



Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources

In Our Own Backyard:

Destinations That Enrich the Curriculum - City of Chicago

EDUO 9804 1 Semester Credit/Unit

Instructor – Nicholas Goshe

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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 Lincoln Park Zoo, the John G. Shedd Aquarium, and the Bronzeville Children’s Museum. Additionally, two of the four educational destinations may be of teacher’s choice and be from outside the City of Chicago. 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 the City of Chicago. 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. 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

Not Required

What suggestions do you have to improve the course experience?

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

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. |

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.

Recommended Educational Destinations in Chicago:

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

1. Lincoln Park Zoo

2001 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60614. Cook County. Tel: 312-742-2000. Website: www.lpzoo.org . Lincoln Park Zoo is a world of wildlife in the shadow of skyscrapers. Located within a lush and beautiful park just minutes north of Chicago, the zoo has been a natural, free oasis for generations of animal lovers. Cost: Fee.

2. John G. Shedd Aquarium

1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. Cook County. Tel: 312-939-2438. Website: www.sheddaquarium.org . Shedd connects people to the living world. We engage and inspire, entertain and inform. We are a vital teaching and learning resource, conservation leader, neighborhood partner and global collaborator. We are passionate about our animals, their habitats and the planet we share. At Shedd, you will find over 32,000 animals from whales to turtles to sea jellies! Cost: Fee.

3. Bronzeville Children's Museum

9301 S. Stony Island Ave. Chicago IL, 60617 Tel: 773-721-9301. Website: <http://www.bronzevillechildrensmuseum.com> **Email:** bronzeville@aol.com . The Bronzeville Children's Museum is a hands on museum which seeks to enrich the lives of all children ages 3-9 by education and exposure to the rich culture and contributions of African-Americans. Cost: Fee.

4. Children's Museum of Immigrant History at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture 6500

S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60521. Tel-773-582-6500. Fax: 773-582-5133. Email: www.info@balzekasmuseum.org . Website: www.balzekasmuseum.org . Housed within the Museum is a Children's Museum of Immigrant History. In this popular children's section, history is made to come alive in exciting hands-on exhibits and presentations. Visitors travel back in time in the "Passport to Lithuania" exhibit. Children can experience running a miniature farm, kneading bread dough, and using hand-crafted tools and kitchen utensils. They can see common objects, such as eggs and straw, transformed into beautiful folk art. Cost: Varies.

5. Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art

756 N Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642. Tel: 312-243-9088. Fax: 312-243-9089. Email: intuit@art.org Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991. Through its programs, Intuit serves to educate museum goers about "outsider" art which is typically self-taught and not influenced by the mainstream art world. Cost: Varies.

6. Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

220 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. Tel: 312.280.2660. Website: www.mcachicago.org. The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a fascinating center where contemporary art can be experienced and shared. The MCA uses exhibitions, performances and educational programs to enrich visitors and help them explore the creative process. Cost: Varies; group rates available.

7. Museum of Contemporary Photography

600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Cook County. Tel: 312-369-8067. Website: www.mocp.org. Email: mocp@colum.edu. The Museum of Contemporary Photography aims to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of photography today. The Museum of Contemporary Photography collaborates with artists, photographers and institutions to make photography accessible to the greater community. As a college art museum with a teaching mission, the museum provides a wide range of educational opportunities for students, educators, and the general public including public programs; free docent-led museum tours and viewings of works from the museum's collections; community outreach; and professional development and curricular resources for educators. Cost: Free.

8. Chicago Botanic Garden

1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, Tel: 847.835.5440 Website: www.chicagobotanic.org. Close to the city, on Chicago's North Shore, the Chicago Botanic Garden has a year-round calendar of activities and entertainment. Visitors enjoy, study and explore nature and celebrate each season with outdoor and indoor activities. There are so many things to explore at this rich venue. Cost: Fee/Free.

9. Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum

1300 S Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605 Tel: 312.922.7827, Website: www.adlerplanetarium.org. The Adler Planetarium is America's first planetarium. From our world-renowned collection to fascinating sky shows to interactive exhibitions and programs, the Adler Planetarium is a must see for children of all ages. Cost: Fee/Free.

10. The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

5700 S. Lake Shore Drive Chicago, IL 60637. Tel: 773-684-1414, Website: www.msichicago.org. The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago is the largest science center in the Western Hemisphere. The MSI is home to thousands of artifacts and acres of hands-on experiences designed to spark scientific inquiry. Our mission, to inspire the inventive genius in everyone by presenting captivating and compelling experiences that are real and educational, is realized through world-class exhibits. Cost: Fee/Free.

11. A tour of a Chicago College / University

Northwestern University, Loyola University of Chicago, DePaul University, Concordia University of Chicago, University of Chicago, Robert Morris University, North Park University, ect., ect. Free.