

Paper #2
Documentary Photography Today

Papers are due on different dates for different sections:

Mon 11:30 am-2 pm section: submit paper on Monday, May 2nd

Tu/Th 10-11:15 am section: submit paper on Tuesday, May 3rd

You must submit your papers via SafeAssign on Blackboard.

Your paper should be 4 double-spaced pages (4 pages does not mean a 3-page paper plus cover), 1" margins, 12-point type (Please use Arial, Helvetica or Times).

Before you begin writing your paper, you must first do some research.

You must read and analyze the following: (online links and pdf copies are on the OpenLab class website)

1. Look up the term "documentary photography" and define for yourself so that you are clear about what type of photography this paper addresses.
2. Read Chapter 7 (pp. 124-139), "The Social Photograph" in Fred Ritchin's *After Photography* (2009)
3. Listen to Sebastião Salgado's [TED Talk "The silent drama of photography."](#)

Paper Instructions:

1. Give yourself ample time to do the reading and to listen to the talk. The essay raises difficult issues that requires time to contemplate and analyze.
2. Consider the significance of documentary photography in Ritchin's chapter. Do you think that documentary photography is effective in today's society? Summarize Ritchin's opinion of photography (list at least three key points). What does Ritchin think are the positive aspects of photography? What are the negative ones? Discuss some examples from the reading.
3. Watch and listen to Salgado's TED talk and consider whether you think documentary photography remains effective in contemporary society. Discuss your thoughts on what Salgado has done with documentary photography.
4. Compare Ritchin's and Salgado's views to your own ideas about whether documentary photography is still relevant today.
5. For the last page of your paper, include three examples of documentary art in any medium (photographs, films, books, etc.). You must cite the artist's name and title of each work, and write 3 lines about why you find these examples meaningful. You can include sample images in this last page but keep the images small.
6. Lastly, avoid long quotes in short papers (both papers for this course are short). Lengthy quotes will weaken your paper and diminish your grade. Please look over the grading rubric for papers on the class website, and be sure to run spell check before submitting your final paper.

Please note that if you fail to discuss both the Ritchin reading and Salgado talk, it is impossible to receive an A on the paper.

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM AND WILL RESULT UNCONDITIONALLY IN A FAILING GRADE.

Blackboard's SafeAssign checks your paper against a Google-like search engine and other student papers on file. You will receive 0 points for your paper if the matching rate exceeds 35%. Wait several minutes after you submit your paper to see your SafeAssign report. If the matching rate is too high, I strongly recommend that you re-write your paper with your own words to get it below the 35% threshold because receiving a 0 will reflect badly on your final grade.