

**Course Title:** Projects in Photography  
**Course Number:** E90.1664  
**Instructor:** ASHTON-HARRIS, Lyle  
**College:** Steinhardt  
**Department:** Art  
**Activity Type:** Studio  
**Credit Hours:** 4  
**Semester:** Fall

Course Description:

Using both traditional and digital photography, students will record and interpret their experiences of living in Accra. Renowned photographic artist, Lyle Ashton Harris, will work with students at a variety of levels on both individual and group projects, as well as introducing students to local photographers, artists, and activists.

Week 1:

Introduction to class and b & w lab

Assigned Projects: *Interview your fellow classmate*

Week 2:

Field trip to Accra's photo district: Tudu

Assigned Reading: "The Uses of Afro-Pessimism," from Snap Judgments - New Positions in Contemporary African Photography, by Okwui Enwezor, Prestel

Week 3:

Seven minute presentations of *Interview your fellow classmate*

Assigned Projects:

*Three stage portrait* (of a Ghanaian over a 8 -12 hour period)

Week 4:

Submit two-page (typed) response paper to "The Uses of Afro-Pessimism"

Discuss "The Uses of Afro-Pessimism"

Film screening: "Thomas Sankara," by Balufu Bakupa-Kanyinda

Assigned reading: "Fieldwork, Culture and Ethnography," from Tales of the Field by John Van Maanen, Chicago

Camera Lucida, (select chapters) by Roland Barthes, 1980, FSG

Week 5:

Presentations of *Three Stage Portrait* assignment

Week 6:

Presentations of *Three stage portrait continued*

Assigned Readings:

"Photography on The Color Line," from W.E.B. Dubois, Race, and Visual Culture, By Shawn Michelle Smith

Week 7:

Discuss “Photography on The Color Line”

Individual meetings to discuss final projects

Week 8:

Field trip

Assigned Project: *Narrative in Five Parts*

Assigned Readings: “Photography as a window to the world: An email correspondence with Philip Kwame Apagya about the art of stage production and about the therapeutic aspects of studio photography” by Tobias Wendl, Flash Afrique- Photography from West Africa, Kunsthalle Wien & Steidl

“The Photographic Experience: Toward an understanding of photography in Africa,” by Olu Oguibe, Flash Afrique- Photography from West Africa, Kunsthalle Wien & Steidl

Week 9:

FALL BREAK

Week 10:

Individual meetings to discuss final projects

Discuss “Photography as a window to the world” and “The Photographic Experience: Toward an understanding of photography in Africa”

Week 11:

Visiting artist

Week 12:

Presentations of *Narrative in Five parts*

Week 13:

Presentations of *Narrative in Five parts* continued

Week 14:

In class lab and studio time

Week 15: FINAL PROJECT CRITIQUES

Week 16: FINAL PROJECT CRITIQUES

### **Grading**

Active participation in critiques and discussion of readings will count for 25% of your final grade. The final individual project will count for 25%. The remaining 50% will be

divided among the three assignments. Three or more absences will result in failure of the course.