

San José State University
Art and Art History Department
Photo 40, Section 04/(45171). Beginning Photography. Spring, 2021.

Course and Contact Information:

Course Listing: Photo40 Beginning Photography 12-2:50pm T/Th

Instructor: Ashley Vaughan

Office Location: Remote Office Via Zoom.

Email: ashley.vaughan@sjsu.edu

Note: Please title the subject of your email: **YourLastName_Photo40**

Office Hours: T/Th 11am -12pm by appointment only.

Class Days/Time: Beginning January 28, 2020 from 12pm - 2:50 pm T/Th

Classroom: Remote Course Via Zoom.

Prerequisites: **None**

Department Office: Art 116

Department Contact: Website: www.sjsu.edu/art

Email: art@sjsu.edu

Course Description:

PHOT 40:

Beginning Photography: A beginning photography course which introduces students to basic artistic aesthetic understandings in image making (primarily in black and white), as well as photographic technique utilizing digital cameras, electronic image processing and workflow. Now taught digitally, requires the operation of a DSLR type (digital) camera and access to Adobe Lightroom.

♦Adobe Lightroom Classic can be accessed for free through SJSU at:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/index.html>

(Adobe for Students)

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>

(Adobe Access Form)

Course Format:

Technology Requirements:

You must have a digital camera, laptop, and internet access. For this class you will need extensive access to the use of a high-speed internet connection to access online class content. All assignments, readings, handouts, and relevant class info will be located on the CANVAS Portal. You are responsible for accessing these materials when made available (you can always print them out if you choose). Hard copies will **NOT** be distributed.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging:

Again, all course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, relevant notes, grades, and other tools to facilitate learning will be put on the Canvas Learning Management System. Although there will be reminders given in class, it is the responsibility of the student to keep up to date with the movement of the course by checking Canvas regularly. This information can be found at <http://sjsu.instructure.com/>.

Course Goals:

With the rise of technology, most relevantly in our access to digital media, nearly everyone has the ability to take a photograph at any time. This class is about moving beyond the automatic features found in most consumer level camera phones and point-and-shoot cameras to explore how to make a photographic body of work that reflects your personal vision, understandings, and style.

We will begin the semester by learning the technical aspects of the camera, some basic editing using Adobe Lightroom, usually followed by printing techniques. Although printing is a significant part of photography, because of the pandemic we will not be printing together as a class. You can always have work printed at a local lab if you wish to do so. Once camera mechanics, operation, exposure, and other technical aspects of the course are covered, the remainder of the course will focus on developing your aesthetic and conceptual skills. With an understanding these technical adjustments can give fire to these aesthetic and conceptual ideas our work aims or does not aim to produce.

Some open lab time will be scheduled during class to allow you to work on your projects, though you will find that you will need additional time to allow you to work at your own pace. Lab days are an important part of our schedule. It is on Lab days that students will be able to ask questions, discuss understandings, and work with any support needed to complete the scheduled course projects.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO's):

CLO 1 - Understand manual DSLR camera operation.

CLO 2 - Understand digital camera settings and controls and their effects.

CLO 3 - Successfully import, enhance, export/print images using Adobe Lightroom Classic

CLO 4 - Understand and utilize color management

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.

Required Texts/Readings:

Required Readings:

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age - Robert Hirsch - 2018 edition.

ISBN 13: 978-0240818267

[Available 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 Canvas.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material:

- **DSLR type (digital) camera and Latest Addition of Adobe Lightroom Classic.**
- Camera must be digital and allow for manual control of exposure.
- Manual control of exposure through ISO, Aperture, & Shutter manipulation.
- Camera must have a minimum of 12 mega pixels and be able to be handled in full manual mode.
- Camera must be able to shoot in camera RAW.
- Canon Rebel T series or Nikon D series are good cameras for beginners. Do some research and find out what kind of camera is right for you.
- Memory Card (16gb)
- Memory Card Reader (if needed)
- USB Thumb Drive
- External Hard Drive (if needed: always recommended)

- Optional: Flash, Tripod, Shutter Cable, Cotton Gloves, and any Additional Desired Reading Material.
- Optional: Portfolio (you can always make your own). It is nice to have a place to store your work. sAdobe Lightroom Classic is required and can be accessed for free through SJSU at:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/index.html>

(Adobe for Students)

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>

(Adobe Access Form)

Used literature, cameras, tools and tech, can all be found on the web for discounted prices!

