

Core Course

Chicago: a City of Many Dimensions

Core Course Faculty:

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All Chicago Programs' students enroll in our interdisciplinary Core Course which aims to introduce the place and identity of Chicago. The three tracks will integrate by exploring how the arts, business, and socio-political issues intertwine. This integration intentionally views the city through three lenses by asking important questions that cross broad disciplinary boundaries. Guest speakers from around the city will spark discussions and reflection. Common readings and projects will prompt conversation, creativity, research, and exploration. And, most importantly, Core Course will get you into Chicago to meet the people defining its culture, confronting its problems, and reshaping its business. Through it all, you will contextualize the Chicago you live and work in everyday within its own rich and complex history and imagine how the city's identity might continue to evolve.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Empowered to explore Chicago as a resident/citizen rather than a tourist
- Consider complex issues from multiple perspectives
- Engage in informed debate and dialog
- Better understand history as it relates to the current condition
- View the city and its issues as a connected web and ever changing organism
- Accept challenges beyond your comfort zone
- Apply concepts in new and varied contexts

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Core Course Reader, available in electronic format on [this website](#)
- A Chicago Public Library Card

SCHEDULE

Core Course meets all Fridays of the semester for two sessions, one in the morning (typically 9:30-11:30am) and another in the afternoon (typically 1:00-4:00pm). Additionally, there are a few required events outside of these normal times:

Gene Siskel film center: "Louder Than A Bomb"	Tuesday, 2/8
Chicago History Museum	Monday, 2/14
Trinity UCC Church Service	Sunday, 4/10

COURSE ENGAGEMENT & CODE OF CONDUCT

Attendance, participation, flexibility and etiquette are all important keys to successful engagement in the core course. Because we meet only once per week, missing sessions interrupts your ability to get the benefit out of the course. We cannot create make-up assignments, and much of what occurs in class contributes to your assignments and grades.

Exploring the city and these topics in this experiential manner is a gift. You are learning "outside of the box" by visiting and meeting with the array of people we have lined up for you. This type of learning requires that we are all flexible enough to tolerate a bit of uncertainty from time to time. We will often travel to sites in large groups, or meet as small groups in other locations. We ask that you be attentive to time and travel. From time to time we will have special instructions or guidance, or changes to the schedule or assignments. We'll make sure you get this information in class or via email.

We will meet together as a group and will frequently travel to sites around the city to meet with people from various communities, organizations. Its important to be mindful that we will host speakers and will also be guests in many community spaces.

You will learn a great deal from the many activities we've planned for you. We expect that you consider each session as important to your learning, as you would on your campus. Come prepared to actively engage in the class. Laptop computers are not necessary, but taking bringing a notebook of your choice (a small tablet) is highly suggested. Much of what you will be asked to write about, respond to, debate about, etc. will require your recall and understanding of the materials and conversations you are engaged in.

Under no circumstances should cellphones be used in any of our class sessions.

ATTENDANCE

Due to the experiential nature of the program, Core Course has a very strict policy on absences and tardiness: we expect you to attend every class session. We will consider excusing up to two absences

in the case of illness or other emergency with advance notice and at the discretion of the instructors. 50 points are deducted from the final grade for each unexcused absence. You are considered tardy 10 minutes after each class starts and this will be counted against your grade as well, as will leaving a session early. Each a.m. and p.m. counts as one session (typically two sessions each day).

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are expected to be submitted when they are due. Any assignment submitted later than the due date will be graded down by 25%. Assignments will be accepted up to three days after the due date for half credit, but will not receive any credit after that three day window. Any assignments that involve presentations cannot be made up and will result in a total loss of points. Computer/email issues do not warrant an excuse from this policy. We recommend that you purchase a USB flash drive so you can transport and print assignments when technological difficulties occur.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Chicago Image's Assignment	Friday, 2/24	100 points
Neighborhood Change Pre-Field Visit Assignment #1	Friday, 3/4	25 points
Neighborhood Change Assignment #2	Friday, 3/11	75 points
Sustainable Chicago Assignment #1	Friday, 3/25	50 points
Sustainable Chicago In-class Assignment #2	Friday, 3/25	50 points
Labor in the City Assignment	Friday, 4/8	100 points
Race & the City Assignment	Friday, 4/29	100 points
Education Chicago Style Assignment	Friday, 5/13	100 points
Chicago Programs Portfolio		100 points
Core Course Final Exam		100 points
		800 points possible