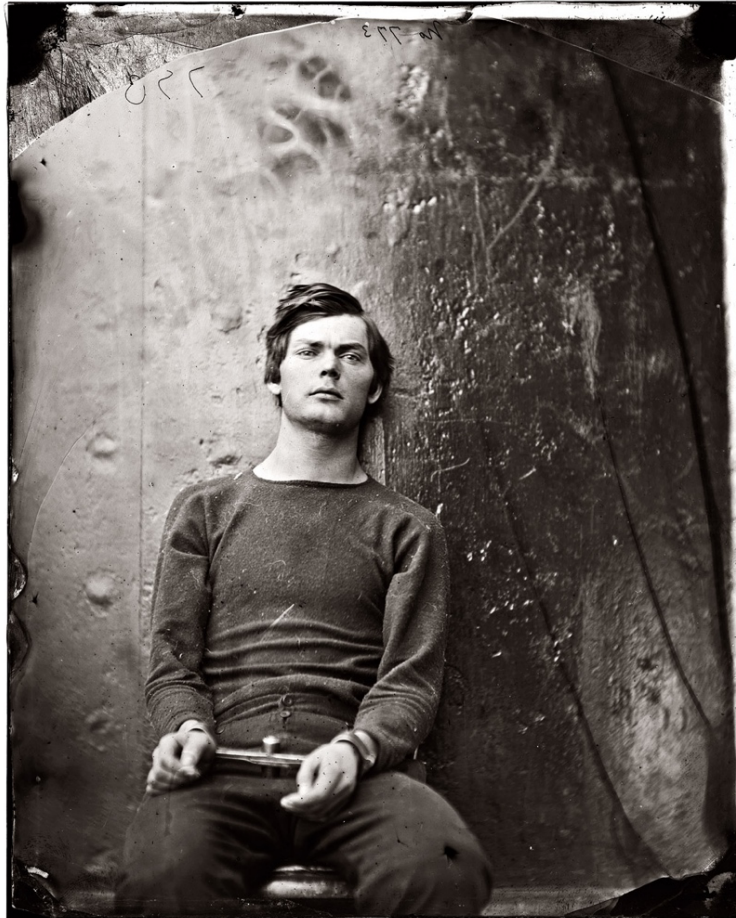


ARHS 6353 Seminar on Modern Art: Documentary Photography

Fridays, 2-4:50PM Visual Resources Laboratory,
Hamon Arts Library Basement

Prof. Randall Griffin
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Alexander Gardner, *Portrait of Lewis Payne*, 1865

This seminar will examine the history of documentary photography in America, from battlefield images of the Civil War and nineteenth-century U.S. Geological Survey photographs to renderings of abject poverty by photographers during the Progressive Era and the Depression. The class will also explore the assimilation of photography in the fields of criminology, sociology, medicine, astronomy, and anthropology. Photography has frequently bolstered institutional power. Documentary photography allows one to re-map American history: those images elucidate how the borders of “normalcy” have been continually defined and redefined. The seminar will grapple with the ethical quandaries posed by this genre.