



San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
PHOT 40: Beginning Photography, Section 5, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Ian Gerard Fabre
Office Location:	The Internet
Telephone:	408-924-4320
Email:	ian.fabre@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	4:30PM to 5:30PM, Tuesday and Thursday; and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	12:30PM to 3:20PM on Tuesday and Thursday
Classroom:	The Internet + Photography Lab
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu
Prerequisites:	None
Units:	3

Additional Contact Information:

- * E-mail is generally the best method of contact during non-office hours, allow 48-hours for an e-mail response.
- * Emergency: 911 / 408-924-2222
- * Campus Escort: 42222
- * Individuals with disabilities may contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), Administrative Building 110, 408-924-6000, for a variety of formats such as Braille, large print, sign interpreters, assistive listening devices, audio tape and accommodations for physical accessibility.

Course Format: This course is a combination of lecture, demonstration, activities, work time and critique.

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 and digital processing. Requires a DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera. Requires Adobe Lightroom.

Course Goals: This beginning course will teach you the technical, aesthetic and conceptual components of digital photography. The class will introduce you to the language of image making, with assignments designed to hone both your technical skills, and develop your ability to communicate as an artist. This semester you will learn the ins and outs of handling your DSLR camera, adjusting your images using Adobe Lightroom Classic, and creating work.

Technology Intensive Course: This course requires you to have a digital camera with manual controls that also allows you to create RAW files, and a memory card with sufficient storage for 200-500 images. You are also required to have a laptop computer with the current version of Adobe Lightroom Classic CC installed on it. This program is free to all SJSU students taking a class that requires it. Software can be accessed via link below, <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/video-creative/adobe/index.php>

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging: All the course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, pertinent notes, grades, and other learning tools will be put on the Canvas Learning Management System. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up to date check Canvas regularly. This information can be found at <http://sjsu.instructure.com/>. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

Course Skill Learning Outcomes

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

CLO 1 - Understand manual DSLR camera operation.

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

CLO 3 - Successfully import, enhance and export images using Adobe Lightroom Classic.

CLO 4 - Understand basic printing and presentation methods.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have mastered:

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.

CLO 9 - Successfully working within deadlines: complete three assignments, a final project, in class exercises, and two writing assignments within assigned deadlines.

Optional Texts/Readings:

Textbook:

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age - Robert Hirsch - 2018 edition (2012 edition is OK too)
ISBN-13: 978-0240818276 Available through [Amazon](#), as a free [eBook](#) through the SJSU Library, as well as on reserve in the MLK Library.

Other Readings:

Optional materials and supplementary learning materials, such as web resources, Lightroom and camera handouts will be available through the Canvas course website.

Equipment / Materials Requirements:

- Digital DSLR Camera: Must have a minimum of 10-mega-pixel capacity and a full "manual mode" (able to manually adjust both shutter speed and aperture). Must be able to shoot RAW.
- Memory card for your camera: At least 16GB is recommended.
- Laptop: You are required to have your own laptop computer to take this course. You will need at least 40GB of space on your hard drive for this course.
- Card Reader/Cable: if needed for your computer.
- Adobe Lightroom Classic - You can request your free copy from the University, link below.
<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/video-creative/adobe/students.php>.
- USB Thumb Drive/Memory Stick: 1GB minimum.
- Hard Drive: Optional but recommended.

Optional Supplies: [not required]

1. Tripod
2. Cable Release/Remote (check camera manual first)
3. Package of lens cleaning tissue and bottle of lens cleaning fluid

Online Vendors:

Adorama - <https://www.adorama.com/>

B&H - <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

Freestyle Photo - <https://www.freestylephoto.biz/>

KEH - <https://www.keh.com/>

Suggested Local Vendors:

Foto Express- 304 E Santa Clara Street, San Jose (408) 971-3977

San Jose Camera & Video - 1600 S Winchester Blvd, Campbell (408) 374-1880

Looking Glass Photo - 1045 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley CA (510)-548-6888

Kaufmann's Camera - 1502 El Camino Real, San Bruno (650) 574-3429

Samy's Camera - 1090 Bryant Street, SF (415)621-8400

Library Liaison:

Gareth Scott

Email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

Phone: (408) 808-2094

King Library, 4th Floor

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

Course Requirements and Assignments:

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. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S19-6 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S19-6.pdf>.

The class includes three shooting assignments, a culminating assignment, two papers and one exam. In addition, there will be smaller exercises, done in-class. In addition to technical lectures that will cover basic camera use, exposure, and composition, you will also be introduced to a variety of photographic work through digital lectures and discussions covering not only well-known historically significant photographic artists, but more recent trends in photography as well.

