

San José State University  
College of Humanities and the Arts / Department of Art and Art History  
Art 150, Section 1, Topics in Printmaking and Letterpress  
Fall 2021

### Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Irene Carvajal  
Office Location: 315  
Telephone: 650-787-1427  
email: [irene.carvajal@sjsu.edu](mailto:irene.carvajal@sjsu.edu)

Office Hours: by appointment  
Google Calendar, Zoom link and password will be communicated via Canvas

Class day and time: T, TH 4:00pm-6:50pm

Classroom: 309/hybrid on-line

Prerequisites: Art 12 and Art 24  
Units: 3  
Department Office: ART 116

Department Contact: Website: [www.sjsu.edu/art](http://www.sjsu.edu/art) Email: [art@sjsu.edu](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

### Additional Contact Information

- 9am-5pm Monday-Friday text @ 650-787-1427
- Evening and weekends use email: Please allow 48-hours for an e-mail response.
- Emergency: 911
- Campus Escort: 42222

### Course Description

In this course students will learn to make prints using traditional and contemporary printing methods. From archaic processes such as hand carved wood, hand-set lead and wood type to Photoshop and Illustrator created images. This class focuses on multiple relief printing methods. We will explore pros and cons of each method and how to select the most advantageous process for the project at hand.

The class consists of 4 main projects that scaffold onto one another starting with one-color one-process printing, ending with a multi-color/multiprocess print. Each new project will be introduced to the class from a historic context along with demos and examples.

### Course Format:

This course will be taught in a hybrid form. We will be meeting in person for distribution of materials and possible studio time (all is contingent on health regulations regarding Covid 19). Students will only have access to the studios during their assigned days and times.

For the online portion of our class. Students will require a computer or other technology capable of internet connectivity, preferably high speed WIFI. We will be using ZOOM meeting software. All projects will be photographed and uploaded to canvas. Students may use their phone camera for said documentation. Zoom link will be provided via Canvas.

During on line class questions and comments may be entered anytime during the session in the “chat” box. Students are asked to remain on mute until called on to speak. Students wishing to speak should use the “hand raise” icon in the participant list. It is preferable to have your video on. Prepare as you would for in person class, that is to say dress appropriately. Students are asked to arrive on time for the Zoom classes. Late arrivals may have to wait a few minutes before entering the Zoom session as late admission requires intermittently checking the “waiting room.” All demos will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas.”

### Communication

We will communicate via Canvas, where all course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found. Students are responsible for checking weekly.

<https://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Your Username is your 9-digit SJSU ID number, and your password is your SJSU-One account password.

### Course Goals

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

1. Compose, create and print a matrix (relief and letterpress)
2. Communicate with technical print language
3. Calibrate an etching press for different matrixes
4. Print a consistent and clean edition
5. Utilize the Vandercook press for both letterpress and relief print
6. Understand and use a print shop and the materials and tools safely.
7. Create a multi-color reduction print on the etching press
8. Create a multi-block print on the etching press and/or the Vandercook press
9. Create a combination print (typeset, polymer and/or relief) on the Vandercook press

### Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

LO1: Learn basic processes and approaches of relief printmaking

LO2: Learn the safe use of basic printmaking studio equipment and materials

LO3: Develop and apply a working understanding of effective imagery, composition, and aesthetics within each printmaking medium.

LO4: Learn the history and relevance of relief printmaking and letterpress in both contemporary art and design

LO5: Learn proper presentation of finished prints, including signing and editioning,

### Library Liaison

Gareth Scott, email: [gareth.scott@sjsu.edu](mailto:gareth.scott@sjsu.edu)

phone: (408) 808-2094

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4th Floor Administration Offices

Art and Art History Resources: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/ArtReference>

### Texts / Readings/ Other technology equipment / material / tools

X-acto knife with multiple blades

Mars white eraser

Pencil(s)

Sharpie

Sketchbook for ideas and note taking on processes (can be used for other classes as well)

