

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
ART 208.01, Grad Photography Seminar, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Binh Danh
Office Location:	On Zoom
Email:	binh.danh@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday: 6 PM to 8:50 PM
Classroom:	On Zoom

Course Description

Professional practice in the discipline of fine art photography is multi-faceted and complex. To embrace this diversity, Art 208 Graduate Photography Critique offers rotating topics that influence portfolio development, emphasize an ongoing critique of work, and build a healthy professional practice. Repeatable for up to 18 units of credit when course topic changes.

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses (mostly synchronous Learning)

See: [Learn Anywhere](#)

We will meet over Zoom on Tuesdays during the scheduled class time. If we meet in person for whatever reason, all students must wear face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth. They must maintain at least 6-foot distances from other students and the instructor at all times. They must refrain from coming to campus if they feel sick or have a fever.

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 Content and Objective

“The unexamined life is not worth living.” —Socrates

This seminar is an intensive critique class that concentrates on the development of each student’s creative work with an emphasis on articulating responses to others' work, the cultural climate of our times, and the issues involved in one's art practice as it progresses. We will also focus on professional development and how one could sustain a creative life. Meetings will be held on a weekly basis. In the event that a lecture or exhibition of importance to our group is occurring elsewhere, we will make arrangements to meet at the designated site (pending COVID state). The 5 PM Tuesday night lecture series is an important component of the Department of Art & Art History. Speakers are chosen by faculty from each program for their prominence in the contemporary art world. You should make every effort to attend, especially when lecturers are relevant to our Photo program. Weekly class attendance should be supplemented with individual meetings with me during my Zoom office hours or by appointment.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Further develop ability to visually communicate ideas in a manner that is aesthetically and conceptually engaging
2. Further develop technical skills
3. Use technical skills to develop/continue aesthetically resolved projects with strong concepts
4. Refine understanding of the importance of professional presentation, and present your work in a compelling manner (with either a traditional or experimental approach)
5. Develop/refine ability to write about your own work and art practice, and to recognize the writings of others relevant to your work and practice.
6. In the service of the above, attend lectures regularly, participate in readings/discussions and attend field trips
7. Learn to work within deadlines: complete projects by dates you've agreed upon
8. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have the ability to: Develop/continue development of a strong body of work that is professionally presented and technically sound, with thoughtful, interesting content, and a strong, well-written artist statement.

Required Texts/Readings

Online readings are available in Canvas course website and suggested books:

[Living and Sustaining a Creative Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists](#)

by Sharon Loudon

[Art/Work - Revised & Updated: Everything You Need to Know \(and Do\) As You Pursue Your Art Career](#)

by Heather Darcy Bhandari and Jonathan Melber

[How to Survive and Prosper as an Artist: Selling Yourself Without Selling Your Soul](#)

by Carol Michels

[Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear](#)

by Elizabeth Gilbert

[Studio Life: Rituals, Collections, Tools, and Observations on the Artistic Process](#)

by Sarah Trigg

Your own research readings

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4th Floor Administration Offices

Course Requirements and Assignments

In each class session, I want to accomplish two items:

- 1) Learning about professional development and the tribulation of being a professional artist

Subject matters could range from the art market, gallery representation, how to find employment, and teaching as a career. How do we make ends meet as an artist? Other topics such as goals, fear, maintaining a studio practice out of art school, and the challenges and rewards of being a working artist in the 21st-century.

- 2) Student's critique: work-in-progress, ATC presentation, ATC show, and Thesis show

Critiques are scheduled for 45 minutes. Each student will present your work two times during the semester. Critique schedule is already assigned, see the semester schedule at the end of this syllabus.

Preparation for Critiques

Make the most of your critiques. It may not always feel like it, but this process is a privilege. Treat this opportunity as you would a studio visit from a well-known curator or gallerist. Ensure you're as well prepared as possible, especially for your final critique, with work in a near finish state. The first critique should be used for work in progress. What I mean by "work in progress" may not be resolved in terms of presentation, or maybe missing potential additional elements. Sketches, notes, or spoken descriptions of your work are complicated to build a productive critique around and should only be considered as

supplemental materials. Even your “work in progress” should be presented in as complete a form as possible. You will encounter time and space limits in your professional lives. Use this class as practice. Please make every effort to give your work a thorough discussion, attention, and respect it deserves.

Grade Reduction for Lack of Participation

Please keep in mind that for classes such as this one, active participation is essential. You are expected to attend all class meetings, including those you are not presenting or having work critiqued, and you are expected to actively participate in discussions about the work of your peers, readings, lectures, etc. We only meet once a week, which means you’ve missed a week of instruction if you miss one class meeting. Expect a very low-class participation grade if you are not an active participant.

