

Chicago Center May Term 2008  
***Chicago Communities and Cultures***  
May 14-June 4, 2008  
Syllabus and Schedule/ Leesa Section

**The Integrative Seminar: Overview**

May Term consists of a three-week seminar that includes an individual practicum (volunteer placement), city living experience, and synthesis of ideas and experiences through class discussions, events, and meetings with urban community resources. The Seminar is an introduction to the First Voices of the city and is intended to help students integrate their practicum experiences, class content, text and readings, and city life.

**Staff**

Instructor:	Leesa Albert, MA
Administrative Director:	Valerie Wallace
Program Director:	Emily Nelson
Housing Coordinator:	Shane Peterson/Erin Spahr
Seminar Assistant:	Shane Peterson

**Readings**

*Enrique's Journey*, Sonia Nazario. 2006  
*Chicago Tribune* daily newspaper

**Course Goals**

1. Create a dialogue between the student and the "first voice" of the city's cultures and communities, particularly those voices which have been marginalized in the dominant culture and isolated in the popular media;
2. Explore issues of diversity and its consequences through cultural arts, public institutions, religious expressions, readings and guest presenters;
3. Develop reflective tools for understanding urban realities through discussion and journaling;
4. Provide the opportunity to work in an agency related to the student's interest and study;
5. Orient the student to Chicago's major institutions and systems and how they impact every citizen.

**Seminar Design**

The Seminar is composed of the following elements:

1. *Orientation*. Introduction to the city, public transportation, safety, cooperative living, the seminar and the practicum.
2. *Class Meetings and Events*. All scheduled events, assigned readings and discussions. Time is scheduled in the seminar for personal reflection and critical analysis.
3. *Practicum*. Seven days in an assigned placement site, each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday beginning on May 20 and ending on June 3. The student is in the placement each scheduled day from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** or as coordinated with the supervisor.
4. *Journal*. A **daily academic journal** will enable the student to integrate the various dimensions of the program. The journal includes required written responses to text assignments.
5. *Group Project*. To be announced in each section. Projects will be presented in the last seminar meeting on June 2.

### A Note about Cooperative Living:

The cooperative living arrangement in Chicago Center apartments in Hyde Park is considered a vital part of the May Term experience. While students are not graded directly on this part of their three week experience, city living experiences are part of the conversation and synthesis that occurs in the class meetings and discussions.

Elements of apartment life, including common food purchase and preparation, group safety, and informal discussion about placement experiences and other seminar content, are benefits of the group living arrangement. An apartment meeting is scheduled each week with the Chicago Center Housing Facilitator for addressing household needs. (All food charge slips must be turned into the Housing Facilitator).

### Course Requirements

1. *Engaged Participation in all scheduled activities.* This is the most critical aspect of the seminar since most scheduled events are one-time-only learning opportunities which cannot be “made up.” In addition to attending all classes and events, the student is expected to be prepared for class discussions by completing assigned readings and other exercises as assigned by the Instructor and to be an actively engaged participant in discussions.

**You are responsible to carry a printed copy of the schedule with you at all times and to check for timely updates on the community website [www.communityzero.com/cculc](http://www.communityzero.com/cculc). It is your responsibility to be at the right place at the right time;** do not schedule anything, including extracurricular placement activities in conflict with the seminar schedule. **Absences from any of these activities will adversely affect your grade.** Clear any conflicts with your instructor before the scheduled event.

2. *Daily journal.* This should answer the following questions: What is going on here? What is the significance of this activity or experience to what I am learning? Where do I fit in and how does this affect me? The journal should begin upon arrival and include all scheduled activities, seminar discussion, readings, practicum experiences and cooperative living, (Refer to your seminar schedule for the dates the journal is turned in to your instructor).
3. *Seven days in practicum placement at the appointed places and times.* You will receive an evaluation form to be filled out by your supervisor. **You must turn this practicum evaluation form in to your supervisor by May 29.** Pick it up on June 3th. Practicum grade is based upon your placement supervisor’s evaluation as well as your journal entries relating to the placement. Missing placement days will adversely affect your grade. (Notify both your supervisor as well as your seminar instructor if you are ill or will miss a placement day).
4. *Group project* (as described by your Instructor).

### Evaluation

Participation in activities and discussion-	30pts
Daily journal (including response to assigned readings)-	30pts
Placement Evaluation-	30pts
Group Project-	10pts
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Total Possible Points	100

### Grade Scale

90-100: A

80-89: B

70-79: C

60-69: D