Cities across the United States of America are experiencing record-breaking violence. The COVID-19 pandemic destabilized our already frail healthcare, education, and housing systems. Exacerbated numbers of poverty, unemployment, houselessness, and addiction are visible not only in major American cities, but in multiple sites around the world. Violence, however, is not only visible and felt. The current urban chaos is also the result of “nested socio-political, legal, and economical structures” that create oppression and inequity. **The urban is then, “also a social and existential condition”**.

This research seminar will establish an analog and digital laboratory of Urban Violence. Students will investigate, synthesize, document, and publish research on urban violence, by providing multiple definitions, manifestations, and representations of data and analysis, in order to posit an architectural proposal in the advanced architectural design studio in the winter and spring semester. Studio projects will range in program due to the nature of the investigation, however, all projects must respond, contest, and theorize on visible and invisible violence at all scales: individual, communal, regional, national, global, etc. All projects must also create or evolve existing urban infrastructure. Most projects will be one or multiple public/civic building(s) with urban systems to support program.