PLA6067: On Spatial Exclusion and Planning
Thursdays 11 am-1 pm, Room 300N Buell Hall

Instructor: Professor Hiba Bou Akar
Office Location: 208 Buell Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-3 pm or request appointment by email <hb2541@columbia.edu>

This course investigates the idea of geographies of exclusion through a multi-disciplinary inquiry which locates spatial production and planning practice at its center. The course cross-thinks issues of spatial exclusion and social justice across cities in the Global North and the Global South. What are geographies of exclusion? Who gets excluded, why, by whom, and how? What are some of the legal, spatial, socio-economical, moral, and political apparatuses that get articulated in producing segregated spaces of poverty and lavishness, violence and fear, connectedness and confinement? What are the roles of state agencies and “experts” such as planners, architects, and policy makers in producing such geographies, and how are these practices reproduced in the everyday? To that end, we will examine the mechanisms through which certain populations in our cities are left “outside” (through gated communities, “mean” streets, policing, security barriers, segregated parks, etc.), or kept “inside” (prisoners, refugees in camps, locked-in domestic workers, etc.).

Course Requirements:

This class will be run for the most part as a seminar. Its success is therefore contingent on your active participation in class and your critical engagement with the reading material and the assignments. There are three main requirements for the class:

1. Class Attendance and Readings (20% of final grade):
   Students are expected to attend classes regularly, have all the readings done before class, and to actively participate in class discussions. All required readings are posted on Canvas. No required textbooks for purchase.

2. Response Papers (35% of final grade):
   Students are required to submit two response papers (1500 words, double space, point 12) engaging with class material. I will provide guidelines: a case study, a book, or a set of questions that you could use to engage with the material. Dues: February 16 and March 30.

3. Course Research Project and Presentations (45% of final grade):
   Each student is expected to work on a substantial semester-long research project that engages the material of the class through fieldwork and ethnographic data collection process and/or archival research. The project will be divided into milestones to help you with your progress.
Stage 1: 2-Page Research Proposal. Due: February 9 (5%)
Stage 2: Outline and Annotated bibliography. Due: March 9 (5%)
Stage 3: Final Research Project and Presentations. Due on April 27 (35%)

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<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>February 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Paper 1</td>
<td>February 16th</td>
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<td>Outline and Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<td>Response Paper 2</td>
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Class Policies:

Please abide by the following class policies.

Submission Policies: Text assignments are due in hard copy at the beginning of class on the specified date, in addition to uploading a digital copy to Canvas. Papers should be well-written and typed in 12-point font, double-spaced. Please include citations and list of references. Please submit all assignments on time. We will not be able to accept late submissions.

E-communication: All students are responsible for checking their emails and course site on Canvas on a daily basis, as these our avenues of communication. During class time, please keep your phones and tablets silent and invisible.

Ethics of Scholarship: Plagiarism is a serious offense and includes falsely claiming the work of others as one’s own, using material without properly quoting and documenting its sources, academic dishonesty, papers written by someone else, not acknowledging multiple authors or collaboration on submitted work, and not declaring multiple submissions of the same work.
Class Program

The course is divided into five parts. In Part I we will discuss the articulations between space, planning, and exclusion. Part II focuses on issues of spatial exclusion along racial, gendered, youth, and immigration lines. In Part III examines “mean geographies” that produce poverty, homelessness, and informality, while Part IV revolves around spaces of violence—those of war, apartheid, neo-colonialism and their implication for affected populations like refugees and war-displaced people. In Part V, we will discuss the politics of the possible and its implication for the practice of planning.

Part I: Articulating Space, Planning, and Exclusion

Week 1 (January 19): What is Spatial Exclusion?

Week 2 (January 26): Space and Power

Part II: Rethinking Space: Race, Gender, Youth, and Diaspora

Week 3 (February 2): Racialized Spaces

Week 4 (February 9): Gendered Mobility


**Week 5 (February 16): The Diasporic Metropolis**


**Week 6 (February 23): Youth and Public Space**


**Part III: “Mean” Geographies**

**Week 7 (March 2): Gentrification and the End of Public Space**


Week 8 (March 9): Planet of Slums

Week 9 (March 16): Spring Break

Part IV: Geographies of Violence

Week 10 (March 23): Architectures of Enmity

Week 11 (March 30): Displacements
Part V: The Politics of the Possible

Week 12 (April 6):
*Topic to be decided by class participants

Week 13 (April 13): Resistance & Social Change?

Week 14 (April 20): A Film
* Film Screening

Week 15 (April 27): Wrap up and Final Class Presentations