Suggested Vendors and Labs:

- Foto Express: 304 E Santa Clara Street. San Jose. (408) 971-3977.
- San Jose Camera & Video: 1600 South Winchester Blvd. Campbell. (408) 374-1880
- Looking Glass Photo: 1045 Ashby Ave. Berkley. (510) 548-6888
- Bay Photo Lab: Bayphoto.com. Santa Cruz. (831) 425-1100
- Greens Camera World: 555 Del Monte Center. Monterey. (831) 655-1234

Online Vendors:

- Adorama: <https://www.adorama.com/>
- B&H: <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/>
- KEH Photo: <https://www.keh.com/>
- Freestyle Photo: <https://www.freestylephoto.biz/>

Library Liaison:

For a scholarly practice remember the importance of quality information!

Please contact Gareth Scott for all your research needs!

Email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

Website: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/art>

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:

Your grade in this class will be based on the completion of four core assignments (60%), the final portfolio (10%), an exam (10%), as well as, two presentations (10%), and five discussion board interactions (10%) that will fall under classroom participation.

Acceptable Submission Formats:

Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link).

Introductions: *Our Understandings.*

A five-minute presentation of where you are coming from and where you plan to go within your photographic understandings. Please include 2 slides. One example of your own work and one example of what inspires you.

What about photography inspires you, what do you hope to learn here through the medium, and or what is currently driving your practice forward? Theoretically, Literally, Conceptually?

(Week One)

Module 1.

A Brief History of Photography: *Just for fun!*

(Week Three)

Module 2.

Project 1: *Where We Stand.* {4 Images}

Aperture / ISO / Shutter Adjustment Assignment.

Lecture: Manual Camera Operation & Composition.

(Week Four)

Module 3.

Adobe Lightroom: *A Lecture.*

Within an Overarching Post Human Understanding: Photography in the Digital Age.

(Week Four)

Module 4.

♦ Adobe Lightroom Classic can be accessed for free through SJSU at:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/index.html>

(Adobe for Students)

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>

(Adobe Access Form)

Project 2: *The Likeness.* {4 Images}

A Portrait Assignment.

Lecture: The Portrait in Technique and History.

(Week Six)

Module 5.

Project 3: Home. {4 to 6 Images}

An Assignment Rooted in Evoking Place: Physical, Symbolic, or Otherwise.

Lecture: The Landscape and Alternative Approaches to Evoking Place.

Be creative, think outside the box!

(Week Eight)

Module 6.

Course Presentation: Inspirations.

Four slides to round out a 5-minute presentation on two photographic creatives.

Art does not exist in a vacuum it important to validate influence!

(Week Nine)

Module 7.

Exam: Don't Panic.

A Short Exam Regarding DSLR Camera Operation.

In class or independently via Canvas. Just to cement the understandings not a traditional exam.

(Week Twelve)

Module 8.

Project 4 Proposal: Written Proposal for Project 4.

Two or More Pages Describing Your Concept.

Project 4: Mixed Up. Tableau, Recreation, or Self-Directed Assignment. {4-8 Images}

Be creative. Find fun and freedom in your newly learned techniques!

(Week Thirteen)

Module 9.

Final Portfolio: Together.

Ten of Your Strongest Images.

An accumulation and presentation of what you consider your strongest course produced images.

(Week Fifteen)

Module 10.

