UTOPIA AND COUNTER-UTOPIA

“A map of the world that does not include utopia is not worth even glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which humanity is always landing.” Oscar Wilde

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines the rich tradition of utopian thinking in architecture, urban planning and the visual arts. Here, utopia is explored in its modern form: as a call to transform the world through human planning and ingenuity. The purpose of the course is to better understand the role that the utopian imagination has played in the construction of social practices, the development of urban and social planning models, and technologies of power.

COURSE SUMMARY

W1 Introduction
W2 Enter Utopia, Exit the Commons
W3 Industrial and Socialist Utopias
W4 Speed Cities
W5 Utopia in Print (Visit to Avery)
W6 The Tower in the Park
W7 Film: The Pruitt Igoe Myth
W8 Colonial Laboratories

W9 Spring Break
W10 Cybernetic and Transient Cities
W11 Ecological Utopias
W12 After Utopia
W13 Return of the Commons
W14 Student Presentations
W15 Student Presentations