



# Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



## Instructor Spotlight: Julia Woesthoff



Since 2012, I have taught “The Many Faces of Berlin,” which is a Focal Point Seminar linked to a 9-day summer excursion to Berlin. It is organized around issues of multiculturalism in the German capital, particularly as they relate to the Jewish and Turkish communities. Given my research interests in questions of diversity in Germany in the twentieth century, it makes it a particularly rewarding experience to introduce students to aspects of majority/minority relations not only inside the classroom but also on site where they have taken place and have left their mark.

Before taking the trip, students attend both content sessions and Global Hour (similar to Discover/Explore Chicago’s Common Hour), which dovetail nicely with each

other, as students discuss and read about issues of difference and cultural diversity in Berlin at the same time that they are preparing themselves for a new cultural experience in an unfamiliar environment. The virtual exploration of immigrant neighborhoods (through maps, literary expositions, and news reports, e.g.) or different sites of memory (such as the Jewish

Museum or the Sachsenhausen concentration camp) also primes students for their trip; it helps them both to navigate the city and to appreciate the impact of the different histories and cultures that have shaped it. As one student remarked at the end of the trip about the many construction cranes littering the Berlin landscape, (re)building in that city seems “more than a physical thing” that is intimately tied to and a reflection of the people that have lived in it. Most of the participants cannot wait to go on their next Study Abroad adventure, exploring new cities and cultures—a sure sign that the First-Year Program is the perfect vehicle to make students into global citizens in their own right.

— Julia Woesthoff  
Asst. Professor, Dept. of History

## From the Director

Even though the Polar Vortex delayed it by a day, Winter Quarter got off to a fine start, and our Focal Point Seminar program is off and running. To celebrate, we will feature outstanding Focal Point instructors in the next few newsletters.

Speaking of celebrating, a reminder to all Chicago Quarter instructors that on Friday, Jan. 31, we will honor the teaching teams with a “recognition reception” from 3–5 p.m. Cortelyou Commons. If you haven’t RSVP’d yet, please contact Maria Hernandez at [mhernand@depaul.edu](mailto:mhernand@depaul.edu).

If you or a colleague is interested in submitting a proposal for a new Focal Point Seminar topic, that quickly approaching deadline is Feb. 1. Here is the information and online application: <http://liberalstudies.depaul.edu/FirstYearProgram/ForFaculty/ProposingFPS.asp>

Focal Point instructors, you are invited to our first-ever Faculty Chat. We had a great response to the one we did for Chicago Quarter instructors in the fall, so we’ll give it a try for Focal Point.

We’ll do the Winter Quarter chat on Friday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m.–noon. We’ll do another one in the Spring, again 10:30–noon, on Friday, May 9. These are optional and you’re welcome to stay as long as you’re able.

If, like me, you are still navigating the changes in D2L, you might benefit from watching this 7-minute video supplied by FITS: [The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the D2L Upgrade](#). FITS also is hosting workshops to update faculty on the D2L updates: <http://fits.depaul.edu/workshops/Pages/default.aspx>.

Have a great quarter.

— Doug Long

### Important Dates!

- Friday, Jan. 31: Chicago Quarter Recognition Reception, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Cortelyou Commons
- Saturday, Feb. 1: [Focal Point Seminar proposal](#) deadline
- Friday, Feb. 14: Focal Point Seminar Faculty Chat, 10:30 a.m. – noon, location TBA
- Receipts for reimbursement are due within 60 days of the date of purchase or by Tuesday, March 18
- Friday, May 9: Focal Point Seminar Faculty Chat, 10:30 a.m. – noon, location TBA
- Friday, May 30: Best Practices, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Cortelyou Commons