

# How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood

IDH2930 (0228)

Time: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> period (1:55-2:45)

Location: LIT117

Fall 2021

## Upper Division Honors Student

- Eva England
  - o Office hours: Tuesday, 12-1 pm (location TBA) or by email
  - o Email: [evaengland@ufl.edu](mailto:evaengland@ufl.edu)

## Instructor

Dr. Joel Black

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## Course Description

Gentrification is a buzzword that has been thrown around more and more recently. But what is it, and how does it actually affect communities and the people living in those communities? P.E. Moskowitz's *How to Kill a City* (2018) discusses gentrification and how it plays out in four different cities: New Orleans, San Francisco, Detroit, and New York. The book explores not only the material effects of gentrification, but also the systemic issues that allow gentrification to occur, which include wealth inequality, systemic racism, infrastructure challenges, and government policies that don't take local communities into account. These issues affect not only city planning, but also touch on racism, poverty, sustainability, and more.

## Objectives and Goals

This course is an honors (un)Common reads class, which is a 1-credit course centered around a book. The goal of this course is to engage students in a discussion about gentrification, based on the book *How to Kill a City*. This topic is not just about urban planning and how cities develop, but it also brings in issues of injustice, sustainability and what our future will look like-will cities become too expensive for "normal people"? can gentrification have positive impacts on neighborhoods and, if so, how can you ensure those are put into effect without the negative side effects? is there a way to build and expand cities differently?- and how development policies

have an impact on people's daily lives: where they live, where they work, how they spend their money, how they use public transit and other services. The book will serve as a jumping-off point for discussion about gentrification, urban development, poverty, systemic racism, and climate change among other things, and for the group to discuss how cities can develop in the future.

The class will be discussion based, and so a main goal is to help students develop a degree of comfort when engaging with complicated subjects, and to hopefully facilitate an exchange of ideas and perspectives on the topics. Students will leave the course having a deeper understanding of why and how communities change over time. Also, we will discuss why cities should be a focus of conversation when talking about trying to build a more equitable and sustainable way of living, so we can meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

### Required Textbooks:

- *How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood* by P.E. Moskowitz ISBN: 978 1 56858 903 9

### Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to course

- Reading for week 2: preface and introduction (xi-12)

Week 2: What is gentrification?

- Reading for week 3: Ch 1 + 2 (13-44)

Week 3: New Orleans

- Reading for week 4: Ch 3 (45-70)

Week 4: New Orleans

- Reading for week 5: Ch. 4 (71-90)

Week 5: Detroit

- Reading for week 6: Ch 5 + 6 (91-122)

Week 6: Detroit

- Reading for week 7: Ch 7 (123-136)

Week 7: San Francisco

- Reading for week 8: Ch 8 (137-146)

Week 8: San Francisco

- Reading for week 9: Ch 9 (147-160)

Week 9: San Francisco

- Reading for week 10: Ch 10 (161-180)

Week 10: New York

- Reading for week 11: Ch 11 (181-196)

Week 11: New York

- Reading for week 12: Ch 12 + conclusion (197-218)

Week 12: New York and looking to the future

Week 13: Climate Change and Climate Gentrification?

Week 14: How else can a city evolve?

Week 15: Extra week/questions about the final project

Final Paper due date: Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm

## Evaluation of Grades

Grades will be based on a final paper and participation. The final project will be 75% of the grade and participation will be 25% of the grade.

For this paper, choose a city that is not one of the ones discussed in the book. Focus on an aspect of the city (connected with housing and city development) that has changed within the past 30 years. Detail these changes briefly in the first section of the paper, and then give your analysis of how they have affected the people living there, which can be positively or negatively. Include a section on how you think these changes can be addressed, and on how the city might develop in the future. Papers should be written in MLA format and be 1000-1500 words long. Please come see me if you have any questions, and please schedule a meeting or send me an email with your topic by Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, so we can discuss your paper.

## Grading Scale

<b>Passing Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
<b>A</b>	4.0
<b>A-</b>	3.67
<b>B+</b>	3.33
<b>B</b>	3.0
<b>B-</b>	2.67

<b>C+</b>	2.33
<b>C</b>	2.0
<b>C-</b>	1.67
<b>D+</b>	1.33
<b>D</b>	1.0
<b>D-</b>	.67
<b>S</b>	0

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

## Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance is not mandatory, but participation is part of the final grade. Please let me know beforehand, if possible, if you will not be in class.

## Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester. Please also let me know early on if there are any accommodations I can make to the course to make it easier for you to participate.

## COVID-19 Policy

As of right now, classes are in person. I will try to communicate ahead of time if classes are moved online. UF requires everyone to wear a mask in the class, even if you are vaccinated. Please also continue to wash your hands and practice social distancing. If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. You can do this by visiting <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. If you need to get tested for COVID-19, visit: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/how/screen/#locations>. If you test positive or suspect you have COVID, please do not come to class. Instead, stay home and self-quarantine. Contact me as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements for class. Visit <http://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/> and <http://coronavirus.ufl.edu/> for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

## Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals or on the Canvas course menu under GatorEvals.

## Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones during class time. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and all students will be expected to participate in the course in some capacity.

## Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

## University Honor Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## Counseling and Wellness Center and Campus Resources

Contact information for the CWC can be found at: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>. Please contact them if you need resources to support your mental health.

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

## Technical Issues

If you have any technical issues, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu), (352)392-HELP, or in-person at the hub. More information can be found at: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/about/services/>.

## Academic Resources:

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

## In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence

in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.