

Photography Course Descriptions

Each of these courses address photographic imaging from a combination of aesthetic, conceptual, theoretical, and practical perspectives. The Photography program is a part of the San José State Laptop Project, meaning all students are expected to have high quality laptops (preferably Macintosh), capable of running contemporary graphics and image software applications. This is an unofficial list. Not all courses are offered every semester, and courses could change in the future. This is meant as a guide only:

Photo 40: Beginning Photography - 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.

Photo 110: Black & White Photography - A traditional darkroom photography class which introduces black and white film developing, fiber based printing, and image manipulation and presentation techniques. Taught with traditional film and photo paper; requires a film camera, limited number of which department can loan students. Prerequisite: PHOT 40.

Photo 112: Color Photography - An intermediate course introducing principles of color photography, color theory, a refined use of the camera and digital printing techniques. Requires a DSLR (digital single lens reflex) type camera. Requires Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. Prerequisite: PHOT 40.

Photo 113: Alternative Photo Media - Explores historical, handmade photographic printing processes which open avenues of expression unavailable through contemporary photographic processes. Cyanotype, Van Dyke, and gum bichromate techniques are covered, as well as creating traditional and digital negatives for contact printing. Prerequisite: PHOT 040

Photo 114: Advanced Black and White Photography - An advanced exploration of traditional silver based film and darkroom printing, the use of view cameras, and the Zone System. Provides students with the opportunity to explore qualities of expression unique to the gelatin silver process. Prerequisite: PHOT 040 and PHOT 110 or instructor consent.

Photo 115: Intermediate Digital Imaging - An intermediate level course investigating the unique possibilities afforded by contemporary digital imaging. Includes preparation of images for presentation via print, video and/or web. Emphasis upon incorporating digital tools with ongoing development of student work. Prerequisite: PHOT 040.

Photo 116: Contemporary Issues in Photography - Examination and discussion of aesthetic trends and philosophies in photography and related media, their impact on the medium and society. Prerequisite: PHOT 040

Photo 120: Image and Idea - An intermediate course in which students pursue individual projects. Emphasis on diverse strategies of approach and presentation which culminate in a group exhibition. Prerequisite: PHOT 040 and PHOT 110 or PHOT 112 or PHOT 115.

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Photo 121: Introduction to Studio Lighting - Concepts and principles of lighting using both daylight and incandescent light sources and the use of standard studio lighting equipment. Prerequisite: PHOT 40.

Photo 122: Advanced Studio Lighting - An advanced studio lighting course incorporating practices of professional photographic techniques that can be applied to commercial advertising photography or applied as fine art imagery. Training on professional level equipment is emphasized. Prerequisite: PHOT 121

Photo 123: Photograph as Illustration - Technical and conceptual aspects of producing effective photographic illustrations for fine art and commercial purposes (fine art exhibitions, advertisements, posters, magazines, story illustrations, etc.). Can include studio work, location photography, darkroom work and digital manipulation. Prerequisite: PHOT 40.

Photo 125: Advanced Photographic Media - Photography is a rapidly evolving field of study. In order to keep our curriculum current and add diversity to our staple of course offerings, our Photo 125, "Special Topics in Photography" offers a rotating variety of contemporary topics. Can be repeated for up to 15 units of credit when course topic changes. Prerequisite: PHOT 112, PHOT 113, PHOT 115, or instructor consent.

Photo 126: The History of Photography – Technical developments and aesthetic trends in photography traced from its invention in the nineteenth century to the present day. Slide presentations, discussions, field trips. Prerequisite: ARTH 70B or instructor consent.

Photo 129: Professional Practices in Photography - Designed to prepare graduating photo majors for practicing their profession. Emphasis will be placed on building a comprehensive portfolio and business identity. Course is repeatable once for credit. Prerequisite: PHOT 120, PHOT 121, plus two additional upper division photography courses.

Photo 197: Senior Project Photography - Advanced course focused on creation or further development of photo-based project to be determined by the student and consisting of new work. Course emphasizes developing professional exit skills, a final body of finished work, and a professional portfolio. Prerequisite: 15 units of upper division courses in PHOT

Additional BFA Courses

Art 198: BFA Seminar - Preparation for BFA project and postgraduate career planning, this course includes field trips, class discussions and studio visits with art professionals. Prerequisite: Prior acceptance in the B.F.A. program.

Art 199: BFA Project Exhibition - A project demonstrating professional competence in area of concentration. A gallery exhibition with the approval of the student's advisory committee is required. Prerequisite: 30 units of upper division art, admission to the BFA program and ART 198, or ART 178 with advisor's approval.