Class Participation:

The best way to develop your skills and ideas is to be here and actively participate. While attendance cannot be graded as part of your participation grade, there will be a number of lectures, demos and discussions that you will not experience if you are not present. Your participation in the form of regular involvement in activities and discussions is not only required but mandatory. This includes asking questions, which can have a positive effect on your class participation grade. Being prepared with images and using the workdays effectively will be counted in your participation grade. I expect you to attend all critiques, whether or not you have work to show. Failure to do so could negatively affect your class participation grade. Your voice is critical to the success of this class. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances it is your responsibility to make me aware of your situation when it occurs.

Final Examination or Evaluation:

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Grading Information:

Project 1 (A Recording) - 10%

Light in combination with time and aperture is the basic ingredients needed in the making a photograph. Let's start simply but intentionally. Make a total of twenty images and choose the most successful one and present it. Be ready to let us know a bit about the image and why you chose it. Contact sheets required having no less than 20 images. As for “subject” let's not worry about it, capture what captures YOU.

Project 2 (Scapes) - 10%

Whether manmade, or nature made, indoor or outdoor, let's consider capturing a space. Not necessarily void of subjects but focus on a particular space and how it feels to you and how that space could feel to a person looking at you photograph. What are you trying to say about the space? How do you want the space to make us feel? We will be looking at digital files to conclude this practice. Aim for a minimum of four images. Contact sheets required having no less than 30 images.

Project 3 (Life) - 10%

Whether of yourself or of another, point the camera at a human being. Consider the vibe you are trying to make or even consider the vibe you are feeling from the person being framed. Mood. Lighting. Fact or Fiction? Be literal, be experimental. Consider styles you have seen and relate to. Could a selfie be a form of portraiture? It's totally up to you! Aiming for a minimum of four images and again, contact sheets required having no less than 30 images.

Project 4 (Collaborative Diptych / Tryptic) - 15%

In small groups we will create diptychs and/or triptych. With your partners, consider what images can do to each other. What can happen when multiple images combine forces? Can images together make for more meaning or potency? Think two heads are better than one, be flexible, be imaginative. Let's share the results via Zoom and we will converse about the images in class. Contact sheets required having no less than 20 images each/per person.

Project 5 (All the above) - 15%

Now it's time to take the ways of photographing that worked the best for you and see what they can do with them in combination. Maybe it's space specific portraiture, maybe it's the abstractions mixed with the form of pairing or grouping from the diptych/tryptic exploration. Push yourself to explore what utilized multiple methods can do for images working as a team. Be comfortable, be confident! Let's think of narrative and sequence for this assignment. Let's consider the vibe of the final outcome. What happens when we use a grid? What if someone manipulated an image. Consider as much as possible, material, form, how it gets displayed. Sound/music and words can be utilized. Artist statement required. Let's share a conversation over each project. 6 images minimum. Contact sheets required having no less than 40 images.

Research Paper - 10%

1-3 page research paper or 5-10 minute slide show presentation. Research and write about a photographer that you relate to and that you gather inspiration from. Gather some images of theirs for us to check out. Let's see where your work is coming from, let's see where you want your work to go. Literal doesn't necessarily have to apply. It can be a person your relating to on a solely aesthetical level. ENJOY!

Participation - 10%

In class Exercises - 10%

Quiz / Artist Statement, etc.. - 10%

Extra Credit:

There will be a variety of extra credit opportunities available throughout the semester (see below). Feel free to talk and/or e-mail me for further questions.

- Create your own 1-page photo-zine (2 points)
- Create 3-5 digital double exposure photographs (2 points)
- Write a one-page paper (double spaced) about a photography exhibition, photographer, image, etc..

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

Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade for each week it is late, unless advance notice is given to me and I have approved the late submission. Documented personal, family and health emergencies are exempt from this late policy. Please speak with me if you are having problems or falling behind in the class.

I cannot help you, or offer any solutions, if I don't know there is an issue. In addition, the longer you wait, the less options I will be able to offer you.

Please note: Except in cases of documented emergencies which have been discussed with me, incomplete grades are not given in this course.

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 SJSU Studies (R, S, & V) shall be required of all students as a graduation requirement. Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to PHOT 40, Section 03, Spring Semester 2020 Page 7 of 16 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: All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner conducive to a university learning environment. This includes being on-time to class. Logging on late is not only disrespectful, but you will also have missed important class information. You are expected to be respectful to your peers as well as to myself.

Etiquette: The space we are going to carve out needs to be safe and conducive to sharing knowledge and fostering creative expression. Let's use this online platform in a respectful manner. Pronouns are important, "cameras" will be on as much as possible, "mics" will be muted unless being actively used. As in an analog/in-person setting, let's stay off our phones as much as possible. We will use zoom's chat to our advantage and not make a mess of it, not saying we're going to do that but still... The platform will be what we make it and will behave exactly how we approach it. Video chatting is a whole other ballgame so we will go easy but we will go professionally.

