

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
ART 208.01, Grad Photography Seminar, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Robin Lasser
Office Location:	On Zoom
Email:	robin.lasser@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday: 6 PM to 8:50 PM
Classroom:	See the classroom zoom link on Canvas

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 topic: Alternative Exhibition Practices

Course Format

Technology Intensive, 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 site visits to produce experimental photo based works in the landscape, 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. Please also check your SJSU e-mail on a regular basis. I will be sending updates every week.

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

Course Content and Objective

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 social, environmental and 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 site visit occurs elsewhere, we will make arrangements to meet at the designated site (pending COVID Health & Safety guidelines). The 5 PM Tuesday (& Thursday) 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 and field work activities involving alternative exhibition practice.
7. Learn to work within deadlines: complete projects by dates you've agreed upon
8. 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 and Recommended Readings

Your own research readings – you will create a list of three articles and two books that support your creative practice. **This list will be distributed to the entire class by February 16.** Rate the articles 1-3, and provide the URL's. Listed books will be considered recommended readings. Each student in the class is required to read a minimum of one of the articles prior to your classmates critique. A written and oral response to critiques are required by all students in the seminar. These responses must include a reference to one of the listed research URL's provided by the presenting artist.

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

phone: (408) 808-2094

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) Show and Tell: Each student will offer a 45 minute workshop. The workshop offering should be related to your current body of work. This could be a technique you are mastering related to your immediate art production. This way we all learn new aspects of lens-based craft. This may come in handy now or in your future art production arena. This also helps us all to understand the “process” each of you are working with, in the anesthetization of your concepts. Perhaps this exposure also makes us all more adroit responders. Please see your workshop date in the weekly syllabus. In addition to the Show and Tell, we will have four guest artists presenting for 45 minutes. These artists are all SJSU photo alumni. They will share their current work and the path they have followed in their successful careers as directors of photo graduate programs, coordinators of photo programs, tenured professors, high school art teachers, art writers and independent curators.

- 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.

- 3) In addition we will spend a day together out in the landscape at the Albany Bulb Landfill. We will spend the day exploring the art on the peninsula, the history of place including all those who have called this “dump” their home. Our final will be an on-line 3D gallery exhibition highlighting the residue of our day's explorations.

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, and or visiting artists. We only meet once a week, which means you've missed a week of instruction if you miss one class meeting.

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 funding, and to submit work to galleries or museum. You will upload your proposal to google drive by February 16.

Final Examination

Final: May 25 – 17:15-19:30

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 Workshop (nine of the weeks) – See schedule for each class session

Grading Information

Participation in weekly meetings, discussions, and critiques:	10%, 10 points
Work in Progress Presentation I:	15% 15 points
Culminating Semester Presentation 2:	30% 30 points

9 (written responses to weekly critiques)	22.5% 2.5 points each
Show and Tell Workshop (demo + inspiration)	11.25 % 11.25 points
Proposal and suggested readings:	11.25 % 11.25 points

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, Spring 2021

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date/Lecture series 5-6PM</u>	<u>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</u>
2	Tues. Feb 2 5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series: February 2Shaun O'Dell: Ghost Extraction Dialogue Register here	6:00 – 8:50 1) Class orientation and summary 2) Syllabus 4) Canvas 6) Goals and plans 7) Semester project proposal and reading list due February 12-(prior to Feb 16 critiques.) Please upload to our seminar's google folder listed in Canvas. You will be responsible to review the proposal and do the suggested readings associated with this proposal prior to each grad student's critique.
3	Tues. Feb 9	6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hours 6:40 – 7:10

