



Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Instructor Spotlight: Craig Sautter

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“Chicago Politics: Bosses & Reformers,” an Explore Chicago course that I’ve taught for the past few years, seeks to bring new DePaul students up to speed on the fact that politics in Chicago is probably our city’s number one spectator sport.

We introduce our first-year students to Chicago’s political institutions: City Hall, the city’s system of 50 wards, current and past aldermen and women, the City Council, our mayor and contenders, our elections, hot issues, our raucous history of scandals and reform movements. Each week students also write about contemporary political/social issues in the news.

We start off the Quarter with a “Chicago Political Walking Tour” that points out sites in the Loop where significant political events occurred or whose names are political in origin. Students end up standing on the star on the ground floor of the State of Illinois Building, named after Governor James Thompson, looking up at the towering glass roof. Sometimes we make it all the way to the site of the 1860 Wigwam (on North Wacker Drive) where Lincoln was nominated. Along the way we tell stories about the sites of several national presidential conventions.



Two weeks later we tour City Hall. For two years, our students listened to my co-author, Alderman Edward M. Burke (*Inside the Wigwam: Chicago Presidential Conventions 1860-1996*) speak about the Council’s history and functions. Other years we just wander the Hall to see what we can see in terms of history and activity. Twice we’ve run into Mayor Emanuel.

This year we had the added benefit of a contentious gubernatorial election and the run-up to next year’s mayoral and Council election. We were able to host one recent DePaul grad who was working at a top level in Bruce Rauner’s campaign and a current DePaul student who was running for Alderman.

One week each year, we take the #4 Cottage Grove bus to 51st Street to walk past President Obama’s home and take photos until the Secret Service chases us off, then continue walking to view sites at the U. of Chicago. One class was the first to visit the new Museum of Broadcast History and meet its creator Bruce DuMont (on whose radio show I’ve appeared several times) and see rare footage of the City Council in turmoil after the death of Mayor Washington. (One student secured an internship as a result.)

Other years, we have visited the Chicago History Museum (this year paying special attention to the 1968 Exhibit).

Students get an inside look at the life and times of Mayor Richard J. Daley when they read and write a seven-page book review of Mike Royko’s *Boss*. We also watch plenty of Youtube footage of mayoral campaign ads of Mayors Daley I, Bilandic, Byrne, Washington, Daley II and Emanuel. And of course we try to critically analyze what we see, what we read and what we write. (I line-edit all student writing using my 26-point “Writing Tips.”) And each year we’ve been lucky to have strong support of fine staff and student mentors.

— R. Craig Sautter
Visiting Professor
School for New Learning



Important Dates!

- Receipts for Autumn Quarter reimbursement are due within 60 days of the date of purchase and no later than Wednesday, Nov. 26
- Friday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Focal Point Seminar Best Practices, LPC Student Center 314A&B
- Friday, Dec. 5: Deadline for [nominations](#) for awards for outstanding teaching team members
- Thursday, Dec. 4: Autumn grades due
- Monday, Dec. 15: [Chicago Quarter proposal](#) deadline
- Sunday, Feb. 1: [Focal Point Seminar proposal](#) deadline

From the Director

And just like that, the Discover Chicago classes have already finished and the Explores are heading into final projects and presentations. Here are some things to keep in mind as you wind up:

- ◆ Get your receipts in to Sarah Miller or Maria Hernandez ASAP. For explanations on purchase procedures, you should consult the teaching handbook, always available at go.depaul.edu/fyp. Here is the information for current Chicago Quarter classes:

For Autumn Quarter charges, reimbursements and payments, all information, forms, receipts and invoices must be received within 60 days of service/ purchase or by Wednesday, November 26 — whichever date is EARLIER. Please note that if a receipt is more than 60 days overdue for reimbursement, Financial Affairs will not accept it and you will not be refunded the money.

- ◆ You can begin posting AQ grades on Nov. 19. (Discover Chicago faculty, we know you've been ready for a while.)
- ◆ CQ instructors, you should have received an email about nominating outstanding teaching team members for our annual appreciation awards. The link can be found [here](#).
- ◆ Please send your best photos from this quarter to me at dlong@depaul.edu.

November also means it's time for our annual Best Practices conference for Focal Point Seminars. It's the one meeting we require of our Focal Point faculty. It's a great time to enrich our classes by sharing ideas with fellow instructors, both on panels and in table discussions. This year's conference is Friday, Nov. 21, from 11-2 (lunch is included) in LPC Student Center Room 314 AB. The first panel will focus on planning and moderating a successful seminar discussion. The second will feature long-term instructors talking about how their classes have evolved over time, both intentionally in terms of pedagogy and in terms of changes in the topic itself. If you have not RSVP'd yet, please email Maria at mhernand@depaul.edu.

The DePaul Library website features a page about the 20 years of [Chicago Quarter and the ongoing relationship with the library](#). Many thanks to the librarians who have been a rich part of the CQ history. Also, here's another great article on the 20 years of Chicago Quarter, from [Newsline](#).

Some of you attended the Fall Forum on Teaching and Learning sponsored by TLA. The featured speaker was David Laude, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and Graduation Management at the University of Texas at Austin, who shared his story of being a chemistry professor who wanted all his students to succeed regardless of privilege, a theme that resonates with our program and university. Here is the article "Who Gets to Graduate?" from the *New York Times*, featuring his work [here](#).

We had a productive Faculty Chat last month with many Chicago Quarter instructors. Always great to share ideas and help each other with issues that come up. We'll pick up next quarter with a Focal Point Seminar Faculty Chat on Feb. 13 (10:30 a.m.).

Class notes

- ◆ Joyce Bean's Explore Chicago class, "[Haunted Chicago: The Ghost Story as Oral and Written Narrative](#)," was featured in the Halloween issue of *The DePaulia*.
- ◆ Students in Sydney Dillard's Discover class, "Community Health Initiatives," developed a unique service project: creating hygiene kits (with donations from around campus) which they gave out to homeless youth in Lakeview area.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you and your most outstanding colleagues to submit new First-Year Program course proposals. The annual deadlines are Dec. 15 (Chicago Quarter) and Feb. 1 (Focal Point Seminar). For information and the online application, visit the [proposing a course](#) section on the Liberal Studies Program webpage.

— Doug Long



Clockwise from above:

- ◆ Jason Schneider's "Polish Immigrants in Chicago" Explore class visits the historic Holy Trinity Church in Noble Square.
- ◆ International students in Mike Edwards's "Chicago Architecture" Discover class at the Chase Tower (formerly, First National Plaza).
- ◆ Zach Cook's "Representatives & Representation in Chicago" Explore class visits with State Senator Napoleon Harris, who treated the class to pizza at one of the restaurants he bought after his NFL career.

