



# Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



## Instructor Spotlight: Phil Meyers

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Enjoying a Saturday afternoon perched upon a Wrigley Field “roof top” with the Cubs. Listening to sports talk radio while driving to or from work. An outing at Arlington Park with friends cheering on the ponies... All are certainly perceived as relaxing activities and recreation—but often dismissed as trivial by today’s standards when dealing with the crises of unemployment, a slow housing market, or obtaining health care.

However, what is deemed as an escape to many in Chicago is quite vital to the Windy City. The politics, history, and socio-economics of sports carve out a significant role within the fabric of our town—as well as how we identify ourselves. In my Discover Chicago class, “Summer Sports in Chicago,” we delve into what makes someone a Cubs or White Sox supporter. Is it where one was raised? Family politics? Or, how much that bi-weekly paycheck says on the dotted line? Further, do hatreds of each other’s rival fan bases thrive, or are they abolished when understanding these factors?



Phil Meyers with Chicago Quarter Mentor Dylan Plachta and Staff Professional Michelle Johnson

And don’t forget the governmental issues of renovating Wrigley Field, slated to block views of roof top owners, despite the contracts building purveyors possess with the National League team.

Along with many other facets, our course studies aspects such as the media, how that industry can influence a fan-base, or city’s

perspective of a player, sport, or team. Why is Derrick Rose insulated from much public ridicule—for example—whereas Jay Cutler is often looked upon as a villain? Is that fair—and how can it affect a player’s career on and off the field?

Thus, through our trips and surrounding activities, students often find themselves learning without initially knowing they are doing so—absorbing Chicago’s sporting culture, and the understanding that games and events present much larger consequences than a final score itself.

Though as effective as the learning process is in our course, nothing could make this experience possible without my top-notch teaching team of Michelle Johnson (Staff Professional) and Dylan Plachta (CQM). A Discover Chicago professor is only as strong as his or her team, and I have the best in the business.

— Phil Meyers  
Adjunct Professor  
Political Science

## From the Director

For the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we have successfully launched Chicago Quarter, which this year includes 58 Discover Chicago classes and 47 Explore Chicago classes. This success is largely due to those of you teaching Chicago Quarter this fall. For Discover Chicago classes, Immersion Week began on Tuesday, Sept. 2, not with our usual big kick-off but instead with classes meeting in the classroom before the barbecue in the quad. As always, the Discover classes spent the week traveling throughout the city and surrounding communities (see photos on next page). A few classes visited the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, which for the first time offered Chicago Quarter visits free of charge. The Explore classes have been getting underway in the past week. After last year’s dip in first-year student enrollment, we surged back up to more than 2,600 students, so the classes are full and quite active.

There will be a reception this coming Friday, Sept. 19, from 4-6 p.m. in the DePaul Art Museum, to celebrate 20 years of Chicago Quarter. If you have taught Chicago Quarter, we invite you to attend. Please contact me if you didn’t receive an invitation and wish to attend. [www.depaulnewsline.com/debuzz/chicago-quarter-program-celebrates-20-years](http://www.depaulnewsline.com/debuzz/chicago-quarter-program-celebrates-20-years)

As you probably know, DePaul has incorporated the BlueStar online advising system. You will be asked to complete two surveys each quarter. You’ve probably already received the survey about attendance during the first week of classes. You

will later receive the Academic Progress survey asking you to raise flags and/or kudos for students who need them. This replaces the former Academic Progress Report and will go out mid-quarter. To learn more about BlueStar, go to [teachingcommons.depaul.edu/Technology/bluestar.html](http://teachingcommons.depaul.edu/Technology/bluestar.html).

We have a new community partner, The Chicago Cultural Alliance, “...a non-profit consortium of Chicago-area ethnic museums and cultural centers whose mission is to effect social change through public understanding of cultural diversity.” Their mission is related to our own. In terms of connecting with our Chicago Quarter classes, their tours are generally more expensive than our class budgets could handle, but they’re interested in connecting our classes with cultural groups. Visit [www.chicagoculturalalliance.org/members](http://www.chicagoculturalalliance.org/members).

Finally, please mark your calendars for our Autumn Quarter Faculty Chat: Friday, Oct. 17, 2 – 3:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Library: Rosati Room 300. This is an optional opportunity for Chicago Quarter faculty to get together to share stories and help solve problems.

— Doug Long

### Important Dates!

- September 19: Chicago Quarter 20-Year Celebration
- December 15: [Chicago Quarter proposal](#) deadline



