Resources for Faculty & Course Instructors

Chicago Studies offers curricular and co-curricular opportunities to discover, study, engage with, and positively impact the diverse communities of our world-class city.

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Through its Chicago Course Connections program, Chicago Studies provides pedagogical support, professional development, and micro-grant funding to instructors who wish to enrich any undergraduate or mixed grad/undergrad class with Chicago-based experiential learning opportunities. Chicago Studies staff work individually with faculty and other course instructors to create meaningful Chicago-related experiences; to facilitate logistics, funding, and other practical arrangements necessary for these experiences; and to build critical reflection structures to maximize student learning from these experiences. Instructors can apply for micro-grants of up to $750 per class, per quarter to support Chicago Course Connections. Funding can support field trips (including transportation and admission/ticket costs), honoraria for guest speakers, or costs associated with experiential learning projects. *Funding for meals is subject to additional limits, unless the dining experience clearly contributes to the academic outcomes of the class. Instructors should apply via the Chicago Studies website.*

**Public & Co-Curricular Programming**

- Bike tours and neighborhood immersions
- Discover Chicago events
- Research Roundtables
- Co-sponsorship of lectures and author discussions
- “Engage Chicago Through Research” data portal and digital archive (with UChicago Library)

**Offerings for College Students**

- “Design Your Chicago” Workshop Series
- Individual advising
- Chicago Studies course cluster
- Chicago Studies Quarters (spring term)
- Annual Undergraduate Research Prize
- Chicago Studies Undergraduate Journal
- Interdisciplinary Certificate in Chicago Studies

**Resources for Faculty & Course Instructors**

Chicago Studies can support faculty and course instructors in integrating city-based experiences into their teaching and learning. We offer microgrants to enrich classes with Chicago-based experiences; incentive grants to support Chicago-focused course development; opportunities for engaged, collaborative, and interdisciplinary teaching; undergraduate research assistantships to add capacity to Chicago-focused research; and pedagogy support to assist instructors in implementing high-impact teaching and learning strategies that meaningfully engage the city.

Chicago Course Connections Micro-Grants

The city of Chicago offers unique opportunities for civic engagement; intellectual, historical, and cultural exploration; and inquiry about urban issues. To support instructors in exposing students to these opportunities, Chicago Studies offers annual course development grants for the creation of new (or significantly enhanced) curricular offerings in the Chicago Studies cluster of courses across the College. Grants may be awarded for both individual (single-term) courses and multi-term course sequences. Grants may include up to $5,000 for the recipient and may fund teaching assistance, course development research, excursions, speaker fees, specialized instruction or supplies, and other types of engagement throughout the course term. *Instructors may apply via the Chicago Studies website.*

**Course Development Grants**

The city of Chicago offers unique opportunities for civic engagement; intellectual, historical, and cultural exploration; and inquiry about urban issues. To support instructors in exposing students to these opportunities, Chicago Studies offers annual course development grants for the creation of new (or significantly enhanced) curricular offerings in the Chicago Studies cluster of courses across the College. Grants may be awarded for both individual (single-term) courses and multi-term course sequences. Grants may include up to $5,000 for the recipient and may fund teaching assistance, course development research, excursions, speaker fees, specialized instruction or supplies, and other types of engagement throughout the course term. *Instructors may apply via the Chicago Studies website.*

**Chicago Studies Teaching Scholars**

Through Chicago Studies, the College may appoint visiting lecturers as “Chicago Studies Teaching Scholars.” Faculty and academic units are encouraged to recommend expert practitioners from any field whose professional lives are invested in the civic, cultural, intellectual, or political of the city and region to design and teach an undergraduate course that integrates classroom instruction with the life of the City. Teaching Scholars will also be affiliated for their term of appointment with one of the para-curricular units on campus to enable them to engage with the student body more generally and to introduce students to additional opportunities for involvement in the life of the city. *Recommendations of teaching scholars and/or engaged courses should be made directly to the Chicago Studies Faculty Directors.*
CHICAGO STUDIES QUARTER

The Chicago Studies Quarter, developed by the Chicago Studies Faculty Directors in collaboration with a range of academic and civic partners across the campus and the city, offers a cohesive set of courses that join classroom instruction with experiential learning opportunities to engage students in the diverse communities that make up the city. The program is open to 20 undergraduates chosen through a competitive application process. Selected students engage in three interrelated courses and co-curricular programming that familiarize them with aspects of Chicago that distinguish it as an exemplary world city.

Structured as an interdisciplinary learning community for its student participants, the Quarter offers instructors opportunities for team teaching, collaborative assignments, and interdisciplinary dialogue. Faculty may propose individual courses for inclusion in a quarter, or may offer more fully-developed teams of up to three instructors (including a Chicago Studies Teaching Scholar) whose courses cohere around a common theme. If accepted, instructors receive both course development/research funds and special resources for experiential learning (such as excursions, guest speakers, and engagement with stakeholder groups and leaders) to enrich class readings and assignments. The Chicago Studies Faculty Directors and Advisory Board assist instructors and departments in the development and integration of proposed Quarters and courses. Apply via the website.

