**Freshman Urban Program**

**Counselor Training**

School of Education and Social Policy  
Northwestern University  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2008

**Time:**  
Wednesday evenings, 5:00-8:00 PM

**Staff Advisor:**  
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**SESP Advisor:**  
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**SESP Academic Integrity Statement:**

Students in this course are expected to comply with the policies found in the booklet “Academic Integrity at Northwestern University: A Basic Guide.” For details regarding academic integrity at Northwestern, visit: http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/. If you need a copy of the brochure, visit the SESP Student Affairs Office in Annenberg.

**Accommodations for Students with disabilities:**

In compliance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act, Northwestern University is committed to providing equal access to all programming. Students with disabilities seeking accommodations are encouraged to contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 847.467.5530 or ssd@northwestern.edu. SSD is located in the basement of Scott Hall. SSD also has a website which is viewable at http://www.staff.northwestern.edu/ssd.

**Required Readings:**

The FUP course packet can be purchased at Quartet Copies.
Mission Statement:

The Freshman Urban Program dedicates itself to expanding the social consciousness of incoming freshmen through a service-based learning experience in the Chicagoland area. Using the principles of Asset-Based Community Development, which promote the mapping and mobilizing of local assets, FUP emphasizes the necessity for neighborhood transformation to occur from within. Throughout the course of the trip, students are encouraged to engage in dialogue and reflection concerning social and political issues that are not limited to the local level. By the end of FUP, freshmen will be able to identify themselves as part of both the Northwestern community and the larger community of Chicago. Moreover, students will recognize themselves as empowered individuals able to create positive change within each of these spheres.

Course Expectations, Requirements and Grading:

The counselors will be expected to:

• Actively participate in discussions on the topics and readings.
• Complete all readings in the course pack.
• Attend all classes.
• Complete weekly and final assignments.
  o Weekly assignments: a weblog entry to be posted before class as well as three questions and a one-page reflection due at the beginning of each class
  o Final assignment: medium group presentation
• Grading will be based on:
  o Attendance and participation (no more than 2 absences allowed)
  o Weekly assignments (no exceptions for absences)
  o Being van trained by the end of the quarter (if currently licensed)
  o Medium group final presentation

Class Objectives:

By the end of this course the counselors will:

• Be equipped with the knowledge and skills to address and answer questions regarding the history and issues of Chicago,
• Understand the importance of the program and their responsibilities as a counselor,
• Develop facilitation and reflection skills,
• Be able to use an ABCD perspective,
• Establish a cohesive group dynamic and group mission statement,
• Be prepared for their medium group presentations,
• Be able to use the course packet as a reference guide and a resource throughout the counselor training experience.

Note: Readings are to be completed before the class for which they are assigned.
Class Syllabus:

April 2 – Week 1: Introductions/Facilitation Overview

- Activity: ice-breakers and team building
- Goals:
  - Establish a collective group identity and counselor mission statement
  - Overview of FUP
  - Frame the structure of the class in the context of learning about Chicago through medium group topics

April 9 – Week 2: Medium Group Preparation and ABCD/Community Development

- Assignment: Read about Medium Groups and rank all 4; read ABCD section of Course Packet
- Goals:
  - Understand community development
  - Asset-Based Community Development
  - Discuss philosophy and examples of organizations that do ABCD
  - How ABCD compares to other approaches to community service/development
  - The impact of ABCD on Chicago/other cities
- Medium Group Preparation
  - Guide to an effective medium group presentation
  - Co-chair medium group presentation on ABCD/Community Development
- Speaker: Jody Kretzmann, ABCD Institute and SESP professor, discusses Chicago organizations and communities

April 16 – Week 3: Group Communication/Facilitation

- Assignment: Read Facilitation section of Course Packet
- Goals:
  - Facilitation, gaining skills to communicate with incoming freshmen and dealing with their transition to college, learning about the new generation of students.
- Speaker(s): Lara Brooks, Case Services Manager at Broadway Youth Center; Michael Rohd, Visiting Professor, School of Communication, Theater Dept. about facilitation

April 23 – Week 4: Power & Politics

- Assignment: Read Power and Politics section of Course Packet
- Goals:
  - General background and history of Chicago
  - Political Systems in Chicago
    - Machine Based Politics, Wards, Mayoral powers, etc.
  - Community Development
- Power and Politics Medium Group leads discussion
- Speaker: Joe Moore, Alderman 49th Ward about Chicago politics/institutions
April 25-26: Counselor Retreat
• Goals:
  o team-building; fun
• OWLS in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

April 30 – Week 5: Housing
• Assignment: Read Housing section of Course Packet
• Goals:
  o History of public housing, gentrification
  o What is public housing? How did it develop? What is the future of public housing (i.e. development/decay)? How does segregation within Chicago impact the city?
  o Chicago Housing Authority’s Plan For Transformation and its consequences
• Housing Medium Group leads discussion
• CHA Speaker: TBA- Possible: Beauty Turner about public housing

May 7 – Week 6: Education
• Assignment: Read Education section of Course Packet
• Goals:
  o Current look at public schools in Chicago: What are their roles? Why are they closing down?
  o Renaissance 2010
  o Charter Schools
• Education Medium Group leads discussion
• Speaker: John Ayers, NACSA about educational reform

May 14 – Week 7: People of Chicago
• Assignment: Read People of Chicago section of Course Packet
• Goals:
  o Neighborhoods breakdown
  o How immigration impacts Chicago today
  o Ethnic enclaves in neighborhoods and their effects on current issues
  o Racial tensions throughout Chicago
• People of Chicago Medium Group leads discussion
• Speaker: TBA- Possible: William Savage, English Professor, Northwestern University, WCAS

May 21 – Week 8: Medium Group Workshop
• Assignment: Complete Medium Group Presentation
• Goals:
  o Improve presentation for each group
  o Facilitation practice
  o Constructive criticism from peers
• Each group presents own medium group presentation
May 28 – Week 9: Cultural/Artistic Activity
  • Assignment: Course reflection and goals for FUP week
  • Goals:
    o Expand the scope of the counselor’s exposure to the city
    o Integrate aspects of city with applicable course-work
    o Facilitate bonding within the group and final reflection session
  • Cultural activity in Chicago

June 4 – Week 10: Medium Group Revision/Wrap up
  • Assignments Due:
    o MUST BE VAN TRAINED
    o List of: favorite classes, “Do while at Northwestern”, best places to eat in Evanston, favorite student groups, Chicagoland attractions
  • Goals:
    o Balance information relevant to medium group topic
    o Application of discussion questions
    o Reflection on the quarter
    o Plan for small group facilitation and contact
    o Plan for summer communication
  • Each group presents final medium group presentation