This course will survey major developments in photographic practice from the 20th century to the present with special emphases on the role that this technology and its interpretation has played in shaping racial imaginaries and art historical discourse, primarily within an American context. With special attention to the concepts of blackness and whiteness, this course compels students to consider how race is made legible through dichotomies of visibility and disappearance, truth and fiction, and materiality and ethereality. Lectures and reading assignments will examine the ways in which artists have reinvented the medium to critique institutionalized notions of race, privilege, and cultural memory. By situating the history of photography within aesthetic theory, as well as histories of slavery, decolonization, activism, tourism, immigration, and policing, this course invites students to interrogate the entangled relationship between images, knowledge, and power, while generating original research projects and strengthening critical writing skills.

ARTH-A580 IMAGING RACE: 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE BOUNDARIES OF VISUAL REPRESENTATION