

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS – ART FUNDAMENTALS

PGY 2442C Photographic Concepts: Figure/Ground

A Photographic Concepts course is required to be taken by all SAAH students in their second year of study. This course is an introduction to the light and shape aspects of photographic images. Theories of space and 2D composition and basic camera and darkroom techniques are explored. 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:

- Previsualization—how a subject in the world will translate into a photograph
- Complexity/Simplicity
- Detail
- Texture/Pattern
- Shape/Form
- Line
- Scale
- Perspective, i.e. as a property of the lens

REQUIRED TEXT:

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