TREAT OTHERS HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED.***

Oh and watch eating and drinking near all this, I soaked my laptop in coffee last semester...

*Failure to follow etiquette will negatively impact your class participation grade.****

University Policies: Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

Academic Integrity: Submitting projects already turned in in another class counts as cheating. All work made in this class must be new work, created by the student submitting the project. In addition, each assignment must consist of new images taken specifically for that assignment.

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of

Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at https://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/Academic_Calendar-AY2021-22.pdf. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes (Late Drop Information). Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub, <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Department Advising: 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.

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: Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in: Associated Students Print & Technology Center at <http://as.sjsu.edu/asptc/index.jsp> on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600) The Spartan Floor at the King Library at <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services> Student Computing Services at <http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-servicescenter> Computers at the Martin Luther King Library for public at large at <https://www.sjpl.org/wireless> Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college 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.

Photo Department Equipment Rental: <https://photo.sjsu.edu/equipment-rental/> Things will most likely be fairly impacted so let's go easy on them and aim for patience.

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. 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. 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>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

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.

Course Schedule

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Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Notice will be given verbally, in class, and sent via email. In the event of a more substantial change, you will be given an updated syllabus.

Unless otherwise noted Homework is due one week from the date assigned.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/19 Th	Get to know each other/go over the syllabus and course requirements/any questions Briefly touch on the camera as a mechanism. Get a feel for everyone's gear. Discuss what we know about photography and why were interested. Homework: Bring camera to next class. Also upload a favorite photo and be prepared to talk a bit about it.
2	8/24 T	Talk about the three things that control the light that enters the camera: aperture, shutter speed, and sensitivity to light. Explain exposure triangle. Introduction to Lightroom. Homework: Install/get acquainted with Lightroom Classic. Possible reading.
2	8/26 Th	The History Part. (Lecture) Raw vs Jpeg. Camera functions and basics. Let's talk Light. Talk about workflow in lightroom. Assign Project 1.
3	8/31 T	Lightroom general editing and converting images to black and white. Talk about the import and organizational tools of Lightroom. Rating, collections. Guest artist visit. Homework: Review Handouts.
3	9/02 Th	Quiz. Street Photography. (Lecture)
4	9/07 T	Let's get out (or stay) in and simply roam. Cameras mandatory, I'll have mine. A check-in post shooting and compare notes.
4	9/09 Th	Photographers that work in "groupings". (Lecture) Project 2 assigned.
5	9/14 T	Project 1 Due: Critique via Zoom

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	9/16 Th	The History Part2. (Lecture) Talk about reading. Homework: Reading and 1-page reflection.
6	9/21 T	Imaging demo - Work time.
6	9/23 Th	Depth of Field/Motion. (lecture) Equivalent exposure, bracketing. In class exercise. Talk about field of view and lenses.
7	9/28 T	Project 2 Due: Critique of files.
7	9/30 Th	Lecture on places and landscape photography. Will show some of my work. Guest artist visit. Homework: Reading and be ready to discuss.
8	10/5 T	Project 3 - Introduced. Pick groups (two's or three's acceptable).
8	10/7 Th	Lightroom/Camera basics review and quiz.
9	10/ 12 T	Work time.
9	10/ 14 Th	Student Imaging/workday.
10	10/ 19 T	Let's talk types, A branching out from digital. Who, What, Where. (Lecture) Homework: 1-3 page research paper/presentation and Project 3.
10	10/ 21 Th	Student Imaging/workday. Individual meetings.
11	10/ 26 T	Project 3 Due: Critique of files via Zoom. Make a critique schedule, together.
11	10/ 28 Th	Creativity and expression. (Lecture) Shared conversation around contextual and conceptual qualities of photography. What's ART? Project 4 Assigned.
12	11/2 T	In class exercise. Guest artist visit.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Homework: Reading/Watching.
12	11/4 Th	Virtual Field Trip! Let's decide!! Homework: Think about the exhibitions and be ready for discussion.
13	11/9 T	Talk about readings and introduction to artist statement. Homework: Think/work on your artist statement.
13	11/ 11 Th	VETERANS DAY ***
14	11/ 16 T	Project 5 assigned. Documentary on photography and discussion. Digital Lab day.
14	11/ 18 Th	Digital Lab day – must be ready to work today. Guest artist visit.
15	11/ 23 T	Artist research paper presentations. Research paper due.
15	11/ 25 Th	NON-INSTRUCTION DAY***
16	11/ 30 T	Digital Lab day – must be ready to work today.
16	12/2 Th	Digital Lab day – must be ready to work today.
Final Exam	12/8 Wed	Project 5 Due: Critique of files and Artist statement zoom @ 12:15AM to 2:30pm

https://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/Academic_Calendar-AY2021-22.pdf