GENTRIFICATION IS DISPLACEMENT AND REPLACEMENT OF THE POOR FOR PROFIT
SYLLABUS BY SCHOOL OF ECHOES

This syllabus starts from the assumption that housing is a human right, that every person has the right to a safe and affordable place to live. Housing is much more than shelter: it is our connection to our communities, even our sense of self. This syllabus draws together a host of readings that explore the profound contradictions between the economic use of housing—for profit and speculation—and this social use.

ALL MATERIAL AVAILABLE ONLINE AT bit.ly/anti-gentrification

1. GENTRIFICATION IS NOT COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
   - Peter Moskowitz, 2017, “New Orleans,” How to Kill a City
   - David Madden and Peter Marcuse, 2016, “The Residential is Political” and “Against the Commodification of Housing,” In Defense of Housing
   - Causa Justa, “Development Without Displacement: Executive Summary”

2. GENTRIFICATION IS NOT REVITALIZATION
   - School of Echoes, 2017, “How to Stop Arts-Fueled Gentrification”
   - Martha Rosler, 2011, “Culture Class: Art, Creativity, Urbanism Part II”
   - BHAAAD, 2016, “A Short History of a Long Struggle”

3. GENTRIFICATION IS COLLECTIVE TRAUMA
   - Uver Santa Cruz and Julian Smith-Newman, “LATU Tenant Story”
   - Causa Justa & Alameda County Public Health Department, “Gentrification Is a Public Health Issue”

4. GENTRIFICATION RELIES ON PRIOR DIVESTMENT OF LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES

We, School of Echoes, a multi-racial and multi-generational autonomous collective of organizers, teachers, and sometimes artists, have collected this research in support of a practice of anti-gentrification organizing in Los Angeles: through shared leadership with Union de Vecinos, participation in the Boyle Heights Alliance Against Artwashing and Displacement, and as co-founders of the Los Angeles Tenants Union, where we give our energies daily. We hope that you will read these texts with others, and that what you read will support you in understanding the compounding struggles of tenants within contemporary capitalism and our current political system, and inspire you to join us in the movement for housing as a human right.
5. **Gentrification is speculation framed as redevelopment**

- Laura Gottesdiener, 2013 “How Wall Street Has Turned Housing Into a Dangerous Get-Rich-Quick Scheme—Again,” *Mother Jones*
- Emily Badger, 2016, “Why a housing scheme founded in racism is making a resurgence today,” *Washington Post*

6. **Gentrification promotes economic growth over the stability and well-being of citizens**

- Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore, 2005, “Neoliberalism and the urban condition,” *City*
- Peter Moskowitz, 2017, “San Francisco,” *How to Kill a City*
- Patrick Range McDonald, 2013, “Hollywood’s Urban Cleansing,” *LA Weekly*
- Crenshaw Subway Coalition, “Crenshaw Mall Redevelopment: Urban Cleansing by Another Name”

7. **Gentrification harasses, incarcerates, and kills**

- Ben Holtzman, “Gentrification’s First Victims,” *Jacobin*
- Rebecca Solnit, “Death by gentrification: the killing that shamed San Francisco,” *The Guardian*
- Youth Justice Coalition, “The Echo Park Gang Injunction”

8. **Gentrification follows the colonial logics of capitalism**

- David Harvey, 2005 “Accumulation by Dispossession,” *The New Imperialism*
- David Harvey, 2010, “Crises of Capitalism,” animated lecture
- Peter Kwong, 2009, “Answers About the Gentrification of Chinatown,” *NY Times*
- La Quirky Nancy, 2017, “Nancy Discovers Weird Wave Coffee”

9. **Capitalism is the housing crisis: market solutions fail**

- David Madden and Peter Marcuse, 2016, “The myths of housing policy,” *In Defense of Housing*
- Elizabeth Capelle, 2017, “The Housing Crisis Is Not Inevitable,” *Jacobin*

10. **We need control to build our own housing**

- Los Angeles Tenants Union, 2016, “Naming the Moment”
- Decolonize This Place, 2016, “The People’s Housing Plan”
- You Can’t Evict a Movement: Strategies for Housing Justice, 2015, ed. by Viewpoint