

Photo 130: The History of Still Photography
Mt. San Jacinto College
Instructor: Michelle Pacansky-Brock



Course Description

The History of Still Photography offers a comprehensive exploration of the historical progression of fixing a still image, that is to say writing with light. This course starts in ancient times with naturally occurring images, and moves through advances in optics and chemical processes. It then moves through the prolific period of traditional Black and White photography and then covers the birth and advancements of the digital light sensor and its possibilities for the future.

- Prerequisite: None
- AA/AS General Education: AA/AS C
- Transfers to CSU only

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explore the camera as a photographic tool over time.
2. Map historical photographic concepts to current digital references.
3. Identify a variety of successful photographers and examples of their work.

Meet Your Instructor

[Click here to view a captioned video from Michelle.](#) A transcript of the video is included at the end of this document.

Instructor Contact Information

Michelle Pacansky-Brock (you may call me Michelle)

- Email: mbrock@msjc.edu
- Skype: mpacansky-brock
- Phone: 541-862-1212

Instructor Communication Policy

I will respond to your inquiry within 24 hours Mon-Fri. If I do not reply in this timeframe, please assume I did not receive your email and contact me again. Manage your communications diligently.

Class Philosophy

Some online learners start classes feeling isolated but not in this class! This class is a community. Each person in our community has the same objective: to learn. This class is designed to have you learn in community with your peers. When you're a member of a community, you can rely upon others for help and support when you need it, but you must also be willing to step up and contribute regularly, as well! Let's work together to make this term great for everyone!

Textbook



Your required text is:

Seizing the Light - A Social History of Photography

Author: Robert Hirsch

ISBN: 0073379212

ISBN-13: 9780073379210

The book is available for purchase in the [MSJC bookstore](#), [on Amazon](#) and other online retailers, or you may consider [renting it at Chegg](#).

Getting Started

Student Orientation

If you are a new online student, this is for you!

Online learning is a unique opportunity to advance your education. It is also often a very different experience that many students expect. Sometimes, it is so different that students decide it isn't for them. Other times, students feel like they've finally found a way to achieve their goals!

If this is your first semester taking online classes, you are expected to complete the MSJC Online Student Orientation. Please click below to learn more.

[MSJC New OL Student Orientation](#)

Blackboard Essentials

Blackboard is the "Learning Management System" that you will log into to access our class and any other online class you take at MSJC.

- To access our course, log into your MyMSJC account at my.msjc.edu. The course will be made available to registered students 5 days prior to the first day of instruction.

- If you are a new online student at MSJC, please [visit this online student resource site for clear steps to help you get started](#).
- **All students are required to complete the mandatory MSJC Check-In procedures shared in the course by the end of day two of instruction or they will be dropped.**
- Have a smartphone? Download the [Blackboard Mobile Learn](#) app for \$1.99 for 1-year license. Search for "Mt. San Jacinto College," log into your account, and access our "most parts" of our course. Adjust your settings to be notified via mobile for important updates!

What is VoiceThread?

VoiceThread is a conversation tool we will use that creates conversations around images in voice, video, or text.

There will be activities that will require you to comment in voice, while other activities will allow you to choose how you comment. To be successful, you must have access to a computer with a microphone or webcam (see Necessary Materials area).

[Click here to listen to what my past students have to say about this class -- their thoughts are shared in a VoiceThread.](#)

Important: You will use an MSJC authenticated VoiceThread account that is integrated with Blackboard. Do not create your own VoiceThread account on the web.

Course Policies

Late Policy

In general, late work is not accepted unless a legitimate unforeseen situation arises. To receive an extension, students are responsible for notifying me of their situation prior to a due date and receiving an email from me with an agreed upon extension.

Here are a few exceptions to the late policy:

- Late VoiceThread contributions are rarely accepted, due to the social nature of these activities.
- Blogs are graded twice and spot checked weekly. When I identify a late blog post, I leave a "nudge" comment on a blog. Each "nudge" equates to an automatic loss of 5 points at the grading period.
- Late Photographer Showcases are accepted for up to 48 hours for a maximum of half credit.

Participation & Drop Policy

You are expected to log-in 3 times each week and spend about 5-8 hours per week on your learning.

- See the "Weekly Schedule" section for an advised learning schedule. This class is designed to scaffold your skills each week. If you miss a week, you have missed a step in the ladder and you will feel it in the next unit (in other words, those points you earn really are tied to your learning!).

Students who go two consecutive learning units without submitting an assignment will be dropped from the class.

