School for New Learning
DePaul University
Course Syllabus
HC 206  U.S. Cities: Banned in Boston

Fall 2017

General Information
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Location: U.S. Cities: Banned in Boston is a domestic travel course. On site classes will be conducted in various locations in the city of Boston from 12 – 15 October, 2017. Three supplemental sessions in Chicago will be conducted as listed below.

Dates/Time: Travel Dates: 12 – 15 October, 2017
Pre-trip classes: Friday 29 September and Friday 6 October 2017, SNL Loop office
Post-trip class: Friday 27 October 2017.
All Chicago classes 6 – 9 pm, room 1502, 14 E. Jackson Blvd.

Course discussions: online 16-26 October.

Credit Hours: 2 hours per competence

Course Description

Then and there was born the child independence.
(John Adams on pre Revolutionary war Boston)

Boston is ambiguous. It is a world class city from a cultural and educational perspective, but diminutive when considering the standards set by New York or LA. It is rich and expensive, but poor in population. It is the go-to place for American history, but is also eclipsed by more famous locales such as Ellis Island, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. It has an ocean at its front door, but then so does Honolulu, where the weather is generally better!

No matter where you were born, if you live in America, you have been influenced by Boston and its tumultuous history. John and Abigail Adams, Alexander Graham Bell, Paul Revere, Ben Franklin, and John Kennedy lived for a time in Boston, as did Emily Dickenson, Robert Frost, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sylvia Plath, Ben Affleck, Malcolm X, and Aerosmith. The list of famous Bostonians is quite long, indeed. What makes Boston and Bostonians tick? What does “Banned in Boston” mean? In this travel course centered on this most pivotal of US Cities, learners will walk the freedom trail, visit Boston’s most famous art collections, and its equally famous North End. Issues such as Boston’s creative citizenry, startling art collections, immigrant populations, its fame as a seat of American higher education and medical establishment, and its connection to events in American history will be discussed. Students may register for up to 3 competencies.
**Competencies Offered:** A5, H4, L10 and L11 (Externship)

**A5:** Can define and analyze a creative process.
1. Can define the concept of creativity.
2. Can identify, analyze, and describe the components of a creative process in one or more fields of human endeavor.
3. Can explain how engaging in a creative process affects one’s perception of the world.

**H4:** Can analyze power relations among racial, social, cultural, or economic groups in the U.S.
1. Describes the unequal power relations between at least two racial, social, cultural, or economic groups in the US;
2. Describes the historical, sociological, or economic dynamics under which these groups came to be in conflict.

**Externship:** L10 and L 11

**L-10:** Can reflect on the learning process and methods used in an experiential project.
1. Identify and explain a personal learning goal
2. Identify and select learning opportunities to support the goal
3. Select and employ methods to achieve the desired learning goal
4. Explain the interrelationship between one’s own profile as a learner and new learning opportunities
5. Explain the nature and outcomes of this particular learning experience.

**L-11:** Understands aspects of Boston history and culture and can discuss the impact of travel on personal appreciation of Boston as a unique American city.
1. Knows aspects of Boston history and can use the city as a learning lab
2. Can comment on issues of social equity in Boston History
3. Can comment art and political movements and creative endeavors in Boston history
4. Can assess Boston’s art and living museums and can explain how they represent Boston’s identity

A1X and H1X may be negotiated. Check with faculty for more information.

**Outcomes**
At the close of this course students will have:
- An understanding of the city of Boston and its place in American history;
- A clear vision of creativity in arts, culture, and history;
- A sense of the importance of social institutions in representing urban culture;
- Knowledge of the ways in which social class has shaped Boston and American history;
- An ability to learn from a variety of scenarios, and to assess how learning is achieved through experience.

**Learning Experience**
Travel courses are the epitome of experiential learning. In this course, in addition to preparatory lectures and class discussions, students will walk through the colonial history of Boston on the Freedom Trail, and wander the well-appointed rooms of Isabella Stewart Gardner’s house-turned-museum. This is a course about places and spaces and images and how seeing these things influences understanding. All students in this course, competence choice notwithstanding, will visit the following locations:
- Boston Athenaeum
- Boston Public Library
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (ISGM)
- Freedom Trail
Boston’s North End
Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)
Museum of Fine Arts (MFA)
Trinity Church

**All visits are required.**

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**Required Course Materials**

**Readings:** Readings will be made available through the D2L site for the course. A complete reading list will be made available in August. Faculty suggest students read up on Boston, Isabella Stewart Gardner, and the origins of the American Revolutionary War history before traveling to Boston.

**Required Books:**
- *Mrs. Jack: A Biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner.* Louise Hall Tharp. This book is available in local libraries and in used copies at Amazon and Powell’s.

**Films:** The following films are helpful viewing before traveling to Boston:
- *Stolen* (a documentary on the 1990 theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum)
- *Liberty!* (A PBS special on pivotal issues and personages of the beginning of the Revolution. Discs one and two are most related to our topic)
Nb: There is a $130.00 museum entry fee beyond tuition and travel costs.

