Course Description

In this seminar we begin by touring through the landscape targeted by subprime lenders and heavy hit in the Great Recession. This course wrestles with a number of questions, such as what is the role of community development, given that real estate “investments” have helped to foreclose, displace, and spatially re-organize communities? What is the proper scale for community development efforts? For decades, the goal of community development was to help residents gain stability and build wealth through homeownership. Yet Black and Latino populations lost two-thirds of their wealth (largely home equity) in the 2008 crash. Community development was always an alternative to bring citizens into the mainstream economy. With the mainstream economy transformed, how must we re-think community development? What (or who) should be the target of community development movements given the capture of the state by finance? What are the most useful frameworks for understanding the contemporary political economy through which the struggle for dignity and humanity continue? How might scholarship aide activism?

Since economic and social exclusion are the rationales for community development, we will delve into a social/intellectual history of American poverty and anti-poverty policy. We explore the ghetto as colony framework and its usefulness for understanding contemporary power relations, as well as the concept of the underclass and its impact on housing and community development theory and practice. Next we turn to the issue of Black resistance to oppression, starting with the battle against violence and disenfranchisement in the southern U.S., to the contemporary movement for Black lives. We try to understand the role of finance in the contemporary economy, and the challenge that presents to democracy and the commonwealth. Last, we explore how community development and planning can enable more justice in development.

Course Requirements

Since this is a seminar it is incumbent upon you to be prepared to contribute to our weekly discussions of the material. You will write essays that reflect upon the challenges of community development.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Components</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Dec 6</td>
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Required Readings:

- The books are not at the PSU Bookstore. Other readings on D2L or at the Millar Library.

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

**Sept 27**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Oct 4**

**SPACE, RACE, & THE HOUSING CRISIS**


**Oct 11**

**NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**


**Oct 18**

**THEORIZING URBAN POVERTY: TOP DOWN, BOTTOM UP**

Katz, Chapters 1-2

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Oct 25  THE WAR ON POVERTY: COMMUNITY ACTION & THE CONSERVATIVE BACKLASH
         Katz, Chapters 3-4

Nov 1  THE UNDERCLASS & POVERTY DE-CONCENTRATION
         Katz, Chapter 5, Epilogue

         DeFilippis & Fraser. Why Do We Want Mixed-Income Housing and

         Goetz & Chapple. Dispersal as Anti-Poverty Policy. Chapter 10 in Critical Urban
         Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2010

         Chaskin & Joseph. Contested Space: Design Principles and Regulatory Regimes in

Nov 8  OPPRESSION & RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS I
         Piven & Cloward. The Civil Rights Movement, Chapter 4 in Poor People’s Movements:

         Taylor, Introduction, Chapters 1-2.

Nov 15 OPPRESSION & RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS II
        Taylor. Chapters 3-7.

Nov 22 ECONOMIC INSTABILITY
        Bezemer & Hudson. Finance is Not the Economy: Reviving the Conceptual Distinction.

        Meyerson. The Forty-Year Slump. The American Prospect. 10/10/2013
        (Available online on web and PSU Library)

        Kuttner. The Task Rabbit Economy. The American Prospect. 10/10/2013
        http://prospect.org/article/task-rabbit-economy

        Kochhar, et al. America’s Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes Within
        Metropolitan Areas. 2016. www.pewresearch.org
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Nov 29

TOWARD INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT


Dec 6

Final Exam Due in Urban Studies Office (Third Floor, Urban Center) by 5:00 p.m.