



DePaul University
The First-Year Program
Bridge Discover Chicago 2008
Course Descriptions

Chicago's Great Public Spaces

ISP 103, MW 9:10-10:40, Lincoln Park

Daniel Stolar, English

Join our team in exploring where Chicagoans come together: the great spaces of downtown Chicago. We'll visit places such as Navy Pier, The Harold Washington Library, and the Chicago Cultural Center. We'll look at the great public spaces of Chicago to see how they contribute to the life of the city. If you're new to the city, you'll have a great introduction to the Loop. If you're a Chicagoland resident, you'll gain an in-depth view of places that you've just walked or driven by. On immersion days, we will visit major public spaces and photograph, map, and classify what we see. On each day, teams of students will serve as day leaders to help the class understand the concepts, people, and events connected with these places. We'll learn a lot about city planning, architecture, and the rise of Chicago. By the end of the course, you will have created a photojournal that documents your own vision of the city's public space.

City Forms and Social Purpose

ISP 103, MWF 4-5, Lincoln Park

Noel Barker, Sociology

We will infer a social agenda about class, race, wealth and success from our visits to city architecture, neighborhoods, public areas, museums, and stores. On each day trip, we will visit a variety of sites to make observations about class, race and gender segregation, use of public and private space, history of ethnicity, and political power. At the sites we will discuss what the philanthropist, architect, city planner, resident, politician, entrepreneur, curator, or manager intended when an effect was produced. Finally, we will observe what the resident, consumer, or visitor actually experiences in these places. Chicago Historical Society, downtown architecture, Cultural Center, Art Institute, Michigan Ave. and Oak St. stores North shore houses, Bridgeport neighborhood, stockyards, State St. housing projects, University of Chicago Police Museum, Washington Library, Metropolitan Correctional Center, Pacific Garden Mission Hull House, Italian Taylor St. and Greek Halsted St., UIC Campus ABLA projects. Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, south loop housing, River City, Maxwell St. Each student will carry a small notebook for field notes on observations. A question will be posed during each field trip for a one page formally written answer due at the beginning of the next week's trip.

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.

Growing Up in Chicago

ISP 103, MW 3:30-5, Lincoln Park

Janet Flood, English

While often youth-related activities in Chicago's prominent suburbs are likely to capture the attention of the media, the thriving and diverse opportunities available to children growing up within the city are less likely to be examined. This course seeks to understand how children develop, why families choose to raise their families in an urban environment, and what resources Chicago in particular has to offer children. Some of the destinations we will explore almost need no introduction as people, young and old, resident and tourist, flock to these sites for their obvious riches. More often, though, we will visit places that can be considered "buried treasures," which are integral to the daily lives of many Chicago youth.

Mexican/Chicano Experience in Chicago

ISP 103, MWF 12-1, Lincoln Park

Maria Beltran-Vocal, Modern Languages

This course will explore the resistance, acculturation, and assimilation of Mexicans as these qualities have been expressed through film, music, and writing. Our course intends to study the presence of and contributions to the development of Chicago through the lives of Chicanos and Mexicans.

Sacred Spaces, Powerful Stories

ISP 103, TH 9-11:30, Lincoln Park

F. Javier Orozco, University Ministry

How is it that some physical locations have deeper meanings and thus become symbolically powerful and sometimes "sacred," in people's experiences? Who or what makes a particular place "sacred"? What do we really mean when we say something is sacred? In

order to address these and similar questions about our understanding of the “sacred,” during the summer section of the course we will visit a number of Chicago religious and public places. As we encounter these different Chicago locations, we will pay attention to the particular religious language, ethos, aesthetics, interpretative traditions, and politics that give “sacred” meaning to these places. The experiential learning of the “sacred” that will emerge from our visits will be complemented in the latter part of the course (autumn section) by a series of readings that will further enrich our understanding of the same. These readings will also focus on the language, ethics, hermeneutics, aesthetics and politics of the “sacred.” Through our summer excursions, class lectures, required readings and class discussions we will develop a broader and more critical understanding of the “sacred.”