

# Core Course

## Chicago: a City of Many Dimensions

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What is Chicago's identity? The "city of broad shoulders"? The "hog butcher for the world"? A place of transformation and re-invention? Is Chicago defined by the Sears Tower? Wrigley Field? Its experimental artists? Its innovative businessmen? Its dirty politicians? Its active citizens? In 1909, Daniel Burnham--infamous architect and Columbian Exposition designer--"made no little plans" when he proposed an ambitious identity for Chicago's future. In the Plan of Chicago, Burnham proposed many improvements (parks, boulevards, transportation systems, downtown development, etc) in order to surpass the glory and size of Paris. Sponsored by the city's elite Commercial Club, Burnham's Plan was grounded in the philosophy of City Beautiful: that pleasing aesthetics can inspire civic pride and thus community investment and development. Of course, the neoclassical beauty he intended and the Plan's overweighted focus on the downtown area left out large groups of people and huge areas of the city. Nearly 100 years later, some of Burnham's vision has become reality and Chicago is a very different city.

The Plan of Chicago establishes the historical context for making certain claims about Chicago; it starts the conversation, and leads the exploration into Chicago's history, its unique identity, its illustrative diversity grounded in its neighborhoods, its unscrupulous characters, its struggles for power, and the inventiveness of its people and institutions. By questioning their assumptions about Chicago students will discover themselves as transformed agents of change in the arts, as innovators, and in reshaping their communities. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach in viewing Chicago. This allows students to examine the city from multiple perspectives.

### 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 from the Chicago Programs Office
- 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:

Chicago History Museum	Monday, 2/8, 9:30-11:30am
Race Unit (Required for Blues Group, Optional for others)	Friday, 3/19, 4:00-8:00pm
Trinity UCC Church Service	Sunday, 3/21, 10:30-2:00pm

## GRADING & ATTENDANCE

Core Course has a very strict policy on absences and tardiness. Two absences are allowed after which any additional absence or tardy will negatively impact your grade. 35 points are deducted from the final grade for each absence beyond the two allowed. You are considered tardy 10 minutes after each class starts and will be counted against your grade as well, as will leaving a session early. Each a.m. and p.m. counts as 1 session (2 sessions each day).

Icons & Identity Readings	Friday, 2/5	
Chicago Identity "Found" Poem	Friday, 2/12	100 points
Neighborhood Identity Assignment	Friday, 2/19	25 points
Journalistic Article/Narrative Story	Friday, 2/26	75 points
Planning Reading Response	Friday, 3/5	25 points
Individual Planning Assignment	Friday, 3/12	40 points
Group Planning Assignment	Friday, 3/12 (Completed In-Class)	35 points
Race in the City Reading Response	Friday, 3/19	25 points
Race Written Reflection	Friday, 3/26	75 points

Parks Readings	Friday, 4/9	
Parks Assignment(s)	Friday, 4/16	100 points
City Beautiful Readings	Friday, 4/23	
City Beautiful Photo Essay	Friday, 5/7	100 points
Final Exam	Wednesday, 5/12	100 points
Each unexcused absence (beyond first two)		-35 points
		<b>700 TOTAL POINTS</b>

### **POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments are expected to be submitted when they are due. Any assignment submitted later than the due date will automatically have half of the points deducted from the assignment total.

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.

Sunday, January 31

All day

[Orientation](#)

Monday, February 1

All day

[Orientation](#)

Tuesday, February 2

All day

[Orientation](#)

Wednesday, February 3

All day

[Orientation](#)

Thursday, February 4

All day

[Orientation](#)

Friday, February 5

All day

[DUE: Icons & Identity Readings](#)

9:30am

[CORE: Intro](#)

12:00pm

[Northside Group: Lunch in Neighborhood](#)

1:00pm

[CORE: Icons Tour](#)

Monday, February 8

9:30am

CORE: History Museum

Friday, February 12

All day

DUE: Chicago Identity "Found" Poem

9:00am

CORE: Toxic Tour

12:00pm

Lunch in Neighborhood

1:00pm

CORE: Neighborhood Plenary

Friday, February 19

All day

DUE: Neighborhood Identity Assignment

9:30am

CORE: Neighborhood Field Visits

12:00pm

Lunch in Neighborhood

1:00pm

CORE: Neighborhood Field Visits

Friday, February 26

All day

DUE: Journalistic Article/Narrative Story

9:30am

CORE: Neighborhood Reflection

1:00pm

CORE: Planning Plenary

Friday, March 5

All day

DUE: Planning Reading Response

9:30am

CORE: Pullman Field Visit

12:00pm

Lunch in Neighborhood

1:00pm

CORE: Pullman Field Visit

Friday, March 12

All day

DUE: Individual Planning Assignment

9:30am

CORE: Planning Reflection

1:00pm

CORE: Race Plenary

Friday, March 19

All day

Race Reading Response

9:30am

CORE: Race Field Visits

4:00pm

Blues Concert (required for Blues Group)

Sunday, March 21

10:30am

CORE: Trinity UCC

Friday, March 26

All day

Race Written Reflection

9:30am

CORE: Race Reflection

1:00pm

Midterm Party

Friday, April 2

All day

No Class

Friday, April 9

9:30am

CORE: Parks Plenary

1:00pm

CORE: Parks Field Visits

Friday, April 16

All day

DUE: Parks Assignment

9:30am

CORE: Parks Reflection

Friday, April 23

All day

DUE: City Beautiful Readings

9:30am

CORE: Beauty Plenary

1:00pm

CORE: Neighborhood Public Art Tours

Friday, April 30

9:30am

CORE: Architecture Tours

1:00pm

CORE: Beauty Reflection

Friday, May 7

All day

DUE: Photo Essay

9:30am

CORE: Photo Essay Sharing

1:00pm

CORE: Final Exam Review Session

Wednesday, May 12

All day

[CORE: Final Exam](#)

Showing events until 7/15.