**Attendance and Participation**
DePaul University anticipates that all students will attend all classes. Missing any class experience makes assessment difficult, and in the event of several missed classes, impossible. Be sure to clear your schedule for our 3 classes in Chicago and that you schedule your travel so you can attend all scheduled learning activities.

**Travel Details (Logistics and Costs)**
Students in this course are responsible for their own airline and hotel reservations. Tour schedules and meeting places in Boston will be provided on D2L and in class meetings in September. All site entrances and tours (guided and individual) are included in the $130 program fee. (nb: the program fee is NOT included in tuition and travel costs.)

**Required Course Deliverables**
(The descriptions below will be augmented with specific instructions on the D2L course site.)

**All Competencies:**
- Participation in all pre- and post-trip classes, museum visits, and assigned course activities
- Online discussions via D2L
- Written work by competence as described below and in the Assignment Handout on D2L

**A5:** 1 five page research paper including annotations on the concept of creativity as it relates to Boston personalities

**H4:** 1 five page research paper included annotations on social equality in colonial Boston

**L10 and 11**
- A 20 page journal on competence themes named above
- Annotated bibliography of 15-20 sources on Boston history and art
- Artifact related to course themes, plus narrative

Students wishing to negotiate H1X and/or A1X should consult with the faculty.

> To understand what is happening today or what will happen in the future, I look back.
> Oliver Wendell Holmes

**Criteria for Assessment**

Grading Policy

**A/A-** designates work of high quality; reflects thorough and comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand; reflects a clearly identifiable thesis and argument that demonstrates cogent and creative development and support of idea.

**B+/B/-** designates work of good quality; reflects clearly organized and comprehensive understanding of issues at hand; presents substantive thesis and argument with evident development and support of ideas.
C+/C/C- designates work which minimally meets requirements set forward in assignment; reflects some organization and development of ideas but develops argument in superficial or simplistic manner; may only address part of the assignment or be otherwise incomplete.

D= designates work of poor quality which does not meet minimum requirements set forth in the assignment; demonstrates poor organization of ideas and/or inattention to development of ideas, grammar, and spelling; treatment of material is superficial and/or simplistic; may indicate that student has not done reading assignments thoroughly. The D grade does not carry competence for SNL students.

Nb: The Externship is a Pass/Fail course.

Tentative Class Schedule: nb: The dates and times of our tours will not change. There might be some shifts in where we go when. Be sure to arrange your travel so you can attend sessions Thursday afternoon through Sunday at noon.

Module 1: Friday 29 September, Loop Campus 6 – 9 pm
Course Overview
Art, Space, Architecture, and the European tradition
Making Sense of Images

Module 2: Friday 6 October, Loop Campus 6 – 9 pm
American Colonial Experience
Trip Preparation

Module 3 – 9 Boston Visit/Online Discussions

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 Oct</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Boston Athenaeum</td>
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<td>Friday 13 Oct</td>
<td>Museum of Fine Arts</td>
<td>Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum</td>
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<td>Saturday 14 Oct</td>
<td>Boston Public Library</td>
<td>Freedom Trail</td>
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<td>Copley Square</td>
<td>Old North Church</td>
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<td>Trinity Church</td>
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<td>Sunday 15 Oct</td>
<td>Institute of Contemporary Art</td>
<td>Departure</td>
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Module 9: 16 - 26 October Online discussions

Module 10: Friday, 27 October 6 -9 Loop Campus
Recap and review of written requirements. Presentation of artifacts

All written materials due no later than Monday 13 November 2016. Materials submitted after due dates will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis only, that is, C is the highest grade late materials can achieve.

nb: Cell phone use is prohibited in the classroom and in our Boston venues.

Addenda

Attendance: All sessions are required. Missed classes, or assignments will result in significantly lowered grades. Missed site visits will result in failure. In the case of an emergency, consult with faculty about make up assignments.
**Class Behavior**
All students must treat one another with respect and tolerance. Our course is about expanding ideas through reading, listening, and experience. In this course, we will be using our time to listen not only to the teachers and guides but to one another. While someone has the floor, please refrain from speaking. Be kind to your colleagues, and listen attentively. Class time is for class activities. Keep your cell phone turned off. If you feel you must answer your phone, do so by leaving the area and making every attempt not to disturb your colleagues. Keep in mind that any missed time will be reflected in your grade for that day’s activities. Please arrive on time. Arriving after we have begun our sessions is disconcerting to everyone. Do not bring food with you. Unprofessional behavior such as texting, using cell phones, accessing the internet on your phone, talking during presentations or while others have the floor could result in your being asked to leave the room. Your teachers work closely with the DePaul University Dean of Students office to ensure that all students are respected and can work in an environment conducive to learning.

See information pertaining to the grade designations for undergraduate grades. See [Pass/Fail Grading Options](#).

This course includes and adheres to the college and university policies described in the links below:
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Incomplete Policy](#)
- [Course Withdrawal Timelines and Grade/Fee Consequences](#)
- [Accommodations Based on the Impact of a Disability](#)
- [Protection of Human Research Participants](#)

**Course Resources**
- [University Center for Writing-based Learning](#)
- [SNL Writing Guide](#)
- [Dean of Students Office](#)

![Students and Faculty at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#)