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GEOGRAPHIES OF DIS/POSSESSION: Social Justice and The City

GES 700 with Prof Dena Aufseeser

Spring 2021 — Wednesdays 4-6:30PM

This graduate-level course examines the themes of dispossession and social justice to analyze processes that create and sustain segregated and unequal cities. Through the course, we will explore the relationship between wealth accumulation and dispossession, or the action of depriving people(s) of land, housing and other possessions. We will question how normative ideas of 'cities', decline and growth are deployed to justify ongoing processes of dispossession and uneven investment. Readings will be selected to provide students with the tools to critically interrogate urban inequality and to highlight connections between past and ongoing dispossessions. Topics may explore links between property ownership and citizenship, definitions of a socially just city (and who determines this), and racial capitalism and the production of the American city, among other topics. We will look at theories about dispossession as well as specific examples in which communities contest dispossession.

Course will be online.

Graduate students from other USM schools welcome.

Advanced undergraduates may enroll with permission of instructor.

Questions? daufsee@umbc.edu