



DePaul University
The First-Year Program
The Theater School Chicago Quarter 2008
Course Descriptions

Bridge Discover Courses

From Halsted to Diversity: Ethnic Neighborhoods in Chicago

ISP 103, TH 11:50-2:50, Lincoln Park

R.J. Isackson, English

This course explores the character, richness, diversity, and even some of the tensions of a great city. We will experience diversity and ethnicity by traveling to neighborhoods and visiting people and places -- schoolyards, museums, bakeries — all people and places that contribute to the diversity of Chicago.

Discover Chicago Courses

Chicago in Sound

ISP 103, TH 1:30-4:00, Lincoln Park

Anuj Sarma, Physics

A train whizzing by on the El, dolphins screaming at Shedd, drum beaters on Michigan Avenue - these are all examples of how sound produces a unique feel to the city of Chicago, via the stimulation of physical and psychological responses in people. However, sound is also a physical phenomenon, subject to the laws of science. In this course, students will explore our community via sound and learn how diverse areas of human activity - science, art, psychology, history, etc., can be impacted by the science of sound, and how this can be used to get a fuller picture of our community.

Houses of Dreams: Chicago Theatres

ISP 103, TTH 1:30-3:00, Lincoln Park

Donald Ilko, Theatre

The class will visit a number of old movie palaces in Chicago's Loop, legitimate theatres (like Steppenwolf and the Goodman), and off-Loop theatres like TimeLine and Victory Gardens. The purpose of the class is to revel in the glories of 1920s architecture and see the changes and adaptations that have been made to theatres (so they can be used for stage shows) and to investigate newer theatre spaces and see what is being done when theatres are built today.

International Chicago

ISP 103, TTH 3:10-4:40, Lincoln Park

Patrick Callahan, Political Science

This course will look at the ways that Chicago has become an international city. Among the topics we might examine are: coverage of foreign news in the local media, representation of foreign governments in Chicago, Chicago as a center of international trade and tourism, foreign students in Chicago and at DePaul, foreign study by DePaul students, immigrant communities as international actors, activities of local groups opposing or supporting the war in Iraq, Chicago-area international relations groups, the foreign policy bureaucracies in the Chicago area, international businesses located in Chicago and local labor unions and their position on trade policy, human rights groups, and the activities of the government of the city of Chicago. We will take some field trips to visit interesting locales and we will have occasional guest speakers in class.

Wired and Wireless Chicago: The Digital Divide

ISP 103, T 1:30-4:00, Loop

Amber Settle, Computer Science

Access to technology and to appropriate training for a sensible, productive use of technology is a central issue of our times, with fundamental repercussions on the economy and the educational system. Having efficient, affordable, fast access to the Internet is becoming more and more commonplace in our society. Thanks to wireless technology, urban affluent areas are quickly becoming oases in which Internet connectivity is available everywhere at all times. But what about the truly "wireless" components of our society? Are there groups of citizens that are being left out of this epochal transformation? How real is the Digital Divide? Do race and ethnicity play a role; do income level, age, or gender? Is Chicago reflecting the general national trends or is the city showing a peculiar pattern? The course proceeds along two different, interacting streams: a technical, informative one and a reflective, critical one. The technical stream has the overarching goal of endowing students with an up-to-date vocabulary of terms, acronyms and basic concepts that allow them to be responsible, educated protagonists of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution. The reflective stream focuses primarily on the social justice issues interwoven with ICT.

Honors Discover Chicago Courses

Poverty amidst Plenty

HON 111, TH 1:30-4:00, Lincoln Park

Michael Edwards, Liberal Arts & Sciences

Food, shelter, healthcare, education, work – five pre-conditions necessary for the “pursuit of happiness” that the Declaration of Independence identifies as each person’s “unalienable right.” Without them the pursuit of happiness risks becoming a hopeless, Quixotic quest. Yet not all Americans have access to these basic necessities. Some go hungry, some are homeless, some lack health insurance, some attend under-funded, unsafe schools, some do not earn a living wage. Who are these people – the poor and near-poor? What are their lives like? What assistance is available to them? What is the best way to help them – a free-market economy, government intervention, private charitable efforts, community activism,...? What obligation do we as individuals and as a society have to help our fellow human beings? How is poverty in the U.S. the same as or different from poverty in the developing world? These are the issues and questions around which Immersion Week and the seminar component of the course will take shape. The issues that you, the students, choose to explore, the further questions that you generate, the research and the service that you undertake will add to this structure.

