

Art and Public Culture in Chicago
Syllabus

All morning sessions will meet from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Towner Fellows Lounge on the second floor of the Newberry, unless noted otherwise.

Unit 1: A Public Function for Art

Monday, June 11

Morning session: Introductions and Overview, “Chicago and Public Culture” (Zorach, Olson, Heap)

- Readings:
1. Jane Addams, “Recreation as a Public Function in Urban Communities” (1912)
 2. Erika Doss, “Chicago’s 1893 World’s Fair: Rehearsing the Modern,” *American Art of the 20th-21st Centuries* (2017)
 3. Francesca Polletta, “Free Spaces in Collective Action” *Theory and Society* (1999)
 4. (optional) Mary Kupiec Cayton, “What Is Public Culture? Agency and Contested Meaning in American Culture—An Introduction” *Public Culture : Diversity, Democracy, and Community in the United States* (2008)

Afternoon: 2:30-4 PM. In 2-West. Introduction to Newberry Collections with Alison Hinderliter.

Evening: 4-5 PM. Welcome Reception in Towner Fellows Lounge, Newberry

Tuesday, June 12

Morning session: 9:30-10:15: Tour and Introduction to the Newberry (Jo Ellen Dickie and Lisa Schoblasky)
10:15- 12:30: “Literary Cultures in Twentieth-Century Chicago” (Olson)

- Readings:
1. Liesl Olson, Introduction and chapter 1, *Chicago Renaissance* (2017)
 2. Harriet Monroe, Reviews of the Armory Show (1913)
 3. Carl Sandburg, “Chicago,” in *Poetry* (1914)

Afternoon: 4:00 pm Architectural Boat Tour ([Meet at will call, southeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive; look for the blue awning](#)).

Wednesday, June 13

Morning session: “The Art Institute of Chicago and the Armory Show” (Zorach and Olson)

- Readings:
1. *Freak Art Scrapbook: Chicago’s Armory Show in Print, 1913*, ed. Hendrickson (2015)
 2. Liesl Olson, chapter 2, *Chicago Renaissance* (2017)
 3. Optional: Jennifer Jane Marshall, “Routes to Modernism” (forthcoming)

Afternoon: Research and Individual Conferences

Thursday, June 14

Morning session: "Immigrants, the Arts and Reform at Hull House" (Heap)

- Readings:
1. Ellen Gates Starr, "Art and Labor" *Hull House Maps and Papers* (1885)
 2. Shannon Jackson, "Civic Play-Housekeeping: Gender, Theatre, and American Reform" *Theatre Journal* (1996)
 3. Derek Vaillant, "I Was Improvising Right from the Start: Musical Progressivism at Hull House, 1889-1919," in *Sounds of Reform: Progressivism and Music in Chicago, 1873-1935* (2003)
 4. (optional) Deanna Yerichuk, "The Construction of Citizenship Through Musical Performance in Toronto's Settlement Houses, 1930-1939" *MUSICultures* (2016)

Afternoon: 2:30-4 PM. Visit to Jane Addams Hull-House Museum (800 S Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60607).

Unit 2: Building Public Institutions

Friday, June 15

Morning Session: "The WPA and the Federal Arts Project in Chicago" (Zorach)

- Readings:
1. Selections from Bill Mullen, *Popular Fronts: Chicago and African-American Cultural Politics, 1935-1946* (1999)
 2. John E Fleming and Margaret T. Burroughs. "Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs: Artist, Teacher, Administrator, Writer, Political Activist, and Museum Founder," *The Public Historian* (1999)
 3. (optional) Selections from George J. Mavigliano and Richard A. Lawson, *The Federal Art Project in Illinois 1935-1943* (1990)

Afternoon: 2:30-4:30. Visit to the South Side Community Arts Center (3831 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60653) and tour of the collection.

Evening: Optional happy hour (Reggies Chicago, 2105 S State St.)

Saturday June 16

Evening: [Optional: concert in Millennium Park](#)

Monday, June 18

Morning Session: "The WPA and the Federal Writers Project in Chicago" (Olson)

- Readings:
1. Margaret Walker, "For My People," *Poetry* (1937)
 2. Arna Bontemps, "Famous WPA Authors," *Negro Digest* (1950)
 3. Selections from Robert Bone and Richard Courage, *Muse in Bronzeville* (2011)

11:30-12:30: In Special Collections (4th floor). Collection display of material from the "Negro in Illinois" Papers, Jack Conroy Papers, and other Newberry collections.

Afternoon: Research and Individual Conferences

Tuesday, June 19

Morning Session: “The American Negro Exposition and *Ebony* Magazine” (Adam Green)

Readings: 1. Adam Green, Chapters 3 and 4, *Selling the Race* (2007)

Afternoon: Research and Individual Conferences

Unit 3: Commercial Venues and Their Publics

Wednesday, June 20

Morning Session: “Bohemian Nightlife and Cultural Politics”(Heap)

Readings: 1. Chad Heap, “The Search for Bohemian *Thrillage*,” from *Slumming: Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife 1885-1940* (2009)

2. Selections from Slim Brundage, “Memoirs of a Dill Pickler: Fifty Years of Free-Speech Forums in Chicago,” and “Prolegomena to the Complex History of the College of Complexes” in *From Bughouse Square to the Beat Generation: Selected Ravings of Slim Brundage* (1997)

3. (optional) John P. Bowles, ““Shocking “Beat” Art Displayed’: California Artists and the Beat Image,” in *Reading California: Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000*, edited by Stephanie Barron, Sheri Bernstein, and Ilene Susan Fort (2000)

11:30-12:30: In 2-West. Collection display of material from the Dill Pickle Club Papers and Slim Brundage Papers.

