How did early Soviet architects and planners frame their creative endeavors in light of the successful socialist revolution? Did their design work produce new ways of living, as purported?

Using Soviet architecture and cities as primary material evidence, this seminar will utilize maps and plans, original texts, scholarly writings, excerpts from works of literature, and period films to immerse students in a series of socialist built environments. We will study temporary agitational structures, house-communes, workers’ clubs, and socialist cities of varying types and geographies, each of which will allow us to explore and analyze the complex relationship between space and socio-political ideology.

No knowledge of Russian required.