Semester project proposal

Each of you will write a one-page proposal, describing the work you plan to accomplish this semester. Learning to write a proposal is a necessary survival skill for contemporary artists. Proposals are used to apply for grants and findings, and to submit work to galleries or museum. You will upload your proposal to CANVAS by the start of class on Sept 15th.

Final Examination

Our Final Exam is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, Dec. 15 @ 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM.

Please note that this is a different day than usual. Make appropriate arrangements now, so that you will be available to attend our final meeting on this day. Participation is mandatory, per SJSU regulations. Plan ahead to be there.

Weekly Canvas Topic Discussion – See schedule for each class session

“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.”

Grading Information

Participation in weekly meetings, discussions, and critiques:	10%, 10 points
18 Canvas topic discussions:	90%, 5 points each
TOTAL:	100%, 100 points

The work created in class will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

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 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 and F Unsatisfactory: does not satisfy the minimum requirements of the assignment or missing assignments; generally unsatisfactory in terms of quality and clarity. Usually sloppy, incomplete and or late work.

Numeric grade equivalents:

93% - 100% 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.

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.

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.

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.

ART 208 / Grad Photography Seminar, Fall

Up for ATC:

Oct 5-9

Ashley Vaughan: Black Gallery

Heather Brown: Theta Belcher

Oct 12-16

Sunny Jenson: Gallery 5

Golandam Tahmooresizadeh: Black Gallery

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</u>
2	Tues. Aug 25	6:00 – 8:50 1) Class orientation and summary 2) Syllabus 3) Attendance 4) Canvas 5) Setting up a home studio 6) Goals and plans 7) Semester project proposal due Sept 15 8) Labor and art making
3	Tues. Sept 1	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour 6:40 – 7:20 40 mins Canvas topic discussion #1: Helsinki Bus Station Theory 7:25 – 8:05 40 mins Canvas topic discussion #2: What is contemporary photography to you? 8:10 – 8:50 40 mins Canvas topic discussion #3: “Jerry Saltz: How to be an Artist” readings
4	Tues. Sept 8	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour 6:40 – 7:20 40 mins Canvas topic discussion #4: Art School 7:25 – 8:05 40 mins Canvas topic discussion #5: Fear and Fame 8:10 – 8:50 40 mins Canvas topic discussion #6: Art Lecture: Carrie Mae Weems: Can an artist inspire social change?
5	Tues. Sept 15	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour

		<p>6:40 – 8:15 Canvas topic discussion #7: Semester project proposal</p> <p>8:20 – 8:50 30 mins Canvas topic discussion #8: The Art Talk</p>
6	Tues. Sept 22	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>40 mins ATC presentation and feedback: 6:40 – 7:20: Ashley Vaughan 7:25 – 8:05: Heather Brown 8:10 – 8:50: Golandam Tahmooresizadeh</p>
7	Tues. Sept 29	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Felix Quintana</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Katharine Jacobs</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #9: Artist Statement</p>
8	<p>Tues. Oct 6 ATC shows week</p> <p>Ashley Vaughan: Black Gallery Heather Brown: Theta Belcher</p>	<p>5:00 – 6:00 Art lecture by Renee Billingslea (MFA, SJSU)</p> <p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Ashley Vaughan (ATC show)</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Heather Brown (ATC show)</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #10: Current societal topics</p>
9	<p>Tues. Oct 13 ATC shows week</p> <p>Sunny Jenson: Gallery 5</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Golandam Tahmooresizadeh (ATC show)</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Ian Fabre</p>

	Golandam Tahmooresizadeh: Black Gallery	8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #11: Teaching
10	Tues. Oct 20	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour 6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Adrienne Defendi 7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Josie Lepe 8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #12: Art Lecture: Kara Walker "Sweet Talk: Radcliffe Institute"
11	Tues. Oct 27 ATC Presentations Oct 26: 9 AM to 2 PM Oct 27: 9 AM to 1:15 PM See Zoom links	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour 6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: James Moore 7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Hunter Ridenour 8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #13: Art Lecture: Catherine Opie "2017 Walter Annenberg Lecture"
12	Tues. Nov 3	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour 6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Felix Quintana 7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Katharine Jacobs 8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #14: Art Lecture: Richard Mosse "A Conversation"
13	Tues. Nov 10	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour 6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Ashley Vaughan

		<p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Heather Brown</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #15: Art Lecture: Nan Goldin "2009 Sem Presser"</p>
14	Tues. Nov 17	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Golandam Tahmooresizadeh</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Ian Fabre</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #16: The Art Market</p>
15	Tues. Nov 24	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: Adrienne Defendi</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Josie Lepe</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #17: Who's who "People you need to know in the Photography museum/gallery world."</p>
16	Tues. Dec 1	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 45 mins critique: James Moore</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 45 mins critique: Hunter Ridenour</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 35 mins Canvas topic discussion #18: Being a working artist</p>
Final Exam	Tuesday, Dec. 15 @ 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM	Final Critique: TBD