		<p>Guest curator, writer, and founder of Love the Bulb, Susan Moffat https://www.albanybulb.org/team Albanybulb.org</p> <p>7:15-8:00 James Moore workshop (demo and inspirations)</p> <p>8:00-8:545 Robin presents <i>Refuge in Refuse</i> project and facilitates class discussion around potential field work at the Albany Bulb. Final presentation, possibly a 3D Gallery Exhibition at the end of the semester as art archive from the Albany Bulb site work /experiment.</p>
4	<p>Tues. Feb. 16</p> <p>5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series:</p> <p>Jacqueline Kiyomi Gordon: Sound Sense Register here</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>Guest Artists and SJSU Alumni: Professor Kirk Amyx, Sierra College and Professor Adrienne Pao, Academy of Art University www.AdriennePao.com https://www.amyxphoto.com</p> <p>Project proposals and readings due February 20 by midnight. UPLOAD TO GOOGE FOLDER.</p>
5	<p>Tues. Feb. 23</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 Adrienne Defendi</p> <p>7:25 – 8:00 Kiki Wu (demo and inspirations)</p> <p>8:05 – 8:50 Ashley Vaughan</p>
6	<p>Tues. March 2</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p>

		<p>6:40 – 7:20 Kelcey Bauer-critique</p> <p>7:30 – 8:10. Show and Tell Heather Brown (workshop and inspirations)</p> <p>8:10 – 8:50 Ian Fabri -critique</p>
7	<p>Tues. March 9 5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series: Patrick Lydon and Suhee Kang .Register here</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:30- 7:30 Guest artists Patrick Lydon and Suhee Kang https://cityasnature.org</p> <p>James Moore critique 7:40- 8:05-critique 1</p>
8	<p>Tues. March 16 5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series: Mindy Seu Register here</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 Heather Brown</p> <p>7:25 – 8:05 Kelcey Bauer -workshop and inspiration</p> <p>8:10 – 8:50 Kiki Wu-critique 1</p>
9	<p>Tues. March 23 5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series: Refik Anadol Register here</p> <p>ATC Presentation Practice</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:10 30 mins critique: Katherine (ATC show/presentation)</p> <p>7:20 – 7:50 30 mins critique: Ashley (ATC show/ presentation)</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>Tues. March 30 Spring break</p> <p>Tu. April 6</p> <p>April 5-9 ATC Exhibitions.</p> <p>Thurs. April 8-recetipn: 6-7PM</p> <p>5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series:</p> <p>Wafaa Bilal in conversation with Andrew Blanton and Nada Shabout</p> <p>Register here</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 Josie Imelda Lepe-critique</p> <p>7:30-8:10 Adrienne Defendi (workshop and inspiration)</p> <p>8:10- – 8:50 Hunter Ridenour-critique</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Tues. April 13</p> <p>ATC Presentations</p> <p>9:00-1:05 presentations/discussions</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 Phillip Nicholas</p> <p>7:25 – 8:05 Ian Fabre workshop and inspiration</p> <p>8:10 – 8:50 Adrienne Defendi - critique 2</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Tues. April 20</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20</p>

	<p>Karolina Karlic Register here</p>	<p>Kelcey Bauer -critique 2</p> <p>7:25 – 8:05 Phillip Nicholas (workshop and inspiration)</p> <p>8:10 – 8:50 Kiki Wu- critique 2</p>
13	<p>Tues. April 27</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 Ian Fabre -critique 2</p> <p>7:25 – 8:05 Hunter Ridnour (workshop and Inspiration)</p> <p>8:10 – 8:50 Heather Brown -critique 2</p>
14	<p>Tues. May 4 May 4 -Chelsea Thompto Register here</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 James Moore- critique 2</p> <p>7:25 – 8:05 Ashley Vaughan (workshop and inspiration)</p> <p>8:10 – 8:50 Josie Imelda Lepe critique 2</p>
15	<p>Tues. May 11 5-6 PM Tu. Night Lecture Series</p> <p>Last Class</p>	<p>6:00 – 6:30 By appointment office hour</p> <p>6:40 – 7:20 Hunter Ridnour -critique 2</p> <p>7:25 – 8:10 Josie Imelda Lepe (workshop and inspiration)</p> <p>8:15 – 8:50 Phillip Nicholas- critique 2</p>

Final Exam		Final: May 25 – 17:15-19:30- 3D Gallery Exhibition and artists talks