

Jeffrey Moser

Teaching Philosophy

In an age where we are increasingly interacting with icons, images, and digital displays in our daily lives, visual literacy is more important than ever in the education of young people and is an essential component of a well-rounded liberal arts education. In my classroom, I create an environment of experiment and play, where students are encouraged to pursue their own investigations and failure is not chastised but presented as an opportunity for discovery. Students come to my class possessing a natural curiosity for looking, and I cultivate that innate curiosity into a set of creative tools to help them navigate the ever changing and evolving visual landscape.

I use a mixture of humor and dramatic story telling to draw my students into the subject, while reinforcing with repetition and metaphor the key concepts for the class. My friendly demeanor, immeasurable patience, and diverse life experiences allow me to break down barriers with even the most closed-off students, creating dialogues that lead to understanding and learning. Since no two students learn in exactly the same way, my background in philosophy has prepared me to parse out the key components of the subject matter and to devise inventive approaches to the presentation of the material.

Learning photography does much more than just allow students to make engaging images. It changes the way that they see the world, gives them vocabulary and techniques to navigate visual culture, engages their minds with exercises in spatial problem solving, and primes them to investigate areas outside of art. The camera is a metaphor-making device, a scientific instrument, and a tool for self-expression, and photography is an invaluable exercise for creating cross-discipline understanding in the minds of students.