

ARCH 4823/6160: Race, Space, and Architecture in the United States

3 credit hours

W+F 9:30-10:45am

Instructor: Danielle Willkens

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SUBJECTS + METHODS

research and documentation towards reconciliation

This course will be interdisciplinary by nature, referencing the projects and methodologies of not only architects and architectural historians, but also archaeologists, artists, designers, environmentalists, ethnographers, historians, photographers, urbanists, sociologists, technicians, and writers. Although we will cover topics and themes across the U.S., our focus will decidedly be on the American South and we will leverage our location in Atlanta. Through historiography, we will counter the stance that black history in the built environment is studied only alongside stories of white supremacy.

We will explore overlooked BIPOC projects and designers. By enacting research, reflective interpretation, and productive creativity, this course will question how architectural history and design can forward, but also hinder, components of social justice and equity.

Working collaboratively to honor erased histories: we will contribute to the documentary record of selected sites in Atlanta, using 3D scanning, photogrammetry, and archival research. Course deliverables will focus on documentation and the design of a virtual exhibit for public outreach.

Using online platforms to our benefit, the course will consistently engage myriad voices from the fields of architecture, urban planning, education, public history, and historic preservation, as well as non-profits and community stakeholders from various outreach projects and historic sites in the U.S. Voices from the UK and South Africa will provide for comparative context. All course content will be synchronous.

SITES + SOURCES

There will not be an associated textbook or required supply costs; all readings will be provided on Canvas and we will interface with an array of other media, from interactive websites and databases to maps, films, and vlogs. We will use software from the School of Architecture VLAB.

The list below previews some of the content we will cover:

- The 1619 Project
- Green Book(s) and tourism
- Public history and heritage site interpretation
- The Slave Dwelling Project
- The UNESCO U.S. Civil Rights Movement Sites serial nomination
- The Paper Monument project
- Barton, ed., *Sites of Memory: Perspectives on Architecture and Race* (2001)
- Cheng, Davis II, and Wilson, eds., *Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present* (2020)
- Rudofsky, *Architecture without Architects, an Introduction to Nonpedigreed Architecture* (1964)
- Sutton, *When Ivory Towers Were Black: A Story About Race in America's Cities and Universities* (2017)
- Upton, *What Can and Can't Be Said: Race, Uplift, and Monument Building in the Contemporary South* (2015)
- Wilkins, *The Aesthetics of Equity: Notes on Race, Space, Architecture, and Music* (2007)

BLACK LIVES MATTER.

October 13, 2020

