



SAS – SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES; LIFE STUDIES AND HUMAN SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COURSE TITLE: GENTRIFICATION: URBAN AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

COURSE CODE: GSUSGE300; GSANGE300; LSSOGE300

3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course delves deeper into the phenomenon of gentrification, exploring its history, dynamics, causes, and effect. The complex notion of gentrification will be defined with relations to the politics of housing, social justice, and urban developments. The notion will be framed with references to different periods and geographical contexts. Gentrification will be assessed through a variety of social, political, and economic factors such as race, ethnicity, poverty, aesthetics, rurality, organized crime, commodification, Disneyfication, and museumification. In the second half of the course, emphasis will be placed on the gentrifying spaces in Italy, and Florence in particular, and students will be guided to conduct field research to further examine the impacts that gentrification has on urban and social inequalities.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Become familiar with the phenomenon of gentrification and displacement and its evolution through time and space.
- Recognize how gentrification is a political, economic, and sociological issue affecting the social tissue and urban layout of cities.
- Understand how definitions of gentrification have varied with changing dynamics of urbanism.
- Identify how racial and ethnic composition impacts segregation and residential mobility.
- Gain knowledge about diverse typologies of gentrified areas in Italy and Florence, together with the driving forces at the basis of the phenomenon.
- Identify how the processes of museumification and Disneyfication represent specific cases of gentrification wherein certain types of cultural heritage are hegemonic.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of an introductory course in social sciences, urban studies, political sciences, or equivalent.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects, and site visits within the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

- Bighelli, Cecilia. *Mafia-Type Organized Crime in the Gentrifying City* in “Gentrification and Crime.” CPCL Series, 2020. Available [here](#).
- Calafati, Antonio. *The Changing Italian Cities: Emerging Imbalances and Conflicts*. GSSI Urban Studies, 2014. Available [here](#).
- Carrosio, Giovanni; Magnani, Natalia and Osti, Giorgio. “A Mild Rural Gentrification Driven by Tourism and Second Homes. Cases from Italy”, *Sociologia Urbana e Rurale*, 29-45, 2019. Available [here](#).
- Chaskin, Robert and Joseph, Mark. “Positive” Gentrification, Social Control and the “Right to the City” in Mixed-Income Communities: Uses and Expectations of Space and Place. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 37(2), 2013. Available [here](#).
- Hyra, Derek; Fullilove, Mindy; Moulden, Dominic and Silva, Katharine. “Contextualizing Gentrification Chaos: The Rise of the Fifth Wave”. *The Metropolitan Policy Center*, 2020. Available [here](#).
- Hwang, Jackelyn. “Gentrification without Segregation: Race and Renewal in a Diversifying City”, *Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies*, 2016. Available [here](#).
- Kruse, Jerome. *Gentrification of the Little Italies*. The City University of New York. Available [here](#).
- Lees, Loretta; Slater, Tom and Wyly, Elvin. *Gentrification*. Routledge, 2008.
- Lindner, Christoph and Sandoval, Gerard F. *Aesthetics of Gentrification: Seductive Spaces and Exclusive Communities in the Neoliberal City*. Amsterdam University Press, 2021. Available [here](#).
- Matusitz, Jonathan and Palermo, Lauren. “The Disneyfication of the World: A Globalisation Perspective”, *Journal of Organisational Transformation & Social Change*, 11(2): 91-107, 2014. Available [here](#).
- Oltrarno Gentrification Watch. Available [here](#).

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA-AUF library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTE GUELFA

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:
http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:
www.bibliotecadelleoblade.it

THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

10% Participation

25% Assignments

10% Final Presentation

20% Midterm Exam

25% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C- =70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA-AUF academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

An absence as per the FUA-AUF Academic Catalog is equivalent to 3 academic hours.

On the second absence the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the third absence the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

The **Midterm Exam** and the **Final Exam** account for 20% and 25% of the final course grade respectively. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

Format: the exam is divided into three sections:

- Part I: Multiple choice questions, for a total of 20 points.
- Part II: Short-answer questions, for a total 50 points.
- Part III: Essay questions, for a total of 30 points.

Assignments are worth 25% of the final grade. These are 400-words short papers touching on different aspects of gentrification. Guidelines are the following:

1. Explore a case study of gentrification in your area and discuss its dynamics.
2. Explore a case study related to the aesthetics of gentrification.
3. Visit and discuss the gentrified district of Novoli **or** the area surrounding Manifattura Tabacchi, supporting your arguments with photos and field research.
4. Discover and discuss a case study of Disneyfication or museumification in Florence, supporting your arguments with photos and field research.

The **Final Presentation** is worth 10% of the final grade. This is a group presentation focusing on an illustration of gentrification in Italy. The topic needs to be approved by the instructor.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Gentrification in the global world.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about the phenomenon of gentrification and displacements. Identify the interlinked nature of gentrification and neoliberalism. Recognize how gentrification is a political, economic, and sociological issue affecting social tissues and urban geographies.
Readings/ Assignments	Lees et al., <i>Preface</i> . <u>Watch</u> : <i>What are Gentrification and Displacement</i> .

