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, it’s 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 fmoatasi@hamilton.edu by the due date and time.

**Grading Breakdown**

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<th>Assignments</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Short Exercises</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**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. ‘How the other half lives?’ An Introduction
Readings

W2. Othering Poverty
Readings

W3. Slum Narratives - I
Readings

W4. Slum Narratives - II
Readings

In class video
Urban Informality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utvz7j1Ufk>

W5. Defining Urban Informality
Readings

W6. Formalizing the Informal
Readings

In class screening
Dharavi: Slum for Sale (2010). Director: Lutz Konermann

W7. Undercitizens - I
Readings

In class screening
Wasteland (2010). Director: Lucy Walker and Joao Jardim

W8. Undercitizens - II
Readings

W9. The Slum as a Policy Issue
Readings

In class screening
The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011). Director: Chad Freidrichs
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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**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