UNIV 110.001: Exploring the United States through Chicago

Location: Room 105, Corboy Law Center, Water Tower Campus

Instructor: Michael Hines
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Time: Fridays 4:15p.m.-6:45p.m.

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

The city of Chicago is a place of diverse cultures, rich history, and vibrant urban life. Using the city as a lens, this course seeks to explore a wide range of contemporary American issues, including politics, history, race, class, and culture by examining how they play out in the “Windy City”. Chicago Center students will strengthen their speaking, writing, analysis, and presentation skills through the course content, which includes formal lectures, guest speakers, and a number of outings that allow us to move beyond the campus and explore the sights and sounds of Chicago.

Learning Outcomes

The following represent the objectives or learning outcomes we will accomplish throughout the course:

- Students will identify key events, people, and places that have impacted the growth and development of the city of Chicago.

- Students will strengthen their presentation skills by presenting a short analysis of an article from a local news outlet.

- Students will strengthen their written communication through journaling and editing assignments.

- Students will apply basic research techniques in order to complete a collaborative project focusing on the history and culture of one of Chicago’s historic neighborhoods.

- Students will display an attitude of open mindedness and cultural sensitivity by working in cross cultural groups throughout the semester.

IDEA Standards

The following represent the IDEA standards chosen for this course. These standards will be assessed at the end of the semester through the course evaluation, which will help determine the progress we made in achieving our learning outcomes.

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
- Developing skill in expressing myself orally and in writing.
- Acquiring skills in working with others as members of a team.
- Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intercultural activity.

Required Materials

Please bring writing utensils and a notebook to every class, as well as a folder to keep any important information you receive. There are no required texts, as all course readings will be made available via Sakai, but it is the responsibility of the student to use Sakai to manage and print these materials.

Assignments

Students will be graded on a number of different assessments that seek to build their skills in writing, editing, and presenting.
Forums: 25%
“In the News” Presentation: 10%
Midterm Assignment (Chicago Neighborhood Project): 25%
Final Presentation: 25%
Participation: 15%
Total: 100%

Assignment Descriptions

Forums: Forums are 5 small assignments given throughout the semester. For each you will log into the course site for UNIV 110 on Sakai, then find the forums label, located on the menu running down the left of the screen. Once in there you will select that week’s forum. I will have posted topics with questions or prompts for you to respond to under each. You should be ready to:

- Pick one of the topics listed under that week’s forum.
- Read what I’ve written.
- Write 250-500 words in which you answer the questions for that topic.
- Lastly, take the time to read a response from another classmate. Once you are done write 50-100 words tell them what you think about their response (Did you agree? Disagree? Do you want to add something to what they’ve said? Does their response make you change your mind or shed new light on the issue?)

In the News Presentation: An individual presentation. Each student will sign up to bring in an article related to a particular topic covered in class. Students will explain the content of the article, provide a visual aid (either ppt. or Prezi), and answer questions from the class about the topic.

Midterm Assignment (Chicago Neighborhood Project): Group project group centering on a neighborhood in Chicago. Groups will create a short research paper describing the neighborhood, as well as a video guide showcasing important places within the neighborhood to show to the class.

Final Presentation: Each student will complete a final 5 minute speech at the end of the semester in order to reflect and share their thoughts and reactions to their experience in the U.S. This assignment will center on choosing an object from the semester that best represents some aspect of their time here, and explaining what the object is and its significance.

Participation: Composite score based on attendance (including timeliness), and willingness to take part in class discussions and activities. Students who miss more than 1 class without being excused by the instructor will have their grade lowered a half a letter (Ex. A to A-) each time.

Grading Scale

Assignments will be graded based on the following scale:

A= 92-100
B= 84-91
C= 76-83
D= 67-76
F= 66-below

Class Expectations

Students are required to complete all assignments by the due date. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per day unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

Attendance is expected at every class. If you are unable to attend a class meeting or outing for any reason, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor beforehand, explain your situation, and ask that you be excused.

Since this course is built on forming a community of learners, your participation and input are absolutely key to your learning as well as the success of the class as a whole. You are expected to come to class each week prepared
with any readings or assignments, and ready to take an active part in class and small group discussions. **In order to create an environment where everyone’s voice can be appreciated and heard, cell phones must be silenced and away, and laptops must be closed during class unless used specifically for note taking. Failure to appropriately use technology will affect your participation grade.**

**Academic Honesty**
Academic honesty is an expression of the responsibility of Loyola University faculty, students, and staff, to pursue knowledge with sincerity, honesty, and integrity. Plagiarism, presenting someone else’s words, images, or ideas, WITHOUT giving credit, will not be tolerated. A student’s failure to practice academic honesty, depending on the severity of the misconduct, will result in sanctions ranging from the grade of F for the assignment to expulsion from the program.

For specific policies and procedures, see the following website:
http://luc.edu/education/academics_policies_integrity.shtml

**Schedule**
The following is a schedule for each week with important assignments and locations. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated through email and sent far in advance of the class date.

Aug 28th: Introduction to Course / Chicago’s History

Sept 5th: Field Trip: Chicago History Museum

Sept 11th: Chicago Neighborhoods / Introduction to Neighborhood Project (F1 due)

Sept 18th: Chicago’s Cultural Scene: Literature, Art, and Architecture

Sept 26th: Field Trip: Art Institute of Chicago

Oct 2nd: Schools and the City: Education in Chicago (F2 due)

Oct 9th: Green Chicago: Urban Space and Environment in Chicago

Oct 17th: Field Trip: LUREC

Oct 23rd: Chicago Eats!!! Food and Culture in the Windy City (F3 due)

Oct 30th: Midterms Presentations (Chicago Neighborhood Projects due)

Nov 6th: Field Trip: Taste Bud Tour

Nov 13th: Big City Bosses: Politics in Chicago* (F4 due)

Nov 20th: The Price of Doing Business: Entrepreneurship in Chicago*

Nov. 27th: NO CLASS!!! THANKSGIVING!!!

Dec 4th: The Chicago Blues: Music and the Soul of the City * (F5 due)

Dec 11th: Final Presentations (Final Due)

*indicates guest speaker or expert will be present
(F-Due) indicated a forum assignment is due this date.