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Appearance, models, and definitions of gentrification.
Objectives	Identify the historical background that led to the emergence and coining of gentrification. Gain knowledge about different definitions of gentrification. Recognize different models of gentrification. Become familiar with notions of value gap and rent gap.
Readings/ Assignments	Lees et al., <i>Gentrification</i> , Chapter 1.

Lesson 3

Meet	In class
Lecture	Causes and effects of gentrification. Evolution from the 1960s to today.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about the evolution of the term gentrification since it was first used. Identify the main cause and effects across different geographies and contexts. Understand how definitions of gentrification have varied with changing dynamics of urbanism.
Readings/ Assignments	Hyra et al., <i>Contextualizing Gentrification Chaos: The Rise of the Fifth Wave</i> . Assignment 1 is due.

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Race, ethnicity, and poverty.
Objectives	Identify how racial and ethnic composition impacts segregation and residential mobility. Recognize how gentrification favors particular neighborhoods at the expense of other residential areas. Understand the contemporary challenges in increasingly diversified cities.
Readings/ Assignments	Hwang, <i>Gentrification without Segregation: Race and Renewal in a Diversifying City</i> . Gather news about Le Piagge area and formulate hypotheses about its undercurrents.

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Aesthetics of gentrification.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about the interrelation of aesthetics, urban development, and global capital. Recognize how gentrification commodifies local culture and narratives. Understand how seductive spaces emerge and their current role in the political system.
Readings/ Assignments	Lindner and Sandoval, <i>Aesthetics of Gentrification</i> , Chapter 1.

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Evaluating gentrification: positive and negative connotations.
Objectives	Identify what is meant by “positive” gentrification. Recognize how gentrification creates tension between exclusion and inclusion. Gain knowledge about the quest to deconcentrate poverty and the subsequent frictions this policy creates.
Readings/ Assignments	Chaskin and Joseph, “Positive” Gentrification, <i>Social Control and the “Right to the City” in Mixed-Income Communities: Uses and Expectations of Space and Place</i> . Assignment 2 is due.

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Midterm Exam

Lesson 8	
	Academic Break

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Public policies and gentrification in Italy.
Objectives	Identify diverse typologies of gentrified areas in Italy, and the reasons which generated the phenomenon. Identify efforts made to create a post-crisis housing policy agenda. Understand how anti-gentrification is recently becoming a political discourse. Become familiar with the housing policy in Italy.
Readings/ Assignments	Annunziata, in Calafati (ed.), <i>The Changing Italian Cities</i> , “Gentrification and Public Policies in Italy.”

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Rural and eco-gentrification.
Objectives	Identify the meanings of rural and eco-gentrification. Gain familiarity with methods and methodologies employed to assess the residential and social dynamics of specific areas. Understand how tourism and the search for a second home has been the driver of limited ecological gentrification in Italian rural areas.
Readings/ Assignments	Carrosio et al., <i>A Mild Rural Gentrification Driven by Tourism and Second Homes. Cases from Italy</i> . Gather data on an example of rural or eco-gentrification and map changes in Italy.

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Gentrification and commodification in Florence.
Objectives	Explore various case studies of gentrified Florentine spaces. Gain knowledge about the dynamics of overtourism in the city. Understand the changing housing system in Florence. Identify the changing social tissue of the Oltrarno district.
Visit	Oltrarno, focus on the gentrification of this Florentine neighborhood.
Readings/ Assignments	<i>Oltrarno Gentrification Watch</i> . Assignment 3 is due.

Lesson 12	
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Meet	In class
Lecture	The rise of the mafia in the gentrifying city. Gentrification of the Little Italies in the United States.
Objectives	Investigate the relationship between mafia-type organized crime and gentrification. Be able to contextualize the global economic trends and public administration's measures as a way of attracting mafiosi's investment. Recognize how central elements of Italian American neighborhoods are represented in vernacular landscapes.
Readings/ Assignments	Bighelli, <i>Mafia-Type Organized Crime in the Gentrifying City</i> in "Gentrification and Crime." Krase, <i>Gentrification of the Little Italies</i> .

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Staging the city: the processes of museumification/museumization and Disneyfication.
Objectives	Identify how the process of museumification freezes certain aspects of cultural heritage for display, with specific reference to Florence. Understand how environments are transformed and simplified in a way that recalls the Walt Disney brand.
Readings/ Assignments	Matusitz and Palermo. <i>The Disneyfication of the World: A Globalisation Perspective</i> .

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The future of gentrification: possible scenarios. Final Presentations.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about how gentrification may evolve, and the various policies that are proposed to ensure social inclusion.
Readings/ Assignments	Submit Final Presentation Slides. Assignment 4 is due.

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final Exam