



Spring 2025 Course Overview

Equitable Development

Full semester, 3 credits, Call No. 11784, PLA 6869
Cecily King, Thursday 1 - 3 pm, 209 Fayerweather

Real estate is the physical backbone of communities large and small. While profit is usually touted as the driver behind the real estate industry, development projects are still achieved outside major cities and visibly profitable economies. So how then does real estate work in cities and communities where the economics are challenging and the cost to build and the demand for rent do not align? That is one of the central questions we will tackle in this course as we explore secondary cities around the US, and even some of the country's biggest post-industrial cities like Detroit and Pittsburgh. These cities and their communities will serve as our venue for exploring the economic development tools that are critical to making real estate work. We will also explore the role of real estate as an essential revitalization tool, specifically studying how it can be consciously and strategically used for community development to increase equity and access. Resources such as readings, films, and podcasts, along with select guest speakers, will provide additional context throughout the course.

Students will then turn their lens to Newark, NJ which will serve as a laboratory for their final project, an opportunity to apply the tools and tactics studied throughout the semester to a current city that is a scale where every real estate, community and economic development decision can have a transformative and outsized impact. This course is suitable for real estate, planning, historic preservation, and urban design students as well as non-GSAPP students who have an interest in urban development.