

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
PHOT 120, Image and Idea, Section 01, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): McNair Evans

Office Location: TBD / Zoom (link to be sent via Canvas and SJSU email)

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Email: mcnair.evans@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 Am-12:00 Noon

Class Days/Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-3:20 PM

Classroom: IS219 (Industrial Studies building) / Zoom (link to be sent via Canvas and SJSU email)

Prerequisites: PHOT 40 and PHOT 110 or PHOT 112 or PHOT 115

Course Description

An intermediate course in which students pursue individual projects. Emphasis on diverse strategies of approach and presentation which culminate in a group exhibition.

Course Format: Hybrid

This is a hybrid course that will be taught predominately online with in-person printing demonstration and potential exhibition. The first four weeks of class, classes falling between 8/19-9/16, will be held exclusively online. Beginning on 9/23 and based on student locations, we will plan to meet at least every other Thursday on campus. This is a synchronous course, meaning we meet together via Zoom or in-person for every class.

We will begin each class with any new announcements and or questions. Lectures, workshops, and presentations take place the first hour on zoom. We will divide into smaller breakout rooms for in-progress critiques and technical/concept driven workshops. Periodically I will meet with you individually for in progress critiques. In the break our rooms, you are encouraged to work on your class assignments, and utilize your peers for discussions and help. The last part of each class, we will get back together as a fuller class, to conclude the session and take care of any questions or concerns. It is mandatory to attend these classes on zoom. You will need a computer, zoom application, and access to class canvas, google drive, and the internet every class meeting.

Faculty Web Page, Messaging, Canvas, Zoom

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mcnair.evans> and/or on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas and you @SJSU email account for any updates. For help using Canvas please reference the [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

This course will also require Google Drive file submissions. You will receive an invitation to the class Google folder via email invitation sent to your SJSU e-mail account. A link to the class Google folder may also be found in canvas module for Project 01. It is your responsibility to make sure you have Drive access *before* assignments are due.

Course Goals (Delete if not applicable)

This course provides students with tools for critical analysis of images. Students will develop a self-determined body of work over the course of the semester and participate in a group project, dealing with environmental issues. The class will be divided into small groups so that individual attention can be placed on each student as they develop this body of serious artwork. The class will potentially exhibit their work on a site, in a virtual gallery at the end of the semester, and in a virtual flipbook. This will give students experience in promoting, installing, and exhibiting their artwork. In support of their own ideas, images and videos of artists and their work will be shown, critically analyzed, and discussions will revolve around the ideas which support each artist's work. Each student will present a photographer and their work, sharing this presentation with the class via Zoom. Guest contemporary artists will present their projects and process, providing first-hand information about living as an artist/photographer/filmmaker in the 21st century.

Working together, one-to-one, online with Zoom, will allow for individual workshopping of skills needed to articulate course projects. If you have other, specific skills you hope to obtain in this course, please let me know so that we may consider how to successfully include them in this class.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students in this course will:

- A. Create a Zine publication of images as aligned with objective 1
- B. Create a body of work or installation for final group virtual exhibition as aligned with learning objective
- C. Maintaining a Creative Journal as aligned with learning objective 2
- D. Write an Artist Story, Bio, and Project Statement as aligned with learning objective 2
- E. Create a Google Slides presentation highlighting a contemporary photographer as aligned with learning objective 2.
- F. Write reflections on visiting artists' presentations as aligned with learning objective 4.

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

- 1. Develop a self-determined body of work for exhibition
- 2. Critically analyze and write about photographs
- 3. Identify contemporary art making practices
- 4. Identify contemporary artists who use video, photography and installation as parts of their art process

Texts/Readings

Required Readings

The Nature of Photographs by Stephen Shore. ISBN: 9780714845852 (PDF supplied in class)

Recommended Readings

Art and Fear: Observations On The Perils (and Rewards) of Art Making by Ted Orland + David Bayles. ISBN: 0961454725, 9780961454722 (optional)

Additional Technology Requirements / Equipment

This is a technology intensive course that requires your own computer laptop for all class meetings. You must have your own computer with a copy of the Adobe Suite of software.

