

Spring 2018

HIST 585-8: Special Topics in History:

(cross-listed with ARTHIST 769-1/SOC 585-4)

Topic: Mastering the Archive

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Crawford	TH	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	14

Semester Description:

Atlanta was the site of both the first so-called “slum clearance” project in the United States, in 1934, and of America's first completed—though segregated—federally-funded public housing: Techwood Homes (for white families), and University Homes (for black families). These projects, composed of lowslung brick apartment buildings set in footpath-crossed open spaces, became models for New Deal housing projects built throughout the U.S. in the years following enactment of the National Housing Acts of 1934 and 1937, and will be the focus of this archivally-based seminar. Students will gain facility working in the archival environment through theoretical and historical readings and discussions, workshops with archival and library representatives, and, critically, through hands-on experience working in an Atlanta-area archive. Each student will be assigned a research repository to mine for materials on one or both of the two housing projects; these will include archives and libraries of the Atlanta History Center, Atlanta Housing Authority, Atlanta University (Woodruff Library), Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, and Emory’s own Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, & Rare Book Library. Through both individual and collective research, this seminar seeks to plot Atlanta on the interwar architectural map, establishing the city’s role as a clearinghouse for European social housing ideas in the U.S., and as the earliest home-grown precedent for New Deal public housing. Student research + writing may be featured in the new digital humanities project, Atlanta Housing Interplay, being developed by the professor with Emory Center for Digital Scholarship (ECDS).

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

TBA

Grading:

TBA