- If there is a situation interfering with your progress, contact me immediately so I understand what is happening on your end. Communication is essential.

Community Groundrules

Being a member of a learning community requires one to understand, accept, and model an important set of community groundrules. These groundrules will be in effect throughout our entire semester together. Each of us (myself included) is expected to uphold these groundrules. Please read them carefully and post any questions you have in the "Ask a Question" area of Blackboard.

[Read the HOSP Community Groundrules now.](#)

Grading

Point Scale Used for Grades:

(subject to change)

- 435-391 - A
- 390-348 - B
- 347-304 - C
- 303-261 - D
- 260 and below - F

Points are earned through a variety of learning activities, assigned throughout the semester. The total number of points you earn will determine your course grade. You may click on the "My Grades" button in Blackboard at any time to track your progress and you are always encouraged to contact me with questions or concerns. I will also coordinate one grade check assignment for all students around mid-semester.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

210 points or 48% of your grade

Weekly Assignments are comprised mostly of VoiceThread activities and quizzes. The assignments are designed to do two things: increase your interaction with your peers and provide you with opportunities to self-assess and demonstrate to me how well you are learning the weekly material.

PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

75 points or 17% of your grade

- ***Due: Week 16***

This project is designed to have you build a relationship with and learn about the work of one active, contemporary art photographer. *You will be independently manage this project* in accordance with a detailed timeline I will provide. Your final deliverable (what you turn in) is a VoiceThread with your own voice comments that showcases the work of your photographer, shares what you learned, and includes your interpretation of the work.

[View the Full Project Site Including Student Samples!](#)

BLOG (completed in Ning, a closed social network)

150 points or 34% of your grade

- ***Your blog is graded twice: once at mid-semester (for 90 points) and once at the end of the semester (for 60 points).***

Within most of your learning units, you will have an assigned blog prompt to which you will write a 300-400-word response. The prompts are designed to assess your understanding of our content and engage you in creative and reflective writing about the history of photography. Blogs integrate writing and images for a rich, multimedia learning experience.

Extra Credit

I offer you the opportunity to earn up to 20-points of extra credit in this class by participating in active learning experiences that support the learning objectives of our course. For example, you will have the chance to visit the UCR/CA Museum of Photography in Riverside, CA, write up a 500-word review of what you learned, and post it to your blog along with a photograph of yourself to document your visit.

I will post other opportunities in Blackboard in the Extra Credit area and I am always open to taking suggestions from students too! So if you hear of a great photography exhibition in your area, for example, let me know.

Masterpiece Blog Awards

The Masterpiece Blog Awards are granted to students who are held in highest esteem by their own peers! That's right YOU pick these winners! Blog your heart out and you may earn one of these awards, which comes along with 10 points of extra credit that count towards to 20-point max for the class!

- [Click to view the video I created to announce past Masterpiece Blog Award Recipients!](#)

Other Essentials

Necessary Materials

In addition to your textbook (see top of page), you must have the following items to be successful in this online class:

- **A USB microphone (headset recommended)** Search Amazon for "USB microphone headset" and click "Under \$25" to see some options. If purchasing this device creates a hardship, let me know and I will provide you with the ability to leave voice comments with your telephone (cell or landline).
- **Regular access to reliable, high speed internet access on a computer (not a mobile device).** I realize mobile devices are awesome and I love to encourage you to use them! There are parts of our class that can be accessed with them. But to succeed, you must have regular access to a laptop or desktop computer with high speed internet access. Consider this the same as your transportation to class!

Technology Skills

Learning online requires you to have a basic level of computer proficiency. To assess your readiness in this area, please click the link below and take the Online Student Readiness Quiz.

- [Take the Online Student Readiness Quiz](#)

I believe that social technologies today hold potential to bring people together at a distance and build relationships. This is an important part of learning online. I also know that after you graduate from college technology will likely play an important role in your success.

I use technology in this class to improve your learning. I realize that each of you enter this class with different technological skills. Some of you are going to need my support to feel comfortable with the tools we'll use -- and that is fine. I am here for you. Others will jump right in and we'll look to you to be leaders. We are a community.

Here are some links that you may find helpful if you have trouble this semester. If they do not help you, send me an email:

- [VoiceThread Support](#)
- [VoiceThread Printable Guides](#)
- [Ning Sign-In Help](#)
- [Blackboard Help](#)

Weekly Schedule

This section explains how the course flows and will help you understand when to schedule your 3 weekly learning sessions.

