ARCH 414  Architectures of Occupation and Resistance

Units: 2.0  
Term: Spring 2021  
Timing: Wednesday 1:00-2:50pm  
Location: Online  
Instructor: Faiza Moatasim  
Office Hours: Mon 2:00-3:00pm & by appointments  
Contact Info: moatasim@usc.edu

Israel West Bank Wall, Photo by Flickr contributor Wall in Palestine
Description
What does the architecture of buildings and cities tell us about systematic oppression and political control? What options for resistance exist in deeply entrenched structures of domination and dispossession? In this course, we will explore how the design of the built environment is shaped by social hierarchies and political agendas, in particular, how architectural and urban design can be used as a tool for modeling social behavior and maintaining political control. In addition, we will examine how occupation and resistance are in constant flux, and how the dispossessed manage to find ways to act politically and resist strategies of domination through their everyday spatial practices and tactics.

We will explore these themes by examining various theoretical frameworks and types of spaces in the modern era (from the nineteenth century) that developed under the influence of dominant economic processes (such as, industrialization, capitalism, and liberalization), and political developments (such as, imperialism, colonialism, post-colonialism and globalization) to control or dispossess large sections of the population. We will also examine the spatial practices and tactics developed by marginalized people to subvert and resist dominant structures of power.

Course Objectives
The course aims:
- to demonstrate the relevance of architecture and planning perspectives to the study of power and resistance in modern society;
- to encourage students to think about the design of built environments not only as technical processes, but also as a product of political motivations and social hierarchies;
- to enable students to decipher social beliefs systems and political agendas underlying various architectural and planning schemes

Course Texts
Weekly assigned readings will be available on Blackboard under “Content.”

Grading and Evaluation
There are four main components of grading and evaluation for this course:

1. Verbal Participation (15%)
   a. You must come prepared to verbally participate in the classroom by stating your point concisely and citing examples, phrases, and terms from the assigned readings.
   b. To prepare for class discussions, it is essential that you come to the class having done the assigned readings. You must do so by engaging with the weekly text, that is, by identifying the section/s of the assigned reading that relates directly to the main argument of the scholar as well as look for evidence used to support scholarly claims. You should also take note of key terms and concepts discussed in readings or lectures. Finally, it is important that you find connections between different readings as well as develop your own questions on the claims made by scholars whose work you will be encountering in this course.
2. **Midterm (30%)**  
a. The midterm will gauge your understanding of various conceptual frameworks that help explain how space can be used to dispossess and control populations. The midterm will be closed book exam in the form of short answer questions.

3. **Class Facilitation (20% of total grade)**  
a. Working with a partner, you are required to facilitate class discussion once during the semester. In order to prepare for facilitation, students will meet with me the week preceding their facilitation in order to establish goals for the class discussion. The aim of class facilitation is not to present the assigned reading, but to pose questions that enable a robust and engaged discussion in class.

4. **Final Project (Proposal/Meeting, Class presentation, and Written paper) (5% + 10% + 20%)**  
a. In a 1500-word essay, examine how spatial organization can be used as a tool for social control.  
b. Submit your 1-page paper proposal to moatasim@usc.edu by the due date and time.  
c. Present your project in a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation with images of the spaces discussed in your final paper.  
d. Submit your final paper as an email attachment to moatasim@usc.edu by the due date and time.  
e. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All external ideas and work must be cited using the conventions of MLA or Chicago Manual of Style. For more information about plagiarism and ways to avoid it, please refer to the following websites:

   [https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/903/docs/Working_with_Sources/Trojan_Integrity_-_Guide_to_Avoiding_Plagiarism.pdf](https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/903/docs/Working_with_Sources/Trojan_Integrity_-_Guide_to_Avoiding_Plagiarism.pdf)

   [https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/handouts/](https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/handouts/)

**Grading Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Facilitation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment Submission Policy**

- Assignments submitted late, if passing, will receive half credit for the grade received. No late work will be accepted 10 days after the due date.  
- All assignments must be submitted to earn a passing grade.
Attendance Policy

- Class attendance is mandatory. Verbal participation grade will be lowered by 1/3rd of the earned grade for every missed class.
- Absence without penalty is allowed only in exceptional situations related to personal and family emergencies. Please discuss the reason for missing class with me immediately after the event to determine if it qualifies as an emergency

Special Accommodations

If you are facing any difficulty with your course work, please speak with me immediately. If you need special accommodations because of a documented disability as allowed by the Office of Disability Services and Programs, please discuss your needs with me no later than the end of the second week of classes

Weekly Course Schedule

**W 1. Jan 20th 2021**
Reading
Architectures of Occupation and Resistance: An Introduction

**W 2. Jan 27th 2021**
Readings
The Kabyle House
The Panopticon
Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish, 135-156; 200-202

**W 3. Feb 3rd 2021**
Reading
Rational Order
James C. Scott, Seeing Like a State, 11-27 and 53-83.

**W 4. Feb 10th 2021**
Readings
Dirt
Othering the Poor

**W 5. Feb 17th 2021**
Readings
Representation
Legibility and Control: Colonial Egypt
Timothy Mitchell, Colonising Egypt, 1-33.
**W6. Feb 24th 2021**  
**Nationalism**  

**Planned Utopia: Brasilia**  

---

**W 7. Mar 3rd 2021**  
**Midterm**

---

**W 8. Mar 10th 2021**  
**Fortified Enclaves: Sao Paulo, and Los Angeles**  
Readings  
Teresa Caldeira, *City of Walls*, 256-296  
Mike Davis, *City of Quartz*, 221-264

**GROUP A: 1 page on final project due on Sunday Mar 7th at 11:59pm**  
**Individual meetings**

---

**W 9. Mar 17th 2021**  
**Hollow Land**  
Reading  
Eyal Weizman, *Hollow Land*, 161-220

**GROUP B: 1 page on final project due Sunday Mar 14th at 11:59pm**  
**Individual meetings**

---

**RESISTANCE**

---

**W 10. Mar 24th 2021**  
**Colonial Anxieties**  
Readings  
Swati Chattopadhyay, “The ‘Limits’ of White Town,” 76-133  
William Glover, “Anxieties at Home,” 159-184

---

**W 11. Mar 31st 2021**  
**Quiet Resistance and Rebellion**  
Reading  

---

**W 12. Apr 7th 2021**  
**Wellness Day**

---

**W 13. Apr 14th 2021**  
**Non-movements**  
Readings  
Michel de Certeau, *Practice of Everyday Life*, 92-110  
Asef Bayat, *The Encroachment of the Ordinary*, 33-55

---

**W 14. Apr 28th 2021**  
**Final Project Presentations**

---

**May 5th 2021**  
**Final Paper Due at 4:00pm via email to moatasim@usc.edu**
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems
Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.
https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/
Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: http://sarc.usc.edu/
Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.
https://equity.usc.edu/
Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/
The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations.
http://dsp.usc.edu
Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/
Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students.
https://diversity.usc.edu/
USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, http://emergency.usc.edu
USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community.
http://dps.usc.edu