

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Phot 40 - 21367, Beginning Photography, Section 02**  
**Spring 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays/Wednesdays, 11:00-11:45am and 6:00pm-7:00pm by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday/Wednesday 12:00pm-2:50pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	DH 410
<b>Department Office:</b>	ART 116
<b>Department Contact:</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/art">www.sjsu.edu/art</a> Email: <a href="mailto:art@sjsu.edu">art@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None
<b>Units</b>	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**

**This course is a combination of lecture, demonstration, hands-on activities, supervised work time and critique.**

## **Technology Intensive Course**

This course requires you to have a digital camera with manual controls that also allows you to create RAW files, and a memory card with sufficient storage for 200-500 images. You are also required to have a laptop computer with the current version of Adobe Lightroom Classic CC installed on it. This program is free to all SJSU students taking a class that requires it.

## **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. The class will introduce you to the language of image making, with assignments designed to hone both your technical skills, and develop your ability to communicate as an artist. This semester you will learn the ins and outs of handling your DSLR camera, adjusting your images using Adobe Lightroom Classic CC, and making gorgeous inkjet prints of your photographs.

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 and export images using Adobe Lightroom Classic.

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.

CLO 9 – Successfully working within deadlines: complete four assignments, a final project, in class exercises, and two writing assignments within assigned deadlines.

## **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](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. 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. Your Username is your 9-digit SJSU ID number, and your password is your SJSU-One account password.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Required Readings**

**Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age - Robert Hirsch - 2018 edition (2012 edition is OK too)**  
**ISBN:-13: 978-0240818276**

Available through Amazon, as a free eBook through the SJSU Library, as well as on reserve in the MLK Library.

### **Optional Materials**

Optional materials and supplementary learning materials, such as web resources, Lightroom and camera handouts will be available through the Canvas course website.

### **Course Web Materials**

- PHOT 40 Course materials on-line on the SJSU Canvas site for the course at: <https://sjsu.instructure.com>. Your Username is your 9-digit SJSU ID number, and your password is your SJSU-One account password.

## **Equipment / Material Requirements**

*I will discuss materials more specifically the first day of class.*

- Digital DSLR Camera: Must have a minimum of 10-mega-pixel capacity and a full "manual mode" (able to manually adjust both shutter speed and aperture). Must be able to shoot RAW.
- Memory card for your camera: At least 16GB is recommended.
- Laptop: You are required to have your own laptop computer to take this course. You will need at least 40GB of space on your hard drive for this course.
- Card Reader/Cable: if needed for your computer.
- Adobe Lightroom Classic: You can request your free copy from the University here:  
<http://www.sjsu.edu/campus/teaching-tools/adobe/index.html>.
- USB Thumb Drive/Memory Stick: 1GB minimum
- Paper and ink will be provided, 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.
- Mat Board: At least two 16 x 20", 4 ply, white acid free mat boards. You will not need this until later in the semester and I will go over this in more detail then.
- Envelopes or Portfolio Box: To hold and protect prints, I will go over size in class.
- Hard Drive: Optional, but recommended

### **Online Vendors:**

Adorama – NY <https://www.adorama.com/>

B&H – NY, supplies most things you'll need. 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)621-8400

### **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**

**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.** 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 four shooting assignments, a photographic book, two papers and one exam. In addition there will be two smaller exercises, done in-class. In addition to technical lectures that will cover basic camera use, exposure, and composition, you will also be introduced to a variety of photographic work through digital slide lectures and discussions covering not only well-known historically significant photographic artists, but more recent trends in photography as well.

### **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. Your participation in the form of regular involvement in activities and discussions is not only required but mandatory. This includes asking questions, which can have a positive effect on your class participation grade. Being prepared with images, and using the work days effectively will be counted in your participation grade. I expect you to attend all critiques, whether or not you have work to show. Failure to do so could negatively effect your class participation grade. Your voice is critical to the success of this class. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances it is your responsibility to make me aware of your situation when it occurs.

### **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 return all graded work to you. The Final Exam is on **Tuesday, May 19th from 9:45am-noon.**

## **Grading Information**

**Assignment Format and Submission:** The course requires students to work both in class, and independently outside of class. This includes photographing, adjusting images, researching and writing.