- **Day 1: Tuesday**
A new learning unit opens at 6am and an announcement is posted. You are advised to log-in on to review the Unit's assignments and assess the workload/commitments on Tuesday (Learning Session #1).
- **Day 1-6: Tues-Sun**
These should be your active learning days! You are advised to plan at least two additional 2-hour learning sessions between Tues-Sun where you can engage in a quiet place to learn and participate in our activities. Many students like to read and watch the videos (for example) one day and then complete the VoiceThread and blog on a second day. Or just do the blog on the second day. You need to find what works for you (and remember, each unit will be a little different). **Do not schedule your learning sessions on Monday (the final day of the unit). Your goal is to have everything done before Monday.** You will have technical problems from time-to-time (that is the nature of online learning -- it will just happen and you must plan for it). If you wait until Monday to do your work, you are in the high risk zone!
- **Day 7: Monday**
Learning Unit assignments due at 11pm (unless otherwise noted).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Mt. San Jacinto College abides by the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits federal and state agencies or programs from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities. Students in this course who have a documented disability, that limits a major life activity which may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations should meet with a counselor in Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) as soon as possible.

- For more information, [please click here to go to the DSPS website.](#)

Student Toolkit

As an MSJC student, these links will be critical to your success!

- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Online Counseling](#)
- [What You Need to Know About Plagiarism and Cheating](#)
- [MSJC Online](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [Library](#)
- [MyMSJC Support Center](#)
- [MyMSJC Login Page](#)

Transcript of Michelle's Welcome Video (link to video shared at top of syllabus):

Hi there, everyone. I'm Michelle Pacansky-Brock and I'm going to be your online instructor this semester. I'm really excited to say hello and to introduce myself to you. The more you get to know me you are going to start to understand that I am very passionate about teaching and I really love to teach online. So hopefully that is going to be clearly communicated to you through the class and the experiences that you have over the next seventeen weeks, which I know is a long time to be together. I'm also intimately aware of the challenges online learning brings with it. So, I'm really going to be relying upon you each of you to be sharing some tips with each other and I'm going to be sharing some tips with you from my past students right off the bat at the start of the class to help you succeed.

I want you to succeed and I have the class designed to be sure that you are able to do that but, ultimately, that is up to you, folks. What's really essential for us to have an awesome semester together is for you to communicate with me. That is absolutely critical -- open communications -- and that is something I am going to say probably every single week in this class. I am here for you; I am here to help you and I need you to take that very seriously and stay in touch with me. Don't just submit

assignments and participate, reach out to me, let me know how things are going, and when you have troubles let me know because I am here to help you.

Let's talk a little bit about the class before I let you go here and get running to learn a little bit more about your requirements and so forth -- this semester is really going to be exciting for you. This class is very different than most other online classes and I say that because that is feedback that I get from my own online students. That is something they say at the end of the class. They say, "Wow, this is really different than most of my other online classes." But they mean that in a really good way so just a little bit about me and my class. Expect it to be a bit different. I will ask you to do things that maybe you haven't done before in online classes -- use different types of tools, but I only do that because I feel strongly that they have a lot of potential to improve your learning. I am really particular about the tools that I and if I do ask you to use a different tool outside of Blackboard it's for that reason. Ok?

In the History of Still Photography Online you are going to be acquiring basic skills for describing and interpreting photographic images, in addition to that you'll be examining the historical development of the medium of photography and reflecting critically on the role that photographic images play in the formation of your own identity and understanding of the world. So you'll be making connections between images and thinking about how they relate to yourself and a big part of that is sharing your ideas with each other. Because in this class, it's not about just taking information, remembering it and then reciting it back and getting a grade. That is not the way learning happens in this class.

In this class, you are going to be learning in community. So, what that means is you are going to get to know your peers very well. You'll be constructing knowledge together as a group. And the class is designed to ensure that happens. You'll be sharing creative writing with each other, as well as interpretations of images and reflections about content that you learn. And you'll be expected to listen to each other. You will be speaking verbally, recording your voice in this class and listening to one another and speaking back to each other -- all asynchronously, meaning time-shifted so you don't have to all be online at the same time. So don't worry about that because I know you are all really busy and have a lot going on and that's why most of you take online classes.

In addition to those types of activities, you're also going to have an opportunity to visit a gallery or museum to earn some extra credit points and you are also going to interview a photographer and create a VoiceThread project about that photographer's work. And that is how the semester will culminate. It's a really exciting project.

So, we have a lot going on and I really do hope that you are excited to learn and excited to try some new things and I hope you love the class as much as I do and I welcome your questions.