Adobe Software is often used for this class. SJSU students can download the Adobe Creative Suite for FREE. You must have an active SJSU One ID and password to qualify to download this software. Follow the instructions at this link to download your free software: <http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/adobe/>

[Tip: Check your SJSU email (not your personal email) for software download.]

You will most likely need a good-sized external drive

Library Liaison: Gareth Scott

Office Location: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 4th Floor Administration Offices

Telephone: +1 (408) 808-2094

Email: gareth.scott@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: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, [408-924-4320](tel:408-924-4320), art@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Process Folder (semester-long):

Your semester-long Process Google Drive folder will house all of your project developments and course writing assignments. You will receive an invite to the Image and Idea Class Folder section 01 Fall 2021. Make a folder with your first and last name, and create four (4) subfolders with the following names: 01_Project01, 02_ArtistPresentation, 03_CreativeJournaling, 04_FinalProject. All Project, Journaling, and Presentation preparation and submissions should be kept within these folders for the duration of the semester.

Each student will choose a date to present for 15 minutes about a photographer. You must choose one artist from the list provided by the instructor. Presentation must include 12 examples from the artist and be clearly delivered in a professional manner. In order to receive credit, Presentations can not exceed 15 minutes or be less than 10 minutes. A Google Slides version of your presentation should be saved to your Google folder. Please keep your “talking notes” for each image within the notes section of the Google Slides document. 

Class Attendance:

You should attend every class but extenuating circumstances arise that can make this difficult. If you cannot attend a class, please email in advance of the class and as early as possible. If circumstances make you miss more than 3 classes during the semester, you may be overextended. I ask that you see me to discuss your options.

Absences, and Late Assignments

It is your responsibility to make up missed class sessions or late work. Many class lectures and demonstrations cannot be repeated. Any deadline missed will result in lowering the assignment grade one letter for each week that it is late. Again, talk to me if you are having problems.

Do not miss critique days, even if you don't have work to show. Assignments take two days to critique in a class of this size. I expect you to attend both days of the critique. Failure to do so, will lower the given assignment grade by a half letter grade, and will affect your participation grade.

Class Participation:

All of us in the class, you, me, your peers, have a responsibility to create an environment in which we can all learn from each other. So that we may all benefit from the insight and experiences that each person brings, everyone is expected to actively participate and contribute in class. Your participation in the form of regular

involvement in activities and discussions is required, and 15% of your final grade will be based on the consistency and quality of your class participation. If meeting online via Zoom, your video must be on and active throughout the duration of the class time. Repeat attendance to class without live video will negatively impact your participation grade.

This course will not only provide the opportunity for you to build a strong body of your own work, it will also invite you to work in groups while exploring the dynamics of a collaboration. The success of this class will largely depend upon a strong group dynamic and a spirit of cooperation, for which you will be responsible. Consider yourself a member of a creative team, working closely with your peers (while also developing your own work).

Experimentation, risk taking, research and sharing knowledge and skills (teaching) will be required of each individual.

Final Evaluation

In accordance with University Policy S17-1, this course is required to incorporate a culminating activity, 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. As a studio art class, the Final Project, including both the student's Individual Project as well as their contribution to the Collaborative Component (3D Gallery and / or physical installation), will constitute the Final Exam.

Grading Information

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

The work created in class will be graded 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 majority of 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 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

Extra Credit

Extra credit paper about an off-campus art gallery or museum, as well as ATC programming, is possible upon request.

Late Work Policy

Grades will decrease by one-half a letter grade for each day a project or paper is late.

Percentage grade weight per various class assignments

Project 01	25 %
Artist Presentation	20 %
Final Project	20 %
Gallery / Collaborative Component	10 %
Creative Journaling	10 %
Class Participation	15 %

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.

