

northwestern university
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year

Winter 2018

Course Number

ART-HIST 460

Day/Time

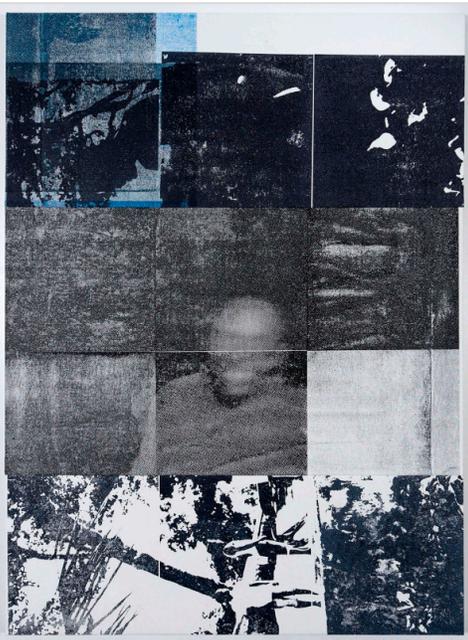
M 2-5pm

Instructor

Thompson

Course Title

Shadow Histories of Photography



This course examines shadow histories of photography, histories of the photographic medium that bring to light subjects, communities, and geographies long cast out of the art historical record. How do shadow histories of photography bring other subjects into being? How might we rethink the meaning, the materiality, and ontology of photography? What can we know and not know from photographic documentation and its absences? The course will examine scholarly work on archives, memory, history, fugitivity, criminality, evidence, visuality, and skepticism, addressing visual materials from the early nineteenth-century to present-day. While an emphasis will be placed on the African diaspora, a range of geographic locations—from Palestine to Russia—will be considered. [Pictured art work by Paul Anthony Smith]

Required Textbooks

Ariella Azoulay, *Civil Imagination: A Political Ontology of Photography*, London: Verso, 2012, ISBN: 178478303X

Tina Campt, *Listening to Images*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2017, ISBN: 0822362708.

Assessments

Weekly Response Papers, Co-leading of Class Discussions, and Final Research Project