Course Description: Welcome to “Art in Chicago”! This Independent Study course will give you the opportunity to study some really exciting art in Chicago on your own, with the telephone guidance of an instructor with more than 25 years of experience in the field.

To get started, just contact the instructor, Joe Cunniff, at (773) 728-0357. Then please get a notebook in which you feel comfortable in writing. This is your course journal which can be mailed in or turned in to the instructor when you are finished.

To begin, speak to Joe, the instructor. He will invite you to one of his talks at the Art Institute, if you can make it. The Art Institute of Chicago is at Michigan and Adams downtown and is one of the world’s greatest art museums. Then you will visit the Art Institute on your own and see some paintings in the American collection and in the Modern Wing. Joe will give you suggestions on how to look at these paintings, how to think about them, and how to write something about them in your class journal.

Next, you will visit the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in downtown Chicago. The MCA is on Chicago Avenue just east of Michigan Avenue. It is dedicated to art just since 1945. Call them up, ask about their free days, and ask about a tour. Go with a friend or a family member if you like. Again, Joe will give you a suggestion on how to write-up something about your trip to this remarkable place.

Third, you can visit an art show. There are usually new shows by artists on the first Friday of every month. You can find a bunch of art galleries at Superior and Wells. Just get off the Brown Line of the ‘L’ at Chicago and Franklin. Look for the banners handing outside the galleries. There are also shows in Pilsen, on Michigan Avenue, and maybe in your neighborhood. Check the weekend arts sections of the newspapers. Chat a bit with the artist, and ask him or her to tell you about their art.

If the artist is not there, they frequently have an “Artist’s Statement” handout right by the paintings. The just write up your trip as part of your course journal. Again, you can always call Joe for suggestions.

Learning Outcomes. Competencies, or Objectives: For DePaul SNL students, this class may be taken for A-1-B (37158), A-1-I (37159), or another competence/credit as approved by your academic adviser. Please ask the instructor about this.
A-1-B reads “Can use public or private institutions as resources for exploring arts or ideas.” A-1-I reads “Can use two or more theoretical approaches to interpret as work in the arts or popular culture.”

As a result of this class, you will very much expand and deepen your knowledge and appreciation of art and or the wonderful opportunities offered by Chicago in this field.

**Learning Strategies and Resources:** Students will have a choice of a book: “How to Look at Modern Art” by Philip Yenawine or “What Are You Looking At?” by Will Gompertz. You will be guided in how best to use the book as well as about articles and films that can enhance your study.

**Learning Deliverables:** Your course journal will include your writing about your trip to the Art Institute, your trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art, your trip to an art show, and your notes on the book. You have 10 weeks to complete the course, but an additional 10 weeks may be taken. Please stay in touch with the instructor for feedback and to make sure that you finish on time.

**Assessment of Student Learning:** Please read your competence thoughtfully and consider it in terms of your course journal. Stay in touch with the instructor to make sure that you fulfill the competence. The class is designed to help you do so, and the instructor will always be there to keep you on track.

**Grading Criteria and Scale:** A complete journal will have the three trip write-ups as well as your notes on the book. Again, the instructor will be available to answer any question on how to do this. You will have a chance to rate your own work in conversation with the instructor before you hand it in. Class can be taken for the regular A, B, C, D grades or for Pass/Fail.

This course will strive to uphold Vincentian values and will adhere to all DePaul 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: Students are reminded of help available from:

- University Center for Writing-based Learning
Instructor’s Brief Bio: Joe Cunniff has been a popular and much requested speaker and teacher on the arts for more than 25 years. He was the long-times art writer of North Shore Magazine, and has written on the arts in journals for the Hyde Park Herald to the international magazine Downbeat. He is a Certified Member of the Chicago Tour Professionals Association, and has taken 16 art and music study trips to Europe and to North Africa.