Students should be prepared to print on print days. Students are not allowed to print without instructor supervision, and **you will not have opportunities to print outside of class at SJSU.**

**Two exercises will be done in-class:**

- **Portraits**
- **DOF/Motion**

**Three assignments will be photographed outside of class time, but there will be some open lab time scheduled to allow you to work on your projects. You will not be able to complete your assignments in class, additional work time at home is needed:**

- **Scavenger Hunt**
- **The Visceral Photograph**
- **Redo/Revisit/Iterate**

**There are two longer assignments, which are weighted heavier in the overall grade for the course. One is a combination research paper and photography assignment. The other is akin to a final project, and is a collection of 10-20 related photographs presented as a book:**

- **Inspiration**
- **The Book**

All assignments are uploaded to Canvas on the due date. Prints must be submitted in an envelope to protect your work. Written papers must be submitted as a hard copy, electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Evaluations will be graded on your technical achievements and your creative solutions to the challenges given. **I strongly encourage risk taking in this class, and thoughtful experimentation will help increase your grade.**

## **Determination of Grades**

- 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.

**Relative weight of course requirements**

Exercises	5%
3 Assignments	30%
Research Paper/Assignment	20%
Final Project/Book	20%
Gallery Paper	5%
Exam	5%
Class Participation	15%

**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 speak with me if you are having problems or falling behind in the class. I cannot help you, or offer any solutions, if I don't know there is an issue. In addition, the longer you wait, the less options I will be able to offer you.

**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 are a variety of extra credit opportunities in class which include attending the optional Photo Department SF Field Trip and attending any Tuesday Night Lecture at SJSU. You can also get additional extra credit for visiting any exhibition on the list provided.**

### **Classroom Protocol**

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner conducive to a university learning environment. This includes being on-time to class. Walking in late is not only disrespectful, but you will also have missed important class information. You are expected to be respectful to your peers as well as myself.

### **Laptop Etiquette**

Please use your laptops in respectful manner. Laptop use will be abundant for taking notes and for working in post process on your photographs. It will NOT BE USED for FB, email, or other non-relevant, to this course, use. Laptops should remain closed during critiques. Please show respect for me and those around you. And BTW, we instructors know when you are on these sites. We do see you, we just do not always address it because it will break the tempo of the classroom lecture.

### **Cell Phone Etiquette**

Ringers on cell phones should be turned off during class time. Texting or playing games during a slide lecture or a technical demonstration is absolutely unacceptable. Earbuds and headphones may not be worn in class. If there is an emergency, please quietly inform me of the circumstances and leave the classroom in order to avoid interrupting the class. Again, please show respect for those around you.

*Failure to follow the laptop and cell phone etiquette will negatively impact your class participation grade.*

### **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**

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. In addition, each assignment must consist of new images taken specifically for that assignment.

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/>.

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic\\_affairs/resources/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic_affairs/resources/academic_calendars/). Students should be

aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes (Late Drop Information). Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub, <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

### **Department Advising**

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](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

### **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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:

Associated Students Print & Technology Center at <http://as.sjsu.edu/asptc/index.jsp> on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600)

The Spartan Floor at the King Library at <http://library.sjsu.edu/about/spartan-floor>

Student Computing Services at <http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center>

Computers at the Martin Luther King Library for public at large at <https://www.sjpl.org/wireless>

Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Collaboration & Academic Technology Services located in IRC Building. 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.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please 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.) QR Code

**SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services**

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

**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.

**Course Schedule**  
**PHOT 40: Beginning Photography, Spring 2020**

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

**Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
1	Mon 1/27	Introductions Class overview and expectations, syllabus and materials. <b>Homework: Bring camera to next class! Read Chapters 3 &amp; 4.</b>
1	Wed 1/29	Camera Maintenance: Cleaning Lenses and Camera Body Camera Basics: Exposure Triangle, Manual Mode, Lenses Camera Basics: Reviewing, Deleting and Formatting In-Class Exercise: Lenses Light <b>Homework: Read Chapter 5.</b>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	Mon 2/3	Portraiture In-Class Exercise: Portraits <b>Bring laptop with Lightroom Classic installed to next class!</b>
2	Wed 2/5	Lightroom: Interface, Importing, Rating, Collections Lightroom: Converting to black and white, Exporting Review Portraiture Exercise <b>Homework: Read Chapters 2 &amp; 6.</b>
3	Mon 2/10	Camera Basics: Histogram and Metering Composition and Aesthetics <b>Introduce Assignment #1: Scavenger Hunt</b> <b>Homework: Begin photographing Scavenger Hunt. Read Chapters 7 &amp; 10.</b>
3	Wed 2/12	Camera Technique: Equivalent Exposure, Depth of Field and Motion In-Class Exercise: DOF/Motion <b>Homework: Continue photographing Scavenger Hunt.</b>
4	Mon 2/17	In-Class Exercise: DOF/Motion Lightroom Work Time: Select and <b>Convert DOF/Motion Exercise to black and white</b> <b>DOF/Motion Exercise Due!</b> <b>Homework: Continue photographing Scavenger Hunt.</b>
4	Wed 2/19	Bracketing, Night Photography Work Time Scavenger Hunt <b>Homework: Complete selecting Scavenger Hunt photos, converting to black and white and exporting.</b>
5	Mon 2/24	<b>Scavenger Hunt Assignment Due/Critique!</b> <b>Introduce Assignment #2: The Visceral Photograph</b> <b>Homework: Begin photographing Visceral.</b>
5	Wed 2/26	Field Trip to SJ ICA and SJ Museum of Quilts and Textiles <b>Homework: Gallery Paper. Read Chapter 1. Continue photographing The Visceral Photograph.</b>
6	Mon 3/2	Lightroom: Basic Adjustments, Contact sheets Work Time The Visceral Photograph <b>Homework: Continue photographing and adjusting The Visceral Photograph. Read Chapter 8.</b>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Wed 3/4	Lightroom: <b>Working with Contrast</b> Work Time The Visceral Photograph Printing <b>Introduce Assignment #3: Inspiration</b> <b>Due: Gallery Paper!</b> <b>Homework: Research and select photographer for Inspiration. Read Chapter 1.</b>
7	Mon 3/9	Final Work Time and Printing for <b>The Visceral Photograph</b> <b>Homework: Complete adjusting images and contact sheets for The Visceral Photograph.</b>
7	Wed 3/11	<b>The Visceral Photograph Assignment Due/Critique!</b> <b>Inspiration Photographer due today!</b> Review for Camera Quiz <b>Homework: Study for Camera Quiz. Begin researching and photographing Inspiration. Read Chapter 11.</b>
8	Mon 3/16	More Review for Camera Quiz <b>Lightroom: Cropping, Edge Burning, Tinting</b> <b>Homework: Continue researching, photographing and writing Inspiration.</b>
8	Wed 3/18	<b>Camera Quiz</b> Work Time for Inspiration <b>Homework: Adjusting images, contact sheets and writing for Inspiration.</b>
9	Mon 3/23	Lightroom: Adjustment Brush Work Time/Printing for Inspiration <b>Homework: Homework: Adjusting images, contact sheets and writing for Inspiration.</b>
9	Wed 3/25	<b>Introduce The Book</b> Final Work Time/Printing for Inspiration <b>Homework: Write Proposal for The Book. Complete Inspiration. Read Chapter 12.</b>
10	Mon 3/30 & Wed 4/1	<b>Holiday, No Classes - Spring Break!</b> <b>The Book Proposal Emailed to Victoria over break!</b> <b>Homework: Begin photographing for The Book.</b>
11	Mon 4/6	<b>Inspiration Assignment Due/Critique!</b> <b>Critique Inspiration</b> <b>Homework: Continue photographing for The Book.</b>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Wed 4/8	Finish Inspiration Critique as needed Artist Statements <b>Homework: Write draft of Artist Statement. Continue working on The Book.</b>
12	Mon 4/13	<b>Printing and designing book</b> <b>Work Time The Book</b> <b>Homework: Continue working on The Book. Revise Artist Statement for The Book.</b>
12	Wed 4/15	<b>Work Time The Book</b> <b>Individual Meetings</b> <b>Homework: Continue working on The Book.</b>
13	Mon 4/20	<b>Introduce Redo/Revisit/Iterate</b> <b>Work Time The Book</b> <b>Individual Meetings</b> <b>Homework: Complete The Book and Artist Statement. Begin photographing Redo/Revisit/Iterate. Read Chapter 9.</b>
13	Wed 4/22	<b>Individual Meetings</b> <b>Final Work Time The Book</b> <b>Homework: Continue photographing Redo/Revisit/Iterate. Read Chapter 9.</b>
14	Mon 4/27	Demo Window Matting Print/Mat Photo for Exhibition <b>Send The Book to be printed!</b> <b>Work Time Redo/Revisit/Iterate</b> <b>Homework: Continue photographing and adjusting Redo/Revisit/Iterate.</b>
14	Wed 4/29	Print/Mat Photo for Exhibition <b>Work Time/Printing Redo/Revisit/Iterate</b> Install Class Exhibition <b>Homework: Complete photographing and adjusting Redo/Revisit/Iterate.</b>
15	Mon 5/4	<b>Final Work Time/Printing Redo/Revisit/Iterate</b> <b>Homework: Complete Redo/Revisit/Iterate.</b>
15	Tues 5/5	Reception for Class Exhibition 6-8pm, Art Building
15	Wed 5/6	<b>Assignment Due/Critique: Redo/Revisit/Iterate</b> Class Party!

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
16	Mon 5/11	<b>Assignment Due/Critique: The Book</b> <b>Deinstall Class Exhibition</b> Class Party!
Final Exam*	Tuesday 5/19 9:45am-noon	THIS IS A REQUIRED CLASS Return all work to students. Additional Critique as necessary.





