

The History of Still Photography

An Online Class - Mt. San Jacinto College - 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

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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!

Getting Started with Blackboard

- If you are new to online classes, 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 in our class that will enable you to participate in discussions and other activities with your classmates using voice, video, or text commenting. There will be several activities throughout the semester that will require you to participate in voice (speaking online, yes!), while other activities will give you the option to choose your commenting preference. This will require you to have access to a computer with a microphone or webcam or you may use an iPad or iPhone with the free VoiceThread app.

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I am aware this makes students nervous. I want you to understand that many, many students share that their nerves settle after they leave their first comment and that they feel so much more connected and engaged to their peers when they can hear/see them that they often can't imagine learning online without VoiceThread! Keep an open mind. :) We'll get through this together.

Important: You will use an MSJC authenticated VoiceThread account that is integrated with Blackboard. Do not create your own VoiceThread account on the web. We'll get this all set up in the first week!

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.

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.



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Grading

Points are earned through a variety of learning activities, assigned throughout the semester. The total number of points earned will determine your course grade. 99-90% is an A; 89-80% is a B; 79-70% is a C; 69-60% is a D; less than 60% is an F. You have access to the Grade Center in Blackboard at all times to track your progress and are always encouraged to contact me with questions or concerns. Activities are designed to develop your learning throughout the class.

Point Scale Used for End of the Semester Grades:

435-391 - A

390-348 - B

347-304 - C

303-261 - D

260 and below - F

1. Weekly Assignments -- 210 points or 48% of your grade

Comprised of VoiceThread activities and quizzes. The assignments are designed to increase your interaction with peers, while providing you with opportunities to self-assess how well you are learning the weekly material.

2. Blog -- 150 points or 34% of your grade

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 500-word response. The prompts are designed to engage you in creative writing about the history of photography, apply key ideas from our units, and relate content to the real world learning. Blogs integrate writing and images for a rich, multimedia-based learning experience. See the "Blogs" button in Blackboard for more details about how they will be submitted and graded.

3. Photographer Showcase -- 75 points or 17% of your grade

Due: Week 16. This project is designed to put you in touch with and learn about the work of an active, contemporary art photographer. You will be expected to independently manage this project in accordance with a detailed timeline I will provide. Your objective is to create an illustrated VoiceThread with your own voice comments that showcases the work of your photographer and includes your own interpretation of the work. Click [here](#) for full project overview and samples (dates may not be current).



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Necessary Materials

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

- A computer with a microphone or a computer with a webcam. If obtaining one of these items for the class causes you hardship, let me know and I can set you up with free voice commenting minutes that may be used with a telephone (any type of telephone!).
- 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!

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:

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



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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



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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.