ARCH 4/500M & AAAP 4/500M Winter 2020
Spatial Justice Seminar
CRN 27145/27146 & 27147/27148 | TH 1:00 - 3:50 | WSB

Instructor: Craig Wilkins

What time is this place...?

The field of architecture has a long and storied history of research & scholarship as an important means of disciplinary and public discourse. Much in the same vein as Venturi & Scott-Brown’s *Learning from Las Vegas*, Rem Koolhaas’ *The Harvard Guide to Shopping*, and the City of Detroit’s *Detroit Future Cities* report – all of which position the field of architecture as a contested site of social, cultural, political, economic, historical, technical, physical, and aesthetic concerns – this research workshop will engage questions of spatial justice & equity, preservation of local cultural heritage, and economic development through an investigation of specific sites that have been, or are currently being, erased. The workshop will be looking at the landing site of the last ship to import enslaved people from Africa to the Americas called Africatown in Alabama. Specifically, through research, mapping, site visits, and 3-D modeling, we will attempt to reconstruct the home of the last enslaved African in this country, Cudjo Lewis. In addition, we will also complete the work of the National Trust project to identify all existing structures on site, laying the groundwork for the eventual reconstruction of Africatown. Our work will be the first of fifteen architectural interventions intended to establish a world-class heritage destination of the Historic Africatown District and will become part of the Africatown International Design Ideas Competition brief. There will be opportunities (paid or for course credit) for interested students to continue work on this project and document in the spring.

There is a fully funded trip (excluding food and transport to and from PDX airport) to Africatown from February 7-9. The trip is highly encouraged, but optional, so students may still enroll in the course even if they are unable to travel.

Course application process: CV + one paragraph description of what interests you in the course and how it aligns with your research area. Also indicate if you plan on participating in the field trip. Deadline for application is December 2.

Degree requirement fulfillment: Urban Architecture and Design specialization