

## UP 478 SP2017 Community Development Workshop

Exploring Community Struggles to Reclaim the Cities of Chicago and Champaign

CRN 51173

Rm 223 TBH

M & W 1-2:30pm

Office Hours M&W 12-1pm

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### *Introduction*

In this mixed level workshop students will explore how marginalized/subaltern residents and activists resist comprehensive plans to “Reclaim their (Rights to the) City (RTTC)” through insurgent, collective and territorialized practices in Chicago and Champaign neighborhoods.

Specifically, we will map whether and how they negate imposed categories (develop an oppositional consciousness), disrupt established/common sense, mobilize different publics, occupy territories, organize local collectives and build trans-local solidarity networks through popular educate praxis.

Practically, we will compare and contrast the practices, ideologies, subjectivities of activists working in the Champaign based First Followers Reentry Project, and those active in Chicago based Autonomous Tenants Union via grounded ethnographies of personal narratives, focus groups and cognitive mapping explorations of their locations.

### *Learning objectives*

At the end of this course students should be able to

- Explain how insurgent urban movements reclaim their (rights to the) city
- Evaluate the potential of specific strategies and schema to transform dominant modes of urban development and governance

### *Required Texts*

- Readings will be available on our compass course site folders

### *Grades*

The final grade comprises two class presentations of prescribed readings and responses, a 5000 word journal of field trip experiences and ethnographic interviews and a 5000 word final academic essay on alternate planning practices

- One class presentation and four 500word assignments 30%
- A 5000word journal of field trip experiences as ethnographic interviews 30%
- Final multimedia poster, presentation and 5000 word academic essay 40%

### *Review Essays/Blogs and Class Presentation*

Throughout the semester you will write four 500word reflections, present, and lead a class discussion on an assigned topic within our theoretical RTTC framing.

*Field Trip Journal entries (5000 words)*

Your journal will reflect your experiences during two client-led neighborhood tours

*Final Multimedia Product (5000 words)*

Your final product will be a multimedia proposal in response to the expressed needs of a community client and comprise of a poster, map and a 5000 word reflective essay.

### **Communications, Deadlines and Academic Dishonesty**

All students must commit to a learning agreement and code of conduct. Any violation will be resolved via student code

[http://www.uiuc.edu/admin\\_manual/code/rule\\_33.html](http://www.uiuc.edu/admin_manual/code/rule_33.html)).

### **Lecture schedule and project development process**

Weeks 1-5

Class based orientation discussions and visits with FF and ATU to develop a final project proposal

Weeks 7-9

Self-directed teams engage in fieldwork with FF and ATU including personal interviews, focus groups and physical explorations of origins, policies and politics of (uneven) neighborhood development

### **Spring Break**

Weeks 11-15

Prepare and present a multimedia final product to FF and ATU for peer and client evaluation