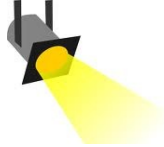




# Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



## Instructor Spotlight: Cheryl Bachand

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In our Honors Discover *Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago* class, Meredith Gioia and I introduce our students to the contributions of Wright and his Chicago School contemporaries. We tour and discuss a number of Wright's early and formative designs, along with some of his later Prairie Style masterworks. Key to our discussions is the consideration of Wright's work within its surrounding context, be it urban (Robie House), suburban (Unity Temple), or rural (Taliesin). Of course, we take full advantage of DePaul's proximity to Oak Park, home to the highest concentration of Wright-designed buildings in the world.

What makes this topic well-suited as a Discover course is not only Wright's rich architectural legacy in Chicago, but the synergy that occurs when uniting an experiential learning format with architecture, a discipline that is best



understood by experiencing it in real time and space. For first year students new to the analysis of art and architecture, there is no substitute for seeing the relationship of structure and site, and of comparing

plan and elevation drawings to the physical experience of the building.

We dive deep into the investigation of Wright's Chicago work through visual analysis, while using primary and secondary sources to explore his intent and design philosophy. We also use Wright's work as a lens to discuss larger issues and concerns inherent to the discipline, such as the ethical responsibility of architects in shaping the built environment in which we live. Hearing from students that they now find themselves looking up and considering buildings that they had previously ignored, is a rewarding indication that they are interacting in a new and heightened way with the city they now call home.

— Cheryl A. Bachand  
Visiting Instructor  
History of Art and Architecture

## From the Director

Great to see so many Focal Point Seminar instructors on Friday, Nov. 15, at our annual Best Practices conference. Professors Mary Ann Becker ("Literature and the Law"), David Brenders ("Wonders, Cons & Scandals"), and David Gilliam ("Black in Latin America: A Blending of Bloodlines, Cultures and Religious Tolerance") spoke about creating good writing assignments for Focal Point Seminars. Tony Ceraso led a small groups session about introducing primary & secondary sources and teaching readings outside one's discipline. Our guest Tricia Hermes from WRD spoke about incorporating Digication in Focal Point Seminars. We featured e-Portfolios from the Focal Point Seminars that were part of a pilot during Winter and Spring Quarters 2013. It's always such a pleasure visiting with the Focal Point Seminar faculty and hearing them share their own best practices. We all benefit from that.

Thanks to all the Chicago Quarter instructors who attended the first-ever Faculty Chat on Oct. 18. It was a chance to share ideas and it was especially rewarding to hear faculty help each other by sharing ideas on improving their classes.

We're going to try it with Focal Point Seminars too. Those dates are Fridays Feb. 14 (Winter Quarter) and May 19 (Spring Quarter) from 10:30-noon. More information to come.

In case you'd like to use some of DePaul's long break before Winter Quarter putting together a proposal for Chicago Quarter or Focal Point Seminar, here are the information and dates for each:

- Chicago Quarter proposal deadline: Dec. 15.  
Information and form: <http://liberalstudies.depaul.edu/FirstYearProgram/ForFaculty/ProposingCQ.asp>
- Focal Point Seminar deadline: Feb. 1.  
Information and form: <http://liberalstudies.depaul.edu/FirstYearProgram/ForFaculty/ProposingFPS.asp>

The Focal Point handbook for 2014 may be found at: <http://liberalstudies.depaul.edu/FirstYearProgram/ForFaculty/Handbooks.asp>

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and well-deserved break following Autumn Quarter.

— Doug Long

**Important Date!** Receipts for reimbursement must be submitted by **Wednesday, Nov. 27.**



## Focal Point Seminar Best Practices

(right) David Akbar Gilliam speaks on a panel about designing good writing assignments for Focal Point Seminars, along with Mary Ann Becker and David Benders. Mike Edwards was the moderator.



## Explore Chicago visits

(right) Zach Cook's Explore class, "Representatives and Representation in Chicago," visits Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.



(below) John Karam's "Arab Chicago" Explore class visits with Jamil Khoury, founding artistic director of Silk Road Rising Theatre.