Rubber gloves

Gouges and knives for linoleum and/or wood

Art 150: Intro to Printmaking, Fall 2021

Please verify all web links are active prior to online publication. Revised in August 2021

200-400 grit sand paper for sharpening tools  
Printmaking paper (Recommended: Rives BFK, Rives Lightweight, Arches Cover, Lenox, Stonehenge)\* Various linoleum and wood blocks\*  
Relief printing ink(s)  
apron  
Saral paper (transfer paper)  
Table hook

Ross John, The Complete Printmaker, New York, The Free Press 1990  
<https://sites.dartmouth.edu/library/2015/01/06/the-making-of-a-multi-color-linoleum-block-squid-2/>

### Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12--3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12--3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12--3.pdf>.

### Project Deadlines

Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar. Any work not turned in on the date it is due is considered late. Ten percent will be deducted from the grade for late work. In addition, it is important to participate and engage with class critiques – you will learn as much from your fellow students as from your instructor in these activities, as the dialogue that develops around a project is essential to an artist's growth.

Special circumstances will be taken into consideration (e.g. illness, court appearance, death of a relative.) 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).

### Final Examination or Evaluation

The Final Examination requirement will be met by completing a final project. Final Projects are installed salon style in one of the school galleries (if available, if not we will conduct final project critique in the classroom). All projects are due on the last day of class. Half the class will present on that day, the other half will present during finals week.

### Grading Information

Grades will be based on a culmination of all projects completed in class (80%), class participation in critiques and in-class clean up duties (10%), and (10%) participation in the community print shop clean up at the end of the semester.

Projects will be graded based on the rubric for each project. Rubrics will be posted on our CANVAS site. You will be evaluated on your grasp of essential processes, resolution of ideas, level of craftsmanship and presentation, and completion and timeliness of the projects and assignments.

Grades will be assigned according to University policy from A to F as outlined in the SJSU catalog. All work must be finished and turned in according to ascribed deadlines and instructions. Your grade will be based on my assessment of your work, based on the criteria and rubric listed for each project. The assignments are designed to test your ability to creatively apply the concepts from lectures and demos to specific problems. These skills will improve as you apply them to solving incrementally more difficult problems over your college career and beyond. Rubrics will be posted to Canvas and can be reviewed at any time during the development of a project.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13--1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13--1.pdf> for more details.

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70
D+ =69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- =62-60%
F =59-0% unsatisfactory		

## Classroom Protocol

### General

- You are absolutely expected to be inclass, on time, ready to work
- Demonstrations, important announcements, changes to the schedule all begin in the first 5 minutes of class time. Being late to these announcements negatively affects your participation grade
- Always abide by general shop safety protocol as outlined in class and posted signs.
- No one other than enrolled students are allowed in the studio
- Clean up the entirety of your workspace, including tools, sinks, table tops. Make sure rags are wrung out and or put in the dirty bin. Make sure that the water, lights, and fans are turned off.
- other students and classes are held in this classroom. We must be respectful of them and keep things clean and organized.
- Failure of maintenance of these studios results directly in limited studio time.

### Clothing

- Always wear close--toed shoes with good soles during class and lab hours even if you are not operating equipment. There are a lot of heavy machinery and/or water in these labs.
- Do not wear your nice clothes, Printmaking is a messy endeavor.
- Keep long hair securely pulled back and remove any dangling jewelry or accessories (such as earbuds) before operating equipment.
- Remove any loose clothing that could get caught up in equipment prior to operation.

### Demos and Studio days during class time

- You are required to attend all demos. If you miss a demo, you need to contact me and make arrangements to review what was missed
- In order to be successful, you are expected to use this studio outside of class time. It is your responsibility to be in class a minimum of **12** class periods on days we have open studio time. This enables you to participate in the larger culture of this class, it also allows me to have more one-on-one time with you and give you additional assistance and feedback on your work. Simply getting a project done without ever being present in class during open studio hours will negatively affect your grade.

