

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Photo 40 (43270, Beginning Photography, 01, Fall, 2021)**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dan Herrera
Office Location:	Online office hours only
Email:	<a href="mailto:daniel.a.herrera@sjsu.edu">daniel.a.herrera@sjsu.edu</a> Note: Please title the subject of your email: <i>YourLastName_Photo40</i>
Office Phone:	Email Preferred
Office Hours:	Mon 10:50am -11:50am
Class Days/Time:	Mon. & Wed. 8am - 10:50am
Campus Classroom	Online Only
Prerequisites:	None
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/art">www.sjsu.edu/art</a> Email: <a href="mailto:art@sjsu.edu">art@sjsu.edu</a>

**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) type camera. Requires Adobe Lightroom.

**Course Format**

This is an online synchronous class. Class meetings will take place online at scheduled times.

**Technology Requirements**

This course makes extensive use of high-speed internet connection to access zoom meetings and 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 (and printing them out if you choose). Due to our efforts to make the School of Art and Design a “paperless” environment hard copies will NOT be handed out in class.

**Course Goals**

Picture this: You are at an event and you see something interesting. The light looks fantastic and your subject is perfectly placed. You pull out your new iPhone 15s Plus X (you know, the one with the new camera that has a squillion mega-pixels). and you click the shutter. You eagerly look at the image that pops up on your screen, but

instead of your intended masterpiece, you are met with an image that doesn't look at all like you had envisioned it.

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 photograph that reflects your personal vision and style.

We will begin the semester by learning the technical aspects of the camera, some basic editing using Adobe Lightroom, and learn how to prepare files for printing. The remainder of the course will focus on developing your aesthetic and conceptual skills.

## **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

1. Understand the basic compositional and formal elements of the photographic image.
2. Possess at least a beginning level photographic vocabulary.
3. Understand digital camera settings and controls and their effect on exposure and resulting image.
4. Learn to successfully shoot, import, enhance, export/print images using Adobe Lightroom Classic.
5. Gain an overview of relevant historic and contemporary photographic artists and issues.
6. Develop ability to create imagery with a strong conceptual basis.
7. Learn to prepare files for print.
8. Gain an understanding of the importance of presentation and present your work in a professional manner
9. Learn to work within deadlines: complete projects, in class exercises, and reading/writing assignments within assigned deadlines.
10. By the end of the course: develop a small body of very finished, professionally presented work with strong, thoughtful content.

## **Recommended Readings**

Other reading materials will be made available through your CANVAS Portal.

## **Other technology requirements / equipment / material**

- Adobe Lightroom Classic CC (latest release)
- A laptop with capability to run software
- Internet capable of attending zoom meetings.
- Digital Camera with full "manual mode" (able to manually adjust both shutter speed and f/stops)
- Memory card for your camera
- Card reader/cable for memory card above (if needed for your computer).

## **Library Liaison**

### **Gareth Scott**

Email: [gareth.scott@sjsu.edu](mailto:gareth.scott@sjsu.edu)

Phone: (408) 808-2000

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4th Floor Administration Offices

Website: <https://library.sjsu.edu/>

## Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <https://www.sjsu.edu/art/advising/advisorsguide/index.html> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, [art@sjsu.edu](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

### Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade in this class will be based on the completion of 3 assignments (30%), Midterm Exam (10%) the final project (25%), and classroom participation (35%).

PROJECT 01 Space and Time (10% of total grade)

DUE DATE Week 05 (date approximate)

SLO 01, 02, 03, 04, 07, 09

PROJECT 02 Portrait (10% of total grade)

DUE DATE Week 08 (date approximate)

SLO 01, 02, 03, 04, 07, 09

PROJECT 03 Sense of Place (10% of total grade)

DUE DATE Week 12 (date approximate)

SLO 01, 02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 09

FINAL Final Project: (25% of total grade)

DUE DATE Week 16 (date approximate)

SLO 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06

MIDTERM EXAM (10%)

DUE DATE Week 8 (date approximate)

SLO 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06

“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.”

### Final Examination or Evaluation

Final exam will take place according to the Fall 2021 final exam schedule. Exam will be available online only via your Canvas portal.

### Grading Information

Since photography is a visual experience, the course grade is largely based visuals produced and other course work that reveals how well you have learned from all sources. Your final grade will be based on 4 smaller projects (30%) a final project (25%), class participation (35%), and Midterm exam (10%).

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

- A **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.
- B **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.
- C **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.
- 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.

### **Classroom Protocol**

Online classes will meet via Zoom during the regular class hours. 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. It is preferred to have student video on. Students are asked to arrive punctually 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.” Only sessions containing lecture material, demonstrations, & class discussions will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas."

### **Zoom Meeting Transcripts**

Zoom allows participants to communicate with group messages to all of the meeting participants and/or to send private messages to individual participants. Although it seems reasonable that private messages stay between two people, please be aware that all of the group messages and all private messages will be included in the meeting transcript.

### **Zoom Meeting Attendance Report**

Zoom provides a roster of people who attended the meeting along with the times they joined and left the meeting. These reports will be included when calculating student participation.

### **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.

**Photo 40/Section 01 - Beginning Photography, Fall 2021, Course Schedule**  
**NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. Changes will be posted via your CANVAS portal.**

**Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 23	Course Introduction, administration, tour facilities, Introduce Project 00
1	Aug. 25	Review Project 00: Students previous work & influences
2	Aug. 30	Introduction to camera & Adobe Lightroom
2	Sep. 1	Camera continued, Introduce Project 01
3	Sep. 6	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
3	Sep. 8	Review working images for Project 01, Adobe Lightroom Demo: File Management & Importing.
4	Sep. 13	Continued review of working images for Project 01, Adobe Lightroom Demo: Basic edits & exporting to print.
4	Sep. 15	Continued working images for Project 01
5	Sep. 20	Continued working images for Project 01
5	Sep. 22	Critique: Project 01
6	Sep. 27	Introduce Project 02, Lecture: The Portrait
6	Sep. 29	Review working images for Project 02, Adobe Lightroom Demo: Local Adjustments & Retouching
7	Oct. 4	Review working images for Project 02
7	Oct. 6	Continue review working images for Project 02, Review quiz study guide
8	Oct. 11	Continued working images for Project 02
8	Oct. 13	Continued working images for Project 02
9	Oct. 18	Critique: Project 02
9	Oct. 20	Introduce Project 03
10	Oct. 25	Review working images for Project 03, Lecture: Sense of Place
10	Oct. 27	Continue review working images for Project 03, Adobe Lightroom Demo: Personal Style
11	Nov. 1	Continued working images for Project 03
11	Nov. 3	Continued working images for Project 03
12	Nov. 8	Continued working images for Project 03
12	Nov. 10	Critique: Project 03
13	Nov. 15	Introduce Final Project
13	Nov. 17	Review working images for Final Project, Lecture: Working with a series
14	Nov. 22	Continue review working images for Final Project
14	Nov. 24	<b>NON-INSTRUCTIONAL WORKDAY</b>
15	Nov. 29	Continue review working images for Final Project
15	Dec. 1	Continue review working images for Final Project
16	Dec. 6	Final Project Critique
Final Exam*	Dec. 14	7:15am – 9:30am