



The First-Year Program  
**HON 111: Honors Explore Chicago**  
 Autumn Quarter 2016

Course	Faculty	Description
<b>Chicago Politics: Bosses &amp; Reformers</b>	Craig Sautter <i>School for New Learning</i>	Forget the Cubs. Forget the Sox. Forget the Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks. Politics is Chicago’s #1 spectator sport. That’s because politics in Chicago touches almost all aspects of city life from trash collection to social services and taxes. Chicago’s politicians are often flamboyant although sometimes corruptible figures. (Since 1972, 28 aldermen have gone to prison.) They both delight and enrage voters and are constant “front page” news. This course will introduce students to Chicago’s political institutions: City Hall, its system of 50 wards, current aldermen and women, its mayor, its elections, and its raucous history of scandals and reform movements. Students also will debate contemporary political/social issues which come before the mayor and city council during the Autumn Quarter. And they will explore the exploits of some of Chicago’s most memorable mayors and political “bosses” from Long John Wentworth, who guided the city during the civil war and Carter Harrison I, who presided over the 1893 Columbian Exposition before his assassination to Chicago’s newest mayor, Rahm Emanuel. They will also meet some of its most famous aldermen, such as “Hinky Dink” Kenna and “Bathhouse” John Coughlin, “Lords of the Levee,” the old First Ward, to current office holders.
<b>Chicago Theatre</b>	Douglas Long <i>Communication</i>	This course will explore the amazing world of Chicago Theatre from several angles – from the more “established” theatre companies that anchor the scene (Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theater) to the envelope-pushing, cutting edge companies (Red Tape Theatre, Steep Theatre, the Side Project, and Dog & Pony Theatre Co.) to those niche companies only found in Chicago (Silk Road, 20% Theatre Company, Shaw Chicago, Lifeline Theatre). Students will have the opportunity not only to see full productions throughout the term, but they will also have the chance to experience pre-production rehearsals and see new plays in development through Chicago Dramatists’ Saturday Series of staged readings, as well as tour historic Chicago theatres and archives. Students in this section will need to keep Thursday nights open during Autumn Quarter.
<b>The Radical Tradition in Chicago</b>	Colleen Doody <i>History</i>	Chicago has a rich tradition of radicalism. In this class, we will explore a few of the city’s radical movements and people from the last one hundred and thirty years—German-American anarchists, African-American communists, student anti-war protesters, and socialist feminists. As a system of belief, it is notoriously hard to pin down and assign a consistent meaning to the term radicalism. We will explore the varied ideas and actions of our chosen subjects so that we can ultimately explain what we mean when we label all of these groups as radical. This course will focus on four topics—the Haymarket riot, Richard Wright and African-American communism, the anti-war protests of August 1968, and the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union of the late 1960s and early 1970s. We will use a variety of different sources—web pages, primary source documents, novels, cemetery

		monuments, and videos—to explore these topics. In addition, students will do a variety of different types of writing exercises—informal individual journal writing, small group projects, and more formal individual papers.
<b>Writing Chicago's Streets</b>	Sarah Fay <i>English</i>	This class is about exploring the city via narrative. In other words, you'll document, record, transcribe, and relate the many stories the city and its people have to tell. As an introduction to Chicago's literary scene, you'll visit a few of the many venues where Chicago authors write and read from their work. To gain an understanding of the social and political climate of the city, you'll examine local social issues in fiction by Upton Sinclair and Richard Wright and explore a social issue that's important to you. To immerse yourself in one of the city's many ethnic communities, you'll tramp through Chinatown, sample its culinary delights, and document your experience in a restaurant review or food essay. Finally, to get a sense for the people who call this city their home, you'll conduct street interviews and become a street photographer to create your own "Humans of Chicago" photo essay. (Nota bene: No photography experience necessary.)

HONORS EXPLORE CHICAGO