Explore Chicago Courses

Chicago’s Disabled Communities

ISP 102, TTH 3:10-5:10, Lincoln Park

Karen Meyer, Sociology

The disabled community is the fastest and largest growing minority group in the United States. One out of every five individuals has a disability and over a half million disabled people live in Chicago. However, there are a large number of disabled people who travel to the city for work, school, services and social activities. This course will focus on specific disability issues and the impact they have on Chicago's disabled community. Those issues include legal rights for people with disabilities, employment opportunities, accessibility, health care, service organizations, movers and shakers in the community, and more.

Health in the City

ISP 102, T 1-5, Lincoln Park

Ronald Graf

Health and illness are socially constructed ideas with personal, political, cultural, and economic dimensions. Accordingly health care is a social commodity rationed to individuals, families, and communities according to rules of class, race, sex, and age. This course explores the many faces of health, illness and health care in the urban environment. Students will tour diverse neighborhoods and health care facilities in Chicago, while learning about the health professions and how they each contribute to the health in the city.

Power, Politics, and Race in Chicago

ISP 102, TTH 1:30-3:30, Loop

William Sampson, Public Policy Studies

This course shall examine the policies and politics of Mayors Richard J. Daley, Harold Washington, and Richard M. Daley, especially as these policies and the politics which shape them have been influenced by and influence race in Chicago. The dominant concerns shall be power and politics, but in a city such as Chicago race cannot be ignored, given that so many of the policies and most of the politics have racial implications. Housing, economic development, parks and recreation are all very important policy areas upon which these mayors have focused. Education, however, is a key area. Thus, questions and concerns in this area will be a major focal point of this course.

Puerto Rican Chicago

ISP 102, TTH 3:10-5:10, Lincoln Park

Marisol Morales, Latin American & Latino Studies

This course seeks to introduce first-year students to Puerto Rican culture as it manifests in Chicago. We focus on the history and ongoing evolution of the Puerto Rican community in Chicago. We examine the transnational migration history and current situation of this community and the ways in which migration continues to shape the social, cultural, political and economic landscape. We study how the community has organized and is fighting gentrification. We will visit and study the making of what is known as Puerto Rican Humboldt Park. Students will learn about the community through visits to its cultural institutions, discussions with community leaders, and literary and academic readings by/about Puerto Ricans in Chicago.

Rat’s Eye View of Chicago

ISP 102, TTH 1:30-3:30, Lincoln Park

Ronald Edwards, Biological Sciences

The rat is an urban citizen living with and among us in Chicago, in very great numbers. How much do you know about these creatures? What sort of animal is a rat? How smart is a rat? What's its daily life like? How many of them are there? Is there a rat "society"? What policies, practices, and institutions reflect our interaction with them? How do Chicago's neighborhoods differ in this regard? How are rats used in medical and ecological research, and what do we learn from them? How are rats and humans linked by disease and illness? How has human history been affected by rats in the past? How relevant are those events to policy today? To address these questions, we will make use of Chicago's city management offices, private businesses, medical facilities, research facilities, and activist organizations. You'll be amazed at how much of your life may be understood from the rat's point of view.

Honors Explore Chicago Courses

Chicago in Film

HON 110, TTH 12:50-2:50

Douglas Long, Communication

Chicago has been represented on film since the early silent days, when Charlie Chaplin and others made films at Essanay Studios. It continues today with dramas such as *The Break-up* (2006), *Chicago Ten* (2007), and the upcoming *Public Enemies*, featuring Johnny Depp as John Dillinger, whom the FBI caught and killed in Lincoln Park a few blocks from campus. Sometimes "screen Chicago" has been filmed here, but often not. Some of the most famous representations were filmed in Hollywood, particularly the early 1930s gangster classics *The Public Enemy*, *Little Caesar*, and the original *Scarface*. Even the Oscar-winning *Chicago* (2002), obviously set in the Windy City, was filmed in Toronto. We will discuss Chicago's on-screen representations and visit local sites where films were filmed or set.

Through the Lens: Documenting the Many Faces of Chicago

HON 110, TH 1-5, Loop

Harold Streeter, Computing and Digital Media

Ask people the world over for the first thing that comes to mind when you mention Chicago and you'll receive a variety of responses, from the skyscraper to Al Capone, from financial powerhouse to the blues. Chicago has many faces, both as an urban center and as home to a large and diverse populace. Throughout its history, photographers have documented virtually all these faces of Chicago. These photographs are not impartial or disinterested: they are firmly situated within the context of their time and the perspective of the photographer. This course will allow students to use the documentary photograph as a vehicle for appreciating the widely-differing faces of Chicago both through the eyes of other photographers as well as through their own. We will explore the origins and history of documentary photography, from its origins in travel and war reportage in the late 19th century, through its exemplary "social reform" phase during the 1930s, to its redefinition in the postmodern era, drawing on Chicago-based examples whenever possible.