### Open Lab Hours

- You are expected to put in 3 hours of work time outside of class time per week

### Laptops and cell phones

- Laptops and cell phones are to be used for research ONLY. Your social life can wait.
- Put your cell phone away. This is about being respectful to your professor and fellow students. I do my best to make demonstrations and lectures informative, humorous and succinct. You will do your best to give 100% of your attention for these relatively short moments. During studio days, if you work better with music, you may use one bud. The other ear should be alert to your surroundings

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Per University Policy S16-9, (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is 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/>"

**PROJECTS: projects 1-3 have four assignments:**

1. **2 minute video showing your process (5pts)**
2. **Canvas quiz (5pts)**
3. **Small group discussion and progress critique (5pts)**
4. **Printed image (points for this range depending on the project)**

Project 1: relief cut (hand printed) (5pt)

Project 2: Multiple plate relief Print (hand printed) (10pt)

Project 3: Reduction Print (handprinted or, etching or vandercook press) (10pt)

Project 4: Combination print: (25 pt)

Participation (5pts)

Active usage of class time studio time for at **least 12** sessions Present for all demos and lectures

Maintains and cleans up the studio present for class wide cleaning sessions Active participate in critique

The instructor reserves the right to alter assignments and change project due dates with sufficient notice to the students. The Syllabus is a work in progress, subject to change.

## **Art 150, Section 1, Topics in Printmaking and Letterpress Fall 2021**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

week	day	date	activity
1	TH	8/19	Syllabus, Introductions, expectations. Intro to materials and tools, How to set up a home studio.
2	T	8/24	<b>What do we know about relief printing?</b> Demo: Relief printing (carving, different matrixes, different carving tools, safety) Preparing paper Demo: Troubleshooting, common mistakes and how to correct them.
	TH	8/26	Materials pick up
3	T	8/31	Demo: Translating drawing and painting into graphic images Presentation: Relief printing examples Demo: Hand Printing Demo: Clean up

	TH	9/2	Ideas for first print ( drawings, photos, descriptions) uploaded to discussions page
4	T	9/7	Group Work: Breakout room/in-class project and feedback
	TH	9/9	12-1 Q/A Work Day
5	T	9/14	Critique: Project 1: One color relief print
	TH	9/16	Demo: Multi-plate relief print (image transfer) Demo:Registration techniques
6	T	9/21	Demo: Troubleshooting, common mistakes and how to correct them. Demo: Clean up
	TH	9/23	Multi plate print examples
7	T	9/28	Ideas for first print ( drawings, photos, descriptions) uploaded to discussions page
	TH	9/30	Group Work: Breakout room/in-class project and feedback
8	T	10/5	12-1 Q/A Work Day
	TH	10/7	Critique: Project 2: Multi plate print
9	T	10/12	Demo: Reduction Print, Reduction print examples
	TH	10/14	Ideas for first print ( drawings, photos, descriptions) uploaded to discussions page
10	T	10/19	Group Work: Breakout room/in-class project and feedback
	TH	10/21	12-1 Q/A Work Day
11	T	10/26	12-1 Q/A Work Day
	TH	10/28	Critique: Project 3: Reduction
12	T	11/2	Final Project presentation and discussion
	TH	11/4	Demo: collagraph Demo:Frottage Frottage Presentation
13	T	11/9	Combination print presentation and discussion
	TH	11/11	NO CLASS: VETERAN'S DAY

14	T	11/16	Work Day for all tutorials (5 students per class, sign ups will be in canvas)
	TH	11/18	Work Day for all tutorials (5 students per class, sign ups will be in canvas)
15	T	11/23	Group Work: Breakout room/in-class project and feedback
	TH	11/25	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK
16	T	11/30	Work Day
	TH	12/2	Final Crit crit starts today ends during finals week
17	TH	12/9	PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT DATE AND TIME Final Exam: 2:45pm-5:00pm Final critique continued



