CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to the history of photography as technology, art, and social practice. Within the larger historical contexts of society and culture, it surveys key developments and applications in France, England, and the United States, and their spread to other parts of the world, and considers the work of major photographers and their influence.

Prerequisites: Level 2 or above, or permission of the Department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
ARTH242 is an introduction to the history of photography in its many guises. Within the larger historical contexts of society and culture, it surveys key technological developments, social expectations, and cultural applications, from experimentation in optics and chemistry in the late eighteenth century to the digital technologies of the present. The course will examine the rapid spread of photography from France, England, and the United States to other parts of the world, and the role of photography in the increasingly visual culture of the nineteenth century, including the pictorial press and international exhibitions. The work of major photographers in the arts and sciences, in the public and private sphere, will be explored, and their influence examined. Developments in equipment and processes will be investigated in relation to changes in subject and style; issues of class, gender, and non-Western responses to photography will also be discussed. The course will conclude with a consideration of the shift from film-based photography to digital imaging, and related issues of photographic meaning, materiality, privacy, circulation, and repurposing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A list of lectures, readings, and assignments will be distributed during the first class. Students are expected to attend lectures, do weekly readings and/or online research, and participate in class or small group discussions. Various evaluation methods will be used to assess knowledge of course materials and concepts, and may include a combination of short written assignments, in-class tests, and possibly a final exam.