Classroom Protocol

In addition to following Class Attendance and Participation requirements as detailed above, all students are expected arrive and / or login to each class at its officially scheduled time. Perpetual later arrival will negatively impact a student's Class Participation grade. All students are expected to treat other students with respect and compassion. Targeted hate speech of any type will not be tolerated and may be reported to the appropriate SJSU office. All student-to-student communication during class hours must be done either in-person or through the Zoom application. Cell phones must be silenced during class hours. Any non-course related cell phone use during class hours is discouraged and perpetual disregard of this request may negatively impact a student's Class Participation grade.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information(s)

Printing materials (ink + paper) will be limited to approximately 200 linear feet per digital class / 10-12 prints per student. We will discuss these limitations in more detail within the classroom.

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.

PHOT 120 / Image and Idea, Fall, 2021 Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week / Lesson	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
1 / 1	8/19	Class Introduction: Expectations, Objectives, Outcome Student Introductions Semester Overview: Review Syllabus, Canvas, and Google folders Course Content: <i>This is Water</i> Homework Example: Review McNair's DS Journals Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Banal platitudes Set Up Google Folders
2 / 2	8/24	Homework Discussion: Banal platitudes Course Content: Looking vs. Seeing; Visual Discipline Project 01, Introduction: Expectations, Objectives, and Outcome Project 01, Example: Review <i>A Journal of Southern History</i> (zine) Project 01, Proposal, Example: Review Spark Proposal <i>Confessions for a Son</i> Project concept, location, and timeline for execution (200 words) Preliminary research and/or explanatory images Project 01, Proposal Demonstration: Spark Web Application Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Identify the parameters of your cage? Project 01: Begin Spark Proposal, Due 8/31 Project concept, location, and timeline for execution (200 words) Preliminary research and/or explanatory images encouraged
2 / 3	8/26	Homework Discussion: Identify the parameters of your cage? Course Content: Understanding Influence, The Four Key Questions, Analysis and Iteration, Constructive Critiques Artist Presentation: Google Slides review, 'Artists for Presentation' review Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Understanding Influence, The Four Key Questions Project 01: Continue Spark Proposal, Due 8/31 Project concept, location, and timeline for execution (200 words) Preliminary research and/or explanatory images encouraged
3 / 4	8/31	Homework Discussion: The Four Key Questions Course Content: Project Inflection Artist Presentation: Review presentation format, Receive artist assignments, Register for In-class presentation date Project 01: Present Proposals Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Project Inflection

Week / Lesson	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
		Project 01: Refine Spark Proposals
3 / 5	9/2	Homework Discussion: Project Inflection Project 01: Present Proposals (Complete All) Homework Assignment(s): Project 01: Submit Final Proposal by 9/7, Begin text and photography creation
4 / 6	9/7	Artist Presentation: 2 Student Presentations Course Content: Maintaining Visual Practice Project 01: Zine layout demonstration Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Maintaining Visual Practice Project 01: Continue text and photography, 4-6 pictures and 2-3 texts ready by 9/9
4 / 7	9/9	Artist Presentation: 2 Student Presentations Course Content: Working with Sequence Project 01: Peer-to-peer collaboration in break-out groups, Individual feedback on progress Homework Assignment(s): Project 01: Continue text and photography, Refine sequence and layout
5 / 8	9/14	Artist Presentation: 2 Student Presentations Course Content: Form vs. Content Project 01: Peer-to-peer collaboration in break-out groups, Individual feedback on progress Homework Assignment(s): Project 01: Refine sequence and layout, Submit final Zine by 9/15 (Midnight)
5 / 9	9/16	Course Content: The Nature of Photographs Project 01: Individual critiques x 3 Homework Assignment(s): Reading: The Nature of Photographs, Chapter 1
6 / 10	9/21	Homework Discussion: The Nature of Photographs, Chapter 1 Course Content: The Nature of Photographs Project 01: Individual critiques x 3 Homework Assignment(s): Reading: The Nature of Photographs, Chapter 2
6 / 11	9/23	Homework Discussion: The Nature of Photographs, Chapter 2 Course Content: The Nature of Photographs Project 01: Individual critiques x 3

