

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS – ART FUNDAMENTALS

PGY 2441C Photographic Concepts: Images, Order, and Idea.

A Photographic Concepts course is required to be taken by all SAAH students in their second year of study. In this course, we will explore image manipulation and ways of making meaning using multiple imagery and photographs in combination with text. Basic camera handling and dark room skills will be covered. In addition, students strive to develop critical thinking and research skills.

OBJECTIVES:

- To understand and develop a working knowledge of basic photographic concepts.
- To understand how the camera functions as an image-making tool, including:
 - Taking vs. Making: the photograph as an analytical medium vs. painting as synthetic medium, the “set-up” vs. the documentary approach, issues such as veracity of “truth” in the digital age.
 - Framing: composition as selection and context
 - Shutter: How it functions in stopping time, the “decisive moment,” shutter speed
 - Aperture: focus depth of field
 - Zone system and tonal issues
 - Point of view and perspective
 - Lighting options: such as available and artificial
- To understand interpretive issues including the photograph as
 - Index (trace)
 - Icon (representation, or characterization)
 - Symbol (metaphor or “equivalent”)
- To develop critical thinking and research skills

TOPICS:

- Series/sequence/group/accumulation
- Image/text relationships (i.e. in books, installations, within images, etc.)
- Conceptual uses of photography
- Narrative and non-narrative strategies
- Temporal relationships (chronology)
- Spatial relationships
- Mixed and cross media uses of photography
- Manipulations of the photographic image

REQUIRED TEXT:

- Launching the Imagination: Comprehensive (2D, 3D, 4D) with CD-ROM by Mary Stewart
- “Photography” by Upton and Upton