

USC School
of Architecture

ARCH 599 Slums and the City

Units: 2.0

Term: Fall 2019

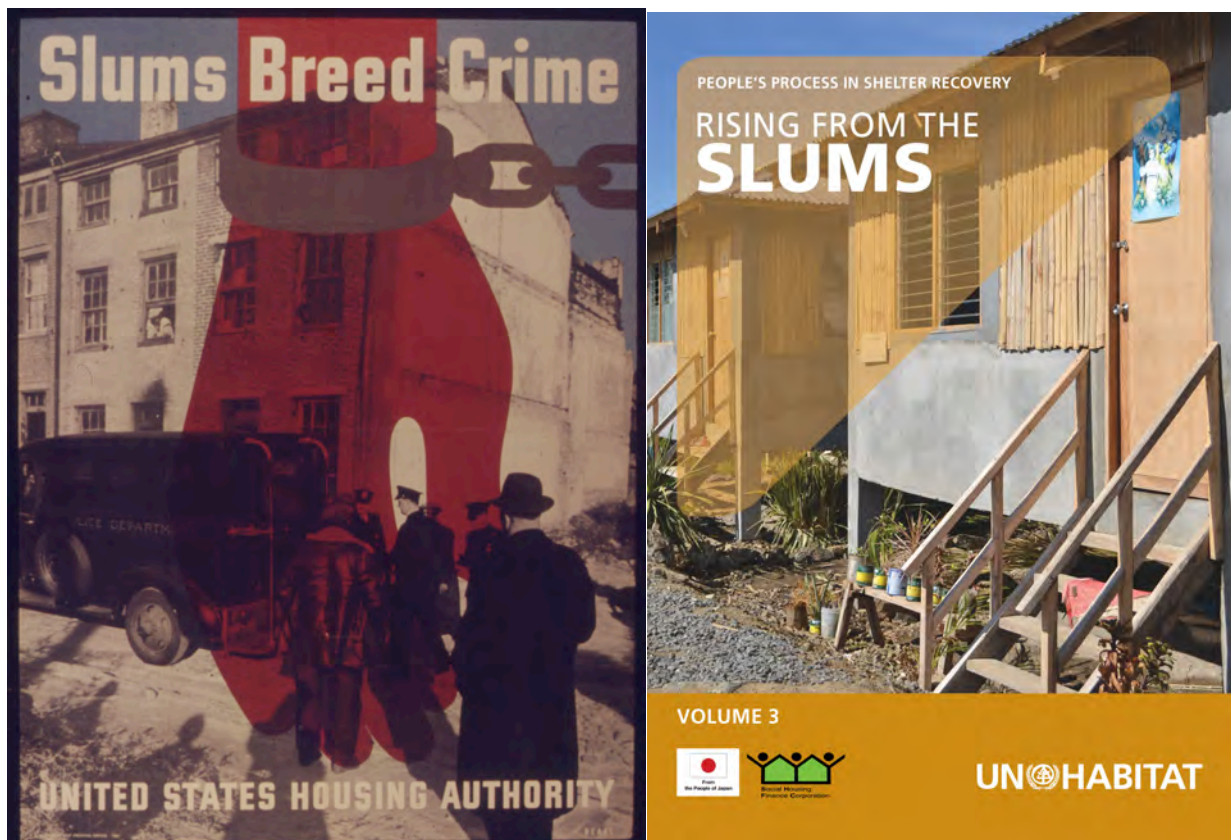
Timing: Monday 10:00-11:50am

Location:

Instructor: Faiza Moatasim

Office Hours:

Contact Info:



Left: Lester Beall, "Slums Breed Crime," 1941

Right: UN-Habitat publication, "Rising from the Slums," 2015

Course Description

How do the billion people in slums in cities around the world live and work? What is the relationship of the slum to the city, and of slum dwellers to urban life and economy in cities around the world? In this course we will focus on the cultural, social, economic, and political processes that shape this particular urban housing form. The course will also investigate the effects of local and global policies and trends on the experiences of those living in slums and squatter settlements in cities around the world.

Course discussions will focus on both classic and contemporary scholarship, reports, and documentaries that investigate slums and squatter settlements from architectural, policy, human rights, and economic perspectives. The course will cover general theories on low-income housing, and practical approaches towards the management of slums and squatter settlements in cities around the world.

Learning Objectives

This course offers:

1. a comprehensive understanding of slums as an important global housing type
2. an exploration of important economic and social themes related to urban poverty and socio-spatial inequity
3. critical analyses of regional and global politics and economies from the perspective of slums and squatter settlements

Prerequisite(s)

Required Readings

All Required readings will be available on Blackboard under “Documents.”