Week / Lesson	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
		Homework Assignment(s): Reading: The Nature of Photographs, Chapter 3
7 / 12	9/28	Homework Discussion: The Nature of Photographs, Chapter 3 Artist Presentation: 2 Student Presentations Course Content: Photographic Genres Project 01: Final individual critiques Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Photographic Genres
7 / 13	9/30	Course Content: Art21 Documentary, The Five 'Why's Final Project, Introduction: Expectations, Objectives, and Outcome Final Project, Example: Review <i>Begin Anywhere</i> Final Project Proposal, Example: Review Spark Proposal <i>Begin Anywhere</i> Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: The Five 'Why's Final Project, Proposal: Begin Spark Proposal, Due 10/5 Project concept, location, and timeline for execution (200 words) Preliminary research and/or explanatory images encouraged
8 / 14	10/5	Course Content: Vision, Purpose, Mission Final Project, Proposal: Present Proposals Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Vision, Purpose, Mission Final Project, Proposal: Refine Spark Proposals
8 / 15	10/7	Course Content: Project Statement Final Project, Proposal: Present Proposals (Complete All) Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Project Statement Final Project, Proposal: Refine Spark Proposals, submit final proposals 10/11 (Midnight)
9 / 16	10/12	Artist Presentation: 2 Student Presentations Course Content: Artist Story, 3D Gallery Demonstration Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Artist Story Final Project: Begin individual project production
9 / 17	10/14	Artist Presentation: Final Student Presentations Final Project: Peer-to-peer collaboration in break-out groups, Individual feedback on progress Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Final Project progress and inspiration

Week / Lesson	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
		Final Project: Continue individual project production
10 / 18	10/19	Final Project: Class Critiques on Individual Projects and Collaborative Component Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Final Project progress and inspiration Final Project: Continue individual project production
10 / 19	10/21	Final Project: Class Critiques on Individual Projects and Collaborative Component Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Final Project progress and inspiration Final Project: Continue individual project production
11 / 20	10/26	No Class: Asynchronous Work Day <i>OR...</i> Attend ATC for extra credit Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Final Project progress and inspiration Final Project: Continue individual project production
11 / 21	10/28	Final Project: Class Critiques on Individual Projects and Collaborative Component Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Final Project progress and inspiration Final Project: Refine individual project production
12 / 22	11/02	Final Project: Peer-to-peer collaboration in break-out groups, Individual feedback on progress Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Final Project progress and inspiration Final Project: Prepare individual project(s) for 3D Gallery by 11/09
12 / 23	11/04	Final Project: Lab / Printing Demonstration, 3D Gallery population, Group Statement Workshop Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Collaborative Component ideas and inspiration Final Project: Exhibition production
13 / 24	11/09	Final Project: 3D Gallery collaborative production Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Collaborative Component ideas and inspiration Final Project: Exhibition production

Week / Lesson	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
NA	11/11	No Class / Veterans Day
14 / 25	11/16	Final Project: 3D Gallery collaborative production Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Collaborative Component ideas and inspiration Final Project: Exhibition production
14 / 26	11/18	Final Project: 3D Gallery collaborative refinement Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Collaborative Component ideas and inspiration Final Project: Exhibition production
15 / 27	11/23	Final Project: 3D Gallery collaborative refinement Homework Assignment(s): Creative Journal: Collaborative Component ideas and inspiration
NA	11/25	No Class / Thanksgiving Holiday
16 / 28	11/30	Final Project: 3D Gallery / Exhibition Review with class
16 / 29	12/02	Final Project: 3D Gallery / Exhibition Review with Community Guests
17 / 30	12/08	Final Exam (12:15-2:30 Pm): Review, Summary, Party, and Goodbyes