CHICAGO STUDIES COLLEGE RESEARCH FELLOWS

Chicago Studies, in collaboration with the College Center for Research & Fellowships and a generous grant from the Curriculum Innovation Fund, is able to provide funding to a limited number of Chicago-focused research opportunities for undergraduates. Chicago Studies College Research Fellowships, which must be proposed by faculty and approved by Chicago Studies before being posted through CCRF, are meant to seed and resource projects that are faculty-led, collaborative, and map onto the ongoing research interests of their faculty sponsor(s). Faculty members should be prepared to provide robust mentorship for undergraduate researchers, who in turn should be prepared to function as junior partners in the larger project. Grants are available to support a variety of research models to which undergraduates can contribute:

- Individual undergraduate research assistantships;
- Creation or maintenance of a faculty-led research group organized around a topic of common concern (“research cluster”) that engages undergraduates as contributors to the larger work of investigation and analysis. Such research clusters are typically interdisciplinary in nature, and supervised by more than one faculty member;
- Sponsorship of training sessions for platforms, methods or applications which undergraduates will utilize for subsequent research assignments (e.g. GIS, Oral history/interviewing methods, web Content Management Systems, etc.);
- Support for undergraduate publication, presentation or conference travel connected to a Chicago-focused research project.

Funding may be allocated variably depending on the nature of the proposed activity/activities. All funding will be disbursed via the research account of the faculty member who functions as the principal advisor or investigator. Apply via the website.

For more information about Chicago Studies, contact:

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Pedagogy Support for High-Impact Teaching & Learning

Chicago Studies staff, faculty directors, and faculty advisory board can support faculty and course instructors in integrating a range of high-impact educational practices (Kuh, 2008) into their teaching and mentorship of students. Instructors interested in exploring these pedagogies should contact the Director of Chicago Studies & Experiential Learning.

Collaborative Assignments and Projects

Collaborative learning combines two key goals: learning to work and solve problems in the company of others, and sharpening one’s own understanding by listening seriously to the insights of others, especially those with different life experiences. Chicago Studies can help instructors design, execute, and assess team-based assignments and cooperative projects, including interdisciplinary assignments.

Community-Based Learning

In community-based learning, field-based experiences created with or curated by community partners are an integral part of a class’ instructional strategy. These experiences give students direct exposure to issues they are studying in the curriculum. In some classes, they may also connect with ongoing efforts to analyze and respond to public problems. Chicago Studies can help instructors design and execute community-based learning experiences, including those that benefit or collaborate with external partners across the city.

Diversity Learning

As residents of a world-class city, students have the opportunity to encounter cultures, life experiences, and worldviews very different from their own by engaging with Chicagoans of all walks of life. Chicago Studies can support instructors in recruiting guest speakers, conducting field trips, and developing and executing projects in collaboration with communities and cultural institutions across the city.

ePortfolios

ePortfolios are websites created by students to document and explain their work for specific audiences. This encourages reflection on academic and personal growth across a range of experiences. Chicago Studies can support instructors in implementing ePortfolio pedagogy as part of a project, class, or program. Students completing the Certificate in Chicago Studies develop an ePortfolio as a program requirement.

Internships

Internships provide students with direct experience in a work setting and to give them the benefit of supervision and coaching from professionals in the field. Chicago Studies can help instructors identify local internships that relate to course content; develop and fund internships with community partners that extend class learning experiences (especially in conjunction with CBL classes); and design reflective structures to help students articulate learning from internships in the context of their academic field or program.

Learning Communities

Learning communities encourage integration of learning across courses and involve cohorts of students and instructors in asking “big questions” that matter beyond the classroom. Students take linked courses as a group and work closely with one another and their professors, often exploring a common topic and/or readings through the lenses of different disciplines. Chicago Studies annually provides funding, class development, and logistical support for the Chicago Studies Quarter, and can support the development of similar Chicago-focused experiences throughout the year as well.

Theses and Capstone Projects

Culminating experiences such as writing a BA thesis require students nearing the end of their College years to create an academic product that integrates and applies what they’ve learned. Chicago Studies can provide supplemental advising and leverage city-wide connections to support students who wish to complete Chicago-focused integrative projects. Students completing the Certificate in Chicago Studies develop and execute a capstone project as a program requirement.

Undergraduate Research

Faculty-supported undergraduate research engages students with actively contested questions, empirical observation, and new technologies to cultivate a sense of scholarly excitement. Chicago Studies offers Chicago-focused datasets and archives exemplary student work; funds Chicago Studies College Research Fellowships; sponsors an annual undergraduate research prize; and publishes Chicago Studies, a journal of undergraduate research. Chicago Studies encourages mentors of Chicago-focused research to nominate exceptional student research for the research prize each spring, and also welcomes additional judges for the annual award and Colloquium.

Writing-Intensive Courses

Writing-intensive courses encourage communication skills by requiring students to produce various forms of writing for specific audiences. Chicago Studies can support course instructors in designing Chicago-focused writing assignments; offer reflective prompts for maximizing learning from community-based experiences; and provide funding and logistical support for Chicago-area excursions to expose students to sources of inspiration across the city.