



Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Instructor Spotlight: Phil Funk

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“Healthcare in Chicago,” my Explore Chicago class, is meant to help students begin a conversation around health and healthcare. The course introduces students to a broad range of topics, such as the Affordable Care Act, healthcare access, death and dying and much more. Our goal is less about detailed focus and more about a landscape view. We hope to show students that healthcare is not necessarily about being a physician but that health revolves around much more. We hope to provide the essentials for students so they understand that health involves our communities and that the Vincentian mission is intimately tied to healthcare.

As an immunologist I have a particularly biomedical/infectious disease perspective. Since most of my students are CSH majors with an eye toward a career in healthcare, many of them come in sharing at least some of that perspective. The class then is really the group of us exploring together, challenging our views and learning about the wider view of healthcare. I have grown to really like that aspect of Explore Chicago, not being the expert in class but one of the learners. We are also able to give students a firsthand experience of different types of healthcare in the community.

We visit community centers on the West Side and in Humboldt Park to learn about the critical healthcare and the variety of people that contribute directly in the community. We also see the vulnerability of some populations that contributes to, and is sometimes caused by, inadequate access to health care and education about health. We also visit a modern orthopedic practice and an



elder care facility. By visiting a variety of healthcare facilities and community agencies, I feel that the students are able to see and understand the variety of healthcare that is available along with the difficulties that patients and practitioners may deal with every day. Since health is so deeply interdisciplinary we cover many things with the knowledge that the students will revisit topics throughout their careers at DePaul.

This is a different sort of class for me; normally I think about scientific thinking, content and laboratory experiments. In this class I get to know a group of students early on and I help build both a sense of community with their fellow students and a sense of identity with DePaul. If I am successful in teaching this class I owe a debt to the First-Year Program staff for all they do to help new faculty coming into the program. I am indebted to Karl

Nass for helping me to find some great partners to see the Vincentian perspective on healthcare. I have been extremely fortunate to have Lindsey Burdick as my staff professional. Lindsey does a remarkable job helping the students acclimate to DePaul and making sure they keep themselves grounded in that critical first quarter. I have also been fortunate to have had two excellent CQMs, Ricki Coston and Lauren Sutfin. This fall in particular I have been able to step back and see the incredible work the mentors do with their students. Explore Chicago really is a team-taught class, I am fortunate to be part of a great team.

— Phil Funk, Assoc. Professor
Dept. of Biological Sciences

From the Director

I have some great news to share. As of this month, DePaul undergraduate students can visit the Art Institute of Chicago free of charge with their DePaul IDs. This is a one-year arrangement that will hopefully be renewed. This means that for Autumn 2016, Discover and Explore Chicago classes can visit for free, at least through September (we can supply passes for instructors and Staff Professionals). Three of our Explore Chicago classes have already used the arrangement, thus saving over \$1,000. Winter and Spring Quarter Focal Point and Explore Chicago classes can do this too.

Some more positive news: DePaul University Libraries is expanding its relationship with Swank Motion Pictures, which provides streamed movies to be used in classes. I have used this in Chicago Quarter and Focal Point classes in the last few years. It's easy – the library provides a link, which you can post on the D2L page for the class. With the new arrangement, any DePaul faculty, staff, or student will be able to access the films included in the package. This article

provides the set of films currently on the list and contact information in case you would like to request films for future inclusion:

goo.gl/7DnEX4

Enrollment Management and Marketing reported that this fall's first-year class of 2,519 was part of an overall enrollment that exceeded the target and generated a record tuition of \$222.4 million. Applications for admission were the second highest ever. The report shows that the average high school GPA of this year's freshman class was 3.56 and the average ACT score was 25.2. A record 41 percent of the class is from out-of-state, 36 percent are students of color, and 35 percent are first-generation.

It was a pleasure to visit with several Chicago Quarter instructors Oct. 16 at our Faculty Chat. The group chimed in on many

topics, including Common Hour, safety on excursions, and successful interactive immersions into the city.

Chicago Quarter instructors, you should have received your invitations to the Chicago Quarter Reception (info below). This is simply a chance to thank and visit with the teaching teams that have made this such a successful year.

Focal Point Seminar instructors, please clear your schedule, if possible, for the annual Focal Point Seminar Best Practices conference (info below). It will include a talk by Molly Andolina from Political Science about Generation X (the topic of her Focal Point Seminar) and our Millennial students, as well as a panel on the FY@broad program which we co-administer with Study Abroad.

— Doug Long

Important Dates!

- Thursday, Nov. 19 **Chicago Quarter Reception**
3–5 p.m., LPC Student Center Room 314
- Friday, Nov. 13 **Focal Point Seminar Best Practices Conference**
11 am–2 pm, LPC Student Center 120B