Afternoon: Research and Individual Conferences

Thursday, June 21

Morning Session: “All Along the Stroll: Bronzeville's Culture Industries as a Public Sphere” (Davarian Baldwin)

Readings: 1. Davarian Baldwin, chapter 1, *Chicago's New Negroes: Modernity, the Great Migration, and Black Urban Life* (2007)
2. (optional) Davarian Baldwin, chapter 3, *Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist* (2014)

Afternoon: 2:30 PM-4 PM. Art Institute of Chicago (111 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603, meet at the Modern Wing Entrance on E. Monroe St). Gallery tour of *Charles White: A Retrospective* with Sarah Kelly Oehler.

Evening: (Optional) 6:30- 7:30 pm Art Institute Event: Conversation with Kerry James Marshall and Ian White with Sarah Kelly Oehler, Rubloff Auditorium ([Buy tickets in advance here.](#))

Friday, June 22

Morning Session: “Disco: Cultural and Political Collaboration and Backlash” (Heap)

- Readings:
1. Gillian Frank, “Discophobia: Antigay Prejudice and the 1979 Backlash against Disco,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* (2007)
 2. Alice Echols, “Ladies' Night: Women and Disco,” from *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture* (2010)
 3. (optional) Richard Dyer, “In Defence of Disco,” *Gay Left* (1979)

Afternoon: 2-4:00 PM. Discussion of syllabi and work-in-progress.

Unit 4: The Public Square and People’s Art

Monday, June 25

Morning Session: “The Chicago Picasso and The Wall of Respect” (Zorach)

- Readings:
1. Selections from *The Wall of Respect: Public Art and Black Liberation in 1960s Chicago*, ed. Alkalimat, Crawford, Zorach (2017)
 2. Rebecca Zorach, “Fireplug, Flower, Baboon: The Democratic Thing in late 1960s Chicago,” *Kritische Berichte* (2011)
 3. (optional) Further Selections from *The Wall of Respect: Public Art and Black Liberation in 1960s Chicago*, ed. Alkalimat, Crawford, Zorach (2017)

Afternoon: Research and Individual Conferences

Tuesday, June 26

Morning Session: “Murals and New Institutions” (Zorach)

- Readings:
1. John Pitman Weber, “The Chicago Mural Group” in Eva Cockcroft, John Pitman Weber & James Cockcroft, *Toward a People’s Art: The Contemporary Mural Movement* (1998)
 2. Rebecca Zorach, “Art & Soul: An Experimental Friendship between the Street and a Museum” *Art Journal* (2011)
 3. Lynne Warren, “N.A.M.E. at Six—Re-defining the Role of Alternative Spaces” (1979) in *The Essential New Art Examiner*, ed. Griffith et al.
 4. Patricia C. Phillips, “Temporality and Public Art,” *Art Journal* (1989)

11:30-12:30: In 2-West. Collection display of material from Never the Same.

Afternoon: 2-5 PM. Tour of South Side and Lower West Side (Pilsen) murals.

Evening: Optional: Dinner in Pilsen ([5 Rabanitos](#)).

Wednesday, June 27

Morning Session: "Autonomous Cultural Spaces in Latina/o Chicago" (Nicole Marroquin)

- Readings:
1. Nicole Marroquin, "Art in Public Space: Democracy in Action," *Art Against the Law* (2014)
 2. Selections from Lilia Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City* (2012)
 3. María Gamboa, "Una Chicana en la lucha," in *Chicanas of 18th Street*, Leonard G. Ramírez, ed. (2011)
 4. Andrew J Diamond, Chapter 6 from *Mean Streets Chicago Youth and the Everyday Struggle for Empowerment in the Multiracial City 1919-1969* (2009)
 5. Optional: Jaime Alanis, *The Harrison High School Walkouts* dissertation (2010)
 6. Optional: Ralph John Bishop III *Froebel: Ethnography of an Urban School* dissertation (1974)
 7. Optional: Susan Stechnij *Mi Raza Study Guide* (1978)

Afternoon: Research and Individual Conferences

Thursday, June 28

Morning Session: "Gentrification and Cosmopolitanism" (Zorach, Olson, Heap)

- Readings:
1. Fred Evans, "Citizenship and Public Art: Chicago's Millennium Park," in *Outrage: Art, Controversy, and Society* (2012)
 2. Rebecca Zorach, "Make it Stop" *Journal of Aesthetics & Protest* (2008)
 3. "Interview: Mary Jane Jacob" *Program Notes for Culture in Action* (2013)
 4. BLW "A Meeting is a Question Between," <http://carbonfarm.us/meeting.html>
 5. Tor Faegre, "Mad Housers" (1993) <http://www.areachicago.org/mad-housers/>
 6. Joey Mogul, "Reparations: A Blueprint to Address Systemic Police Violence," from *Reparations Now, Reparations Won* (2015)

Afternoon: 2:30- 4:30 PM: Visit to Stony Island Arts Bank (6760 S Stony Island Ave, Chicago, IL 60649).

Evening: 5 PM. Farewell Dinner (Rebecca's house).

Friday, June 29

Morning Session: Closing Discussion, Presentations, Syllabi Exchange, Evaluations (Zorach, Olson, Heap)

Afternoon: Research

Saturday, June 30

Departures