

## OLLI SHADOWS - CLASS 1 TOPICS

January 27, 2026

The lists I'll be sending out after each class will indicate the main topics we covered, plus a few of the pictures shown in class, and URL's of the videos shown in class.

To hear the story behind these topics it's necessary to come to class. In connection with this, I'd like to invite those people who were hiding in some shadowy place other than class last Tuesday at 9:00 to come out of the shadows and join us for Class 2.

1. Began by asking people in the class to say something about their relationship to shadows and about what they want to get out of the class.
2. Brief story of my background. How got into shadows, both teaching and writing a book on shadows. Big message: Teaching OLLI students is an important step in figuring out how explain things in a book.
3. Idea of light and shadow being both opposites but dependent on each other. Positive "public relations" for shadows: "Me and My Shadow" video.



## 4. Course outline:

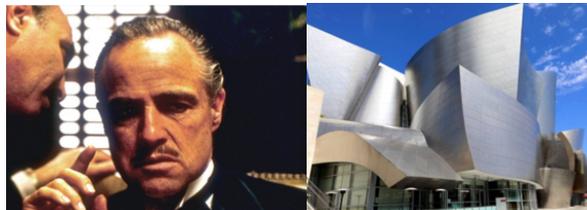
Part 1: Basic Properties: (a) Culture, Metaphor, Stories; (b) Shadow geometry  
(c) Shadows and darkness.



Part 2: Functions: (a) Knowledge and discovery; (b) Influencing habitat;  
(c) Perceiving the environment.

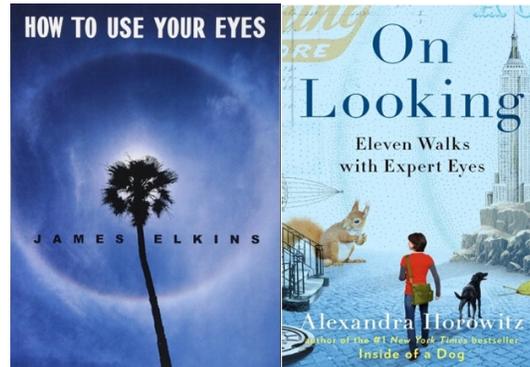


Part 3: Artistic expression: Shadows in (a) Music; (b) Painting; (c) Photography  
(d) Film; (e) Architecture.

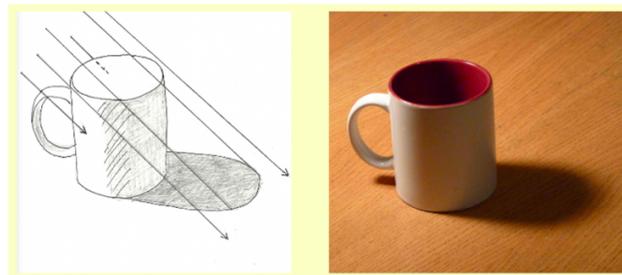


## 5. Taking a Shadow Walk

James Eakins: “How to Use Your Eyes”. Alexandra Horowitz: “On Looking”  
Both describe ways to become more aware of your environment. It was suggested that this idea be applied to paying attention to shadows.



6. Shadows are defined as being created when light is blocked by an object, but the influence of shadows extends far beyond this physical definition.



7. The word “shadow” has been used to create metaphors such as shadow banking, shadow state, shadow education, shadow economy, being shadowed. These metaphors reflect cultural connections of shadows.



9. There are many hundreds of books that have “shadow” in the title and some of them are actually about shadows !



10. There is also a good deal of shadow “wisdom,” such as “Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see.” – M. L. King.
11. Shadows are “rhetorical” when they are saying something about the object that created the shadow.



INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR SHADOW PHOTOGRAPHS  
WITH THE CLASS.

Attach image files to email. Send to [bruceg@arizona.edu](mailto:bruceg@arizona.edu)

## **CLASS 1 VIDEOS**

Click on the URL to access the video

### **Yogurt shadows**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJTBWhczpus>

### **Me and My Shadow. James Corden and Stephen Colbert**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRj99Gje7MI&list=PLsa\\_IB3EW2g3fPSh4QtF8zC9UOpFuX5te](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRj99Gje7MI&list=PLsa_IB3EW2g3fPSh4QtF8zC9UOpFuX5te)

### **A Metaphor – Jason Headley**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBzW8AShJ1A>

### **What is a digital shadow?**

<https://myshadow.org/animation>

### **Robotic hand shadow**

No longer available

### **Only the Shadow Knows**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMIRpN8ANrU>

### **Dark Shadows trailer (French version)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj3sIFTI1LQ>

### **Operation Smile**

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