Acceptable Submission Formats:
Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link).

**All presentations and critiques are expected to be rounded out in the
5-minute intervals provided to each of you.**

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. Please be realistic about the amount of time needed to work your entire course load.

Final Examination or Evaluation:

Final exam will take place in the form of a cumulative portfolio and fall in line according to the Spring 2021 final exam schedule. The final portfolio will consist of 10 images that you believe best represent the work you set out to do during this course. This portfolio will be submitted in digital form via Canvas.

When Making an Image Please be Thinking About:

Visual Elements: Focus, lines, tones, space, composition.

Technical Elements: Light, aperture (depth of field), shutter speed, noise, editing.

Contextual Elements: Historical, theoretical, cultural, biographical.

Conceptual Elements: Ideas explored, connections made, creativity.

Grading Information:

Your final grade will be based on an average of 4 projects (40%), your final portfolio (20%), exam (5%), and class participation which includes the assignments *Our Understandings and Inspirations*. (35%). Take risks, break the rules, speak your mind, and take yourself and your work seriously. Hold yourself to a higher standard than what is expected of you - it will pay off in ways you cannot presently foresee.

♦**Outstanding:** Handing in all assignments on time and of outstanding quality. Actively participates in class critiques and discussions. Presents thoughtful and intelligent ideas in a clear, organized, and engaging manner. Work is among the very best. **A**

♦**Above Average:** Handing in all assignments on time, and of above average quality. Actively participates in class critiques and discussions. Presents ideas that are interesting and successfully presented; shows potential, but not necessarily distinctive. Work is roughly equal in quality to the majority of work completed by other students. **B**

♦**Average / Mediocre:** Handing in all assignments on time and of outstanding quality. Actively participates in class critiques and discussions. 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. **C**

♦**Unsatisfactory:** does not satisfy the minimum requirements of the assignment; generally unsatisfactory in terms of quality and or clarity. **D**

♦**Fail:** You didn't submit the required assignment. **F**

Relative weight of course requirements:

Four projects 60%

Project 1 (15%)

Project 2 (15%)

Project 3 (15%)

Project 4 (15%)

Exam 10%

Final Portfolio 10%

Class Participation 20%

Presentation 1 (5%)

Presentation 2 (5%)

Discussion Board 1 (2%)

Discussion Board 2 (2%)

Discussion Board 3 (2%)

Discussion Board 4 (2%)

Discussion Board 5 (2%)

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

Reading/Writing Assignments & Optional Journaling:

In addition to your projects, I may give short classwork assignments, reading assignments, and discussion topic assignments, which may come up during class hours. These fall under your Class Participation grade. It is always a good idea to have a journal to sketch out or write down your ideas. Also have a dedicated space on your computer to keep track of this work in the form of a Photo40 folder.

Class Participation:

Participation is more than just showing up. Participation reflects the expectation that each student attends class; is on time; contributes positively to BOTH THE CANVAS DISCUSSION BOARDS AS WELL AS THE CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT by being attentive, by asking questions, by participating during critiques, and by working on the given assignment. In general, lecture and demonstrations will begin the class session followed by hands on projects. Which means if you are not present, you will miss the days demonstration. Class participation is also 30% of your grade. If you have an extenuating circumstance that is going to prevent you from attending, it is your responsibility to bring this to my attention.

Make Ups and Late Work:

Accepting late work reinforces bad habits for the students. When doing a job or for a client or creating work for a gallery - late work is unacceptable. So, in this respect, I would be doing you (a future professional) a disservice if I accept your late work. However, I do believe that every once in a while, extreme circumstances can sometimes prevent someone from doing their best work. If you find yourself in this situation please turn in what you have done so far This is your education, and you choose the level of commitment to each piece of art you create.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get yourself up to speed. I recommend finding a “buddy” who is a fellow student in the class or seek the instructors help outside of class during posted office hours. If you know you will be unable to attend a class, please send me an e-mail (preferably before the missed day), and if appropriate, I’ll do my best to let you know what you will be missing.

