northwestern university DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Winter 2020	AH 460	T 2-5	Thompson

Course Title

Studies in 20th and 21st Century Art: The Fugitive and Fugitivity



This seminar examines scholarship and visual practices that address different understandings of the fugitive and fugitivity. This scholarly terrain ranges from an interrogation of historical incidents and processes of flight of the formerly enslaved to theoretical considerations of ongoing states of fugitivity that characterize the political positioning of black subjects in Western societies. Fugitivity will be complicated through and against an interrogation of concepts like the wayward, maroonage, errancy, and escape. The class is particularly attentive how these terms and concepts might shape and be shaped by an interpretation of the visual and visual

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

materials. What might it mean to produce scholarship attentive to concepts of fugitivity? Authors we will engage include Tina Campt, Hannah Crafts, Avery Gordon, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Barnor Hesse, Jessica A. Krug, Richard Iton, Fred Moten, Saidiya Hartman, and Neil Roberts. Students are responsible for weekly response papers, co-presentations of weekly readings, and a final research presentation and project.

Required Textbooks	Assessments
Saidiya Hartman, Wayward Lives: Beautiful Experiments, W. W. Norton & Company, 2019, 978-0393285673. Tina Campt, Listening to Images, Duke UP Press, 2017, 978-0822362708. Avery F. Gordon, The Hawthorn Archive: Letters from the Utopian Margins. Fordham UP, 2017, 978-0823276325. Other readings available through Canvas.	Students are responsible for weekly response papers, co-presentations of weekly readings, and a final research presentation and project.