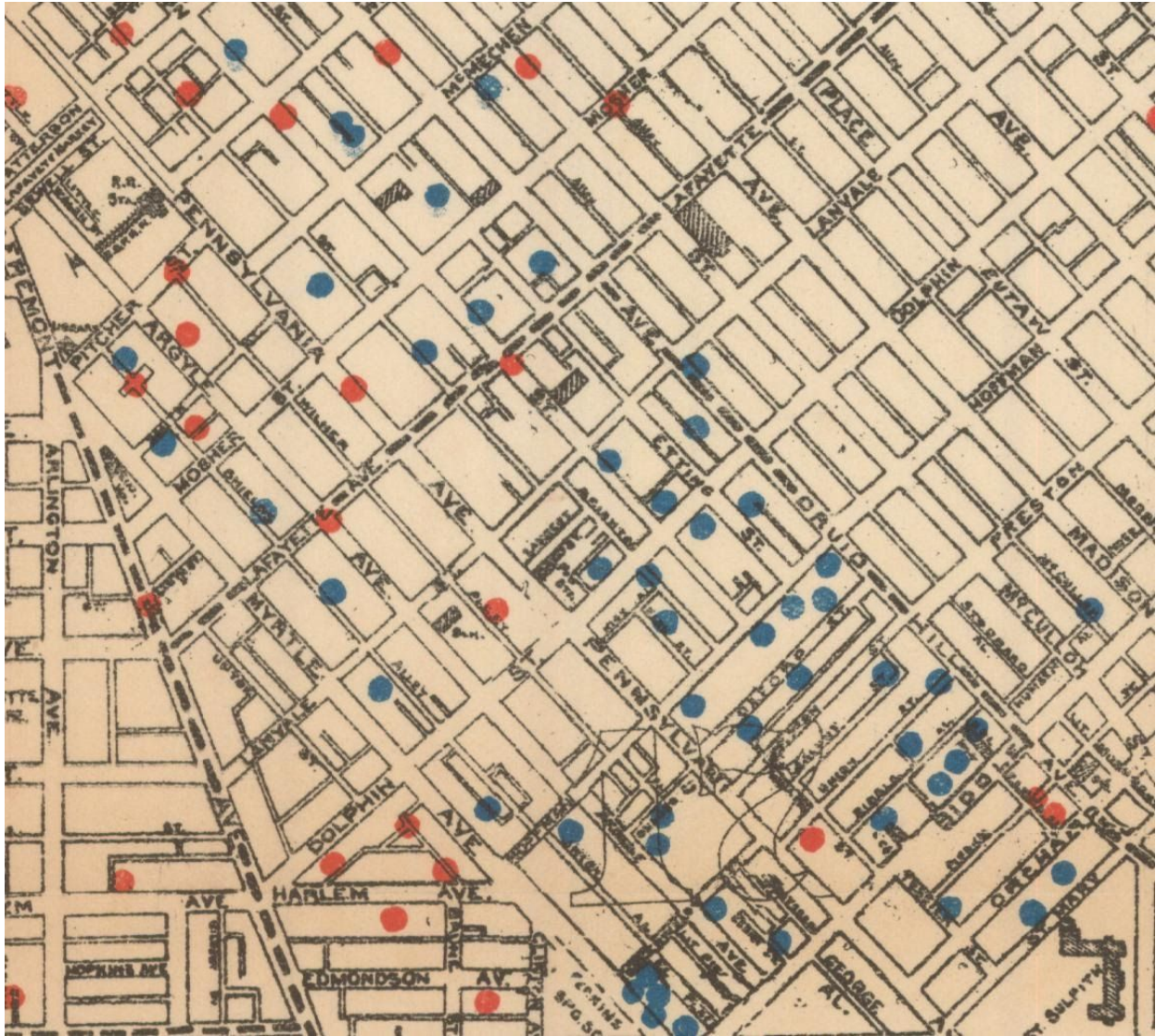


Of quarantines and sanitary enclaves: The spatial politics of health and disease

Architectural spaces, infrastructures, landscapes, urban environments, and national territories are deeply intertwined with experiences and understandings of epidemic disease. This advanced seminar offers critical perspectives on the spatial politics and built environments of infectious disease and public health. Moving away from aspirations of technofixes that purport to reimagine urban life in epidemic contexts, we will draw from research in the history of architecture and planning, history of medicine, critical geography, urban studies, and medical anthropology to investigate how processes of uneven urban development configure disease transmission and vulnerability, often in ways that are highly differentiated across lines of race, class, and gender. We will also examine how understandings of contagion, hygiene, social isolation, surveillance, epidemiology, disease vectors, pathogens, etc. contour the spatial, material, and aesthetic forms of the built environment, while circumscribing possibilities for care, response/responsibility, and collective life. Through reading, writing, lectures, and conversations, and the use of particular spatial ‘objects’—such as the sanitary enclave, the disease map, the quarantine zone, the urban periphery, the sanatorium, the park, and the breeding ground—we will trace the intersections of disease and space as historically-situated, multi-scalar, differentially experienced, and productive of new territorializations and de-territorializations.



Baltimore's Lower Druid Hill Neighborhood on the Baltimore City Health Department's tuberculosis mortality spot map for 1902, with blue dots representing Black deaths and red dots representing white deaths. Source: Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University.