Assignments

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

1. **Short exercises (35 % of total grade)**

You are required to complete two short research exercises. You will be evaluated on content and presentation.

a. **Exercise 1: (10%)**

Give a 5-minute presentation (three PowerPoint slides) on an example of urban informality in any European or North American city.

b. **Exercise 2: (15%)**

Give a 5-minute presentation (three PowerPoint slides) on an assigned public housing program in the United States, Vienna, and Singapore. Highlight the important features and eligibility requirements of the assigned program.

c. **Exercise 3: (10%)**

Give a 5-minute case-study presentation (three PowerPoint slides) on an approach towards improving the living and working conditions of residents in an existing slum or squatter settlement.

2. **Participation in class discussion (15% of total grade)**
 - a. This is a discussion-based seminar. Your verbal participation in each class session will be evaluated for relevance and content.
 - b. To prepare for participation in 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 its 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.

3. **Midterm Exam (20% of total grade)**

4. **Final Paper (30% of total grade)**
 - a. After exploring informal housing within cities using various perspectives in this course, how would you respond to the question, “What is a Slum?” Your response should be in the form of a 1500 word essay
 - b. Submit your paper, saved as yourlastname.doc, as an email attachment to
by the due date and time

Grading Breakdown

Assignments	% of Grade
Short Exercises	35%
Verbal Participation	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Paper	30%
TOTAL	100%

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

General Policies

- Class attendance is mandatory
- 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

Course Schedule

- W1.**
Readings
'How the other half lives?' An Introduction
UNHABITAT. *The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements*, 2003. London: Earthscan Publications, 2003. Pp. 8-16.
Gilbert, Alan. "The Return of the Slum: Does Language Matter?" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 31.4 (2007): 697-713.
- W2.**
Readings
Othering Poverty
Lewis, Oscar. "The Culture of Poverty." *Scientific American* 215.4 (1966): 19-25.
Douglas, Mary. *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo*. New York: Praeger, 1966. 1-6; 30-51.
- W3.**
Readings
Slum Narratives - I
Davis, Mike. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso, 2006. Chapters 2 and 4.
- W4.**
Readings
Slum Narratives - II
Perlman, Janice E. *The Myth of Marginality: Urban Poverty and Politics in Rio De Janeiro*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976. 91-131.
In class video
Urban Informality <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utvz7j1IUfk>>
- W5.**
Readings
Defining Urban Informality
Moser, C. O. N. "Informal Sector or Petty Commodity Production: Dualism or Dependence in Urban Development?" *World Development* 6 (1978): 1041-64.
The World Bank. Chapter 1: The Informal Sector. *Informality Exit and Exclusion*. 21-41.
- W6.**
Readings
Formalizing the Informal
Soto, Hernando. *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. New York: Basic Books, 2000. 1-50.
In class screening
Dharavi: Slum for Sale (2010). Director: Lutz Konermann
- W7.**
Readings
Undercitizens - I
Boo, Katherine. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*. New York: Random House, 2012. 3-49, 247-25.
In class screening
Wasteland (2010). Director: Lucy Walker and Joao Jardim
- W8.**
Readings
Undercitizens - II
Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Crown, 2016. 9-31; 64-79; Epilogue
- W9.**
Readings
The Slum as a Policy Issue
Marcuse, Peter. "Housing policy and the myth of the benevolent state,"
Tighe, J R, and Elizabeth J. Mueller Eds. *The Affordable Housing Reader*.
In class screening
The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011). Director: Chad Freidrichs

- W10.**
Readings
- The Slum as an Architectural Problem**
Turner, John F. C, and Robert Fichter. *Freedom to Build: Dweller Control of the Housing Process*. New York: Macmillan, 1972. Pp. 148-175.
Fathy, Hassan. *Architecture for the Poor: An Experiment in Rural Egypt*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976. Pp. 19-41.
- W11.**
Readings
- Slums as Nuisance**
Ghertner, D.A. "Nuisance Talk and the Propriety of Property: Middle Class Discourses of a Slum-Free Delhi." *Antipode*. 44.4 (2012): 1161-1187.
Fernandes, Leela. "The Politics of Forgetting: Class Politics, State Power and the Restructuring of Urban Space in India." *Urban Studies*. 41.12 (2004): 2415-2430.
- W12.**
Readings
- Slums and a Right to Rights**
Appadurai, Arjun. "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics." *Environment and Urbanization*. 13.2 (2001).
Holston, James. "Insurgent Citizenship in an Era of Global Urban Peripheries." *City & Society*. 21.2 (2009): 245-267.
- W13.**
Readings
- Slums and the City**
Chioldelli F & Moroni S (2014) The complex nexus between informality and the law: Reconsidering unauthorised settlements in light of the concept of nomotopism. *Geoforum* 51: 161-168
Roy, A. (2011) 'Slumdog cities: rethinking subaltern urbanism', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35(2), pp. 223–238.
- W14.**
Readings
- Poverty Porn**
Dovey K, King R. (2012) Informal Urbanism and the Taste for Slums. *Tourism Geographies* 14(2): 275-293.
Linke, Uli. "Racializing Cities, Naturalizing Space: the Seductive Appeal of Iconicities of Dispossession." *Antipode*. (2013). Pp. 1-18.

FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD: Final Paper Due

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>