

Giorgia Ravaioli

An Introduction to Photography: Histories, Theories, Practices

Structure: Each meeting will be 2 hours long. The course will include lectures and moments of interaction with students: surveys, self-evaluation tests, round tables, photos and so on. The lessons will offer a connection between different perspectives and disciplines, a reflection on the discourse of photography studies.

● **LESSON 1 (2H): Introduction and background. P 1**

- An overview of the course aims and student learning outcomes
- Introduction to key concepts: photography between “history” and “theory”
- The inception of the medium and its pioneers P.1

● **LESSON 2 (2H): Introduction and background. P 2**

- The inception of the medium and its pioneers P.2
- What is photography? Some theoretical approaches
- Photography and the fine arts: a historical debate

● **LESSON 3 (2H): Photography cultures reader: outside the frame**

- On genres and discourses
- Portraiture: vernacular photography, seriality, profiling, and the politics of representation
- Landscape photography between heritage preservation and documentary photography: the Italian trajectory and international circles

● **LESSON 4 (2H): Photography cultures reader: decentering the gaze**

- Contemporary photographic cultures and practices: key topics
- Some major trajectories: conflict and reportage, fashion, art and activism (feminist theories in visual culture studies)
- Decolonizing the gaze: turns and returns in visual culture studies

● **LESSON 5 (2H): Contemporary photography and theory**

- What is post-photography? An open debate
- Net art and dataveillance
Photography and AI
- Final review of key concepts and cases