



Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources

In Our Own Backyard: Destinations That Enrich the Curriculum Chicagoland

EDUO 9804 1 Semester Credit/Unit

Instructor – Nicholas A. Goshe

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Syllabus

Course Description:

This class will provide teachers with the opportunity to visit and learn about four outstanding community destinations of interest to students of any grade level such as the Chicago Zoological Society Brookfield Zoo, Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago, and The Morton Arboretum. Additionally, two of the four educational destinations may be of teacher’s choice and be from outside Chicagoland. Learning about the unique educational programs these destinations provide can then be shared by each teacher at their school site and in their classroom through fieldtrip opportunities, cultural activities, online web experiences, and high interest curriculum.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will learn what educational programs and other opportunities are available for their students at four outstanding educational destinations.
2. By participating in tours of four educational destinations that enrich the curriculum, teachers will further their knowledge of the subject matter that can be taken back to the classroom and incorporated into the curriculum.
3. Teachers will gain new knowledge to plan and teach meaningful educational lessons and supplemental activities for their grade level.
4. Teachers will be able to provide educational field trip information for parents and staff and plan meaningful fieldtrips that enrich the curriculum of the grade level taught.

Class Requirements:

1. Each participant will tour four educational destinations of interest at their convenience, two of which may be outside Chicagoland. A list of recommended choices is included in the syllabus. Instructor approval is not necessary. Appropriate websites for each site should also be perused.
2. Please call ahead for times that community educational destinations are open (as they can change without notice), and for the current price of admission. To get the most out of this class it is highly recommended that teachers call a day or two ahead to request a docent guided tour, where available. Pictures of sites, videos, or admission tickets should be submitted with coursework as proof of visitation. Additionally, cite any educational destination websites that were visited.
3. Participants will complete a **Written Reflection** (see below) for each community destination visited. Coursework should be typed, double-spaced with size 12 font. Reflection write-ups should be one or more pages in length and address every question in the coursework. The instructor can be reached at ngoshe@dominicanCAonline.com if there are any questions or concerns.
4. Respond to the Evaluation Section Prompts

Written Reflection Assignment

Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Typed reflections of one page or longer for each educational destination should include responses to the following questions:

1. What did you appreciate and enjoy the most at each destination and what did you find least appealing, and why?
2. What interesting facts and ideas were presented at each destination?
3. What further questions would you like to have answered after visiting these educational destinations?
4. Would any of the information gained at the chosen destinations be applicable to the curriculum of your grade level? What state standards would apply, if any?
5. Describe at least one enrichment activity for your grade level that would supplement a visit to these educational destinations.

6. Any additional comments are appreciated.

Evaluation

What suggestions do you have to improve the course experience?

Would you recommend this class to other teachers? Why/why not

Instructions for coursework submission:

Written Assignments

Your coursework should be created in a document that can be emailed directly to the instructor. Coursework should be typed, double-spaced with size 12 font. Reflection write-ups should be one or more pages in length and address every question in the coursework. Pictures and documents may be scanned and posted along with your Word or PDF file of written assignments. Label everything carefully with the assignment number and make sure that your name and email address are easy to locate.

Visit four sites and submit responses for EACH location.

IMPORTANT - Camera images can be very large files. Save the images in lower definition resolution in order to keep document file sizes down for emailing.

For assistance email jherz@dominicancaonline.com

EMAIL your completed documents to the instructor's email listed on the syllabus you are working from.

Grading Rubric: Written Response Rubric

Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations: A+ to A	Acceptable: Meets Expectations: B+-B-	Unacceptable: Needs Improvement. Must be resubmitted.
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated.	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment.	Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment; some ideas unclear.

Very well organized	Is generally well organized	Shows little organization
Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience.	Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included.	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included.
Coursework is free of spelling or grammatical errors.	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing is difficult to read.

Recommended Educational Destinations in Chicagoland:

Note: Hours of operation are subject to change. It is highly recommended to call the sites to confirm all information.

1. Chicago Zoological Society Brookfield Zoo

8400 31st Street, Brookfield, IL 60513. 708-688-8000. The Brookfield Zoo is a 216-acre zoo, located fourteen miles west of Chicago in suburban Brookfield, is known throughout the world for its innovative naturalistic, multi-species exhibits and its international role in animal breeding and conservation. Fee

2. Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago

2100 Patriot Boulevard, Glenview, IL 60026. 847-832-6600. Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago offers 17 interactive, hands-on exhibits for children ages birth to 8. Fee.

3. The Morton Arboretum

4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 605302. 630-968-0074. The Morton Arboretum is an internationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to the planting and conservation of trees. Fee.

4. Robert Crown Center for Health Education

21 Salt Creek Lane, Hinsdale, IL 60521. 630-325-1900. The Robert Crown Center offers interactive educational programs for pre-school through high school-aged students that lay the foundation of knowledge needed to make good choices and live a healthy life. Fee.

5. Fermilab

Lederman Science Center, Box 500 MS 777, Batavia, IL 60510. 630-840 3000. Scientists at Fermilab carry out research in high-energy physics to answer the questions: What is the universe made of? How does it work? Where did it come from? Free.

6. The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio

951 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302. 312-994-4000. The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio served as Wright's private residence and workplace from 1889 to 1909—the first 20 years of his career. Fee.

7. A tour of a Chicagoland College / University

North Central College, Wheaton College, Northern Illinois University, Lake Forest College, Elmhurst College, Benedictine University, etc., etc. Free.