Extra Credit

Attendance of the Tuesday Night Lecture Series and a two-paragraph response can be discussed if needed.

Classroom Protocol:

Laptop Etiquette: Please use your laptops in respectful manner, be present and an active participant during course meetings. Always be respectful of those around you especially during these trying times.

Cell Phone Etiquette: Ringers on your cell phones should be turned off during class time.

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.

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:

Students must request equipment via the SJSU photo department website!

<https://photo.sjsu.edu>

Photo > MFA Information:

https://www.sjsu.edu/art/art_programs/graduate/mfa_photography/

Photo > BA Information:

https://www.sjsu.edu/art/art_programs/undergraduate/photography_undergraduate/

Additional computer labs may be available in your department, SJSU Library, and the MLK Library.

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 common, 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>.

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.

Photo 40, Section 04 (45171). Spring 2021. Course Schedule.

Course Schedule:

Photo 40 / Beginning Photography. Spring 2021. Course Schedule (In the time of Covid).

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. Changes will be posted via your CANVAS portal.

Week & Lesson Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines.	Learning Outcomes
Week 1: Thurs. <i>Module 1.</i>	1.28	<i>Game: Zoom Tag/ Fun Facts!</i> Introduction to Project X: <i>Our Understandings.</i> *Cover Syllabus Questions.	
Week 2: Tues.	2.2	Introductions: <i>Our Understandings.</i>	
Week 2: Thurs. <i>Module 1.</i>	2.4	Introductions: <i>Our Understandings.</i> <i>Slides Due Via Canvas by Midnight!</i> <i>Submission Formats:</i> Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link).	
Week 3: Tues. <i>Module 2.</i>	2.9	*Lecture: A Brief Introduction to the History of Photography. <i>Please Participate in Discussion Board Responding to at Least 2 Classmates.</i>	CLO 6

Week & Lesson Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines.	Learning Outcomes
Week 3: Thurs. Module 3.	2.11	<p>*Lecture: Manual Camera Operation. Exposure & Composition.</p> <p><i>Aperture/ ISO / Shutter</i> Manual Camera Operation:</p> <p>*Depth of Field (Aperture) *Effects of Light Sensitivity Adjustment (ISO) *Long Exposure/ Freeze Frame (Shutter)</p> <p><i>Class Activity: Proper Exposure through the Exposure Triangle.</i></p>	CLO 1
Week 4: Tues. Module 3.	2.16	<p>*Lecture: Manual Camera Operation Shooting in Raw & other DSLR Camera Functions.</p> <p><i>Questions are Always Welcome but Especially Today!</i></p> <p>Introduction to Project 1: <i>Where We Stand.</i></p> <p><i>Please Participate in Discussion Board Responding to at Least 2 Classmates.</i></p>	CLO 2
Week 4: Thurs. Module 4.	2.18	<p>*Lecture: Introduction to Lightroom</p> <p><i>Rating/Sorting/Collections</i></p> <p><i>We Should all Have our DSLR Cameras by Week 4!</i></p> <p><i>Class Activity: Exposure & Metering</i></p> <p>Our Cameras Must: *Be DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) Cameras. *Must be able to use in full manual modes of operation.</p>	CLO 3

