

# Western University, Department of Visual Arts

## HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

VAH 2242G – winter 2019



Deana Lawson, *Alana Simmons and her father Dan Simmons Jr*, 2015. After the Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr. was killed, Alana, shown here outside her grandfather's Charleston home, and her family started the movement #HateWontWin.

Class time: Thursdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (this is a blended course with online content in addition to weekly class meetings)

Location: NCB 117

### Professor Sarah Bassnett

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Office hours – Thursdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment in VAC 219

### Teaching assistants

Katie Oates [koates2@uwo.ca](mailto:koates2@uwo.ca)

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Office hours – TBA in VAC 240

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes a thematic approach to issues and debates in the history of photography. Throughout the course, we look at the work of key photographers, discuss ideas by key theorists and historians, and consider how photographs relate to the social, political, and artistic context in which they were produced. We examine the social and cultural role of photography, including how photography has been mobilized to advance particular political agendas and how it has influenced ideas about people from various classes and cultures. As we investigate the field of art photography, our focus is on stylistic movements from pictorialism, modernism, and postmodernism. This survey introduces students to the exciting field of photography studies

and prepares them to critically engage with our image