

AH 231 – Spring 2009

**HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY II: 1920-present**

Instructor: Margaret Denny

Tue. & Thur. 9:30-10:45 304 SH

CRN 19750, 19888 (honors)

From the ‘decisive moment’ of Henri Cartier-Bresson to the constructed realities of Jeff Wall, this course follows a thematic investigation of the history of photography (1920 to present) as a reflection of culture, with attention to technological innovations, social, political and economic forces. In addition, the purpose of the course is to look at photographs and be able to discern stylistic differences, to build your vocabulary in order to express your ideas, and to sharpen your skills in examining visual culture.

Supplementary readings by cultural theorists and photographers will enrich the basic course textbook, *Photography: A Cultural History* by Mary Warner Marien. In class, we will investigate photography through lectures, slides, and movies. Outside of class, we will experience photographs first hand by making several field trips to local museums and galleries. Students are required to fulfill the following requirements: short response papers to the field trips, a more formal research paper equivalent to five pages, a midterm and final exam.



Cartier-Bresson  
*Behind the Gare St. Lazare*



Jeff Wall *Insomnia*