 5-10 minute presentation that includes visual aids</li> <li>• Class discussion based on presentations</li> </ul>
14	4/27/21	<b>In-class work day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring your images to review and make final edits in class</li> <li>• Group discussion based on your images</li> </ul>
14	4/29/21	<b>Image and Text</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture: image and text, graphic design</li> <li>• Begin working on virtual book</li> </ul>
15	5/04/21	<b>Critique Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critique: Photographer emulation</li> </ul>
15	5/06/21	<b>Individual Meetings/In-class work day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider finishing book soon in order to receive it by the final exam</li> </ul>
16	5/11/21	<b>Portraits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture and Demo: portraits and self portraits</li> <li>• Activity: portraits and self portraits (group activity via zoom)</li> <li>• Last day to order books with 2 week or less shipping in order to arrive by the final exam</li> </ul>
16	5/13/21	<b>Portraits continued</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal critique: portraits and self portraits</li> <li>• Final class discussion</li> </ul>
Final Exam	5/25/21	Venue: virtual classroom <b>Time: 7:15am-9:30am</b>  <b>Critique: final book project</b>