

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense grid of streets and buildings. A prominent river, the Hudson River, flows through the city from the top to the bottom. The text is overlaid on the image.

# AMERICAN SPACE

## **a geography of architecture**

### **working with satellite photos, historic images, and district plans**

Taking its name from a work by the transcontinental-trekking, vernacular-landscape historian J.B. Jackson, this course invites you to create an itinerary on a theme of your choosing, for a road trip of your own. While awaiting election results in precarious times, know that the name of the land cannot belong to any one faction, nor does anyone have a monopoly on truth or error. For a weekly window on such pluralities, the seminar first shares a short reading from OG environmental historian Carolyn Merchant, and then turns to the latest stop on each participant's growing itinerary. The result is your own booklet of annotated aerials, with the option to compose one more page each week, and the requirement to do at least half the time. Past themes have for example explored urban riverfronts, rural airstrips, farmers' granges, coastal forts, park lodges, hydropower, intentional communities. What will you learn to see in new ways? If travel is the education of the architect, this is good preparation.