Week & Lesson Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines.	Learning Outcomes
Week 5: Tues. Module 4.	2.23	<p><i>*Lecture: Lightroom Continued. Black and White Editing</i></p> <p>*Check in on:</p> <p>The Classes Progress in Obtaining a Fully Manual Camera. Sourcing Manuals for these Cameras if Necessary?</p> <p>*Review & Any Questions Regarding:</p> <p>Manual Camera Operation. Lightroom Understandings.</p> <p><i>Questions are Always Welcome but Especially Today!</i></p>	CLO 4
Week 5: Thurs.	2.25	<p><i>Lab Day: Check in on the Progress of the Course as a Group.</i></p> <p>A Technical Question and Answer Session! With an emphasis in Compositional and Formal Elements!</p> <p>Class Activity: Exporting & Digital Workflow</p>	CLO 5
Week 6: Tues. Module 5.	3.2	<p><i>*Lecture: The Portrait in Technique and History. Additional Lightroom Editing.</i></p> <p>Introduction to Project 2: <i>The Likeness.</i></p> <p><i>Please Participate in Discussion Board Responding to at Least 2 Classmates.</i></p>	CLO 6
Week 6: Thurs.	3.4	<p>Critique Project 1: <i>Where We Stand.</i></p>	

Week & Lesson Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines.	Learning Outcomes
Week 7: Tues.	3.9	Critique Project 1: <i>Where We Stand</i> .	
Week 7: Thurs.	3.11	<p align="center"><i>Class Activity: Portrait Techniques</i></p> <p align="center"><i>& Lab Day: Take the rest of this class session to concentrate on your Portraits!</i></p>	
Week 8: Tues. <i>Module 6.</i>	3.16	<p align="center">*Lecture: The Landscape & Alternative Approaches to Evoking Place.</p> <p align="center">Introduction to Project 3: <i>Home</i>.</p> <p align="center"><i>Please Participate in Discussion Board Responding to at Least 2 Classmates.</i></p>	CLO 6
Week 8: Thurs.	3.18	Critique Project 2: <i>The Likeness</i> .	
Week 9: Tues.	3.23	<p align="center">Critique Project 2: <i>The Likeness</i>.</p> <p align="center"><i>Submission Due Via Canvas by Midnight!</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Submission Formats:</i> Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link).</p>	
Week 9: Thurs. <i>Module 7.</i>	3.25	<p align="center">Introduction to Presentations: <i>Artists That Inspire</i>.</p> <p align="center"><i>Lab Day: Individual Check In & Workday.</i> <i>Please Work on Missed Assignments and Project 3 Over Break!</i></p>	CLO 6

Week & Lesson Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines.	Learning Outcomes
Week 10: Tues.	3.29	<i>Spring Break!</i>	
Week 10: Thurs.	4.1	<i>Spring Break!</i>	
Week 11: Tues.	4.6	Presentations: <i>Artists That Inspire.</i>	
Week 11: Thurs.	4.8	Presentations: <i>Artists That Inspire.</i> <i>Submission Slides Due Via Canvas by Midnight!</i> <i>Submission Formats:</i> Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link). <i>Class Activity: Addressing Esthetic?</i>	
Week 12: Tues.	4.13	Critique Project 3: <i>Home.</i> <i>Exam Preparation Day!</i> *Distribution of Study Guide.	
Week 12: Thurs.	4.15	Critique Project 3: <i>Home.</i> <i>Submission Due Via Canvas by Midnight!</i> <i>Submission Formats:</i> Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link).	

Week & Lesson Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines.	Learning Outcomes
Week 15: Thurs.	5.6	<p style="text-align: center;">Lab Day: Working on Portfolios.</p> <p><i>*Check in and Discussion!</i></p>	
Week 16: Tues.	5.11	Critique Project 4: <i>Mixed Up.</i>	CLO 7
Week 16: Thurs. <i>Module 10.</i>	5.13	Critique Project 4: <i>Mixed Up.</i>	CLO 7
<p>Final Exam</p> <p>Friday 5/21 9:45-Noon</p> <p><i>Module 10.</i></p>		<p><i>*Final Portfolio: Together.</i></p> <p>Ten of Your Strongest Images.</p> <p>An accumulation and discussion of what you consider your strongest course produced images.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Final Portfolio Due Via Canvas by Midnight!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Submission Formats:</i> Power Point. Google Slide > PDF. Or Adobe Spark (Link).</p>	CLO 8