

Laguna Blanca School
CHICAGO URBAN STUDIES TRIP
March 21 - 26, 2019

Chicago Trip Destinations

The comprehensive trip itinerary provides a balance between popular attractions and service-based learning activities. Destinations include The University of Chicago, The Chicago Maroon/student newspaper, Hyde Park, The Chicago History Museum, The House of Blues, The Magnificent Mile, Lake Shore Drive, Oak Street Beach and Lake Michigan, The Chicago Architecture Center, the 360 Observation Deck of Hancock Tower, the Art Institute, and the Chicago Police Department. These sites build the fabric of the city that weave together the story of Chicago. Students will begin to understand how the roots and history of a city can affect future complex issues of race, politics, and economy. Students will visit I Grow, a Chicago non-profit that works tirelessly to "heal the hood," WBEZ 91.5, Chicago's NPR and broadcaster of the podcast *16 Shots* about the shooting of Laquan McDonald. Finally, an open discussion with a Chicago Police Department Sergeant will connect back to discussions of the book and film adaptation of Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*.

Why Chicago?

It's time to shake things up and go to the Midwest. The third-largest city in the U.S., Chicago is important. And it's cool. We'll figure out why. During our interdisciplinary study of the city, we will use selections from William Cronon's award-winning book *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and Great West* (1992) to explore the environmental and economic factors that made Chicago the turn-of-the-twentieth-century engine that drove the settlement of the American West. With the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota, the livestock of Iowa, and the grain from Illinois, Chicago becomes a pulsing spot: "the systole and the diastole" that moved trees, meat, and grain from the "hinterland" to the city. By the twentieth-century, Chicago became a key destination within the Great Migration and eventually the Midwestern center of urban finance. Drawing on a range of literary texts such as Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1905), Carl Sandburg's "Chicago" (1915), Gwendolyn Brooks' "We Real Cool" (1960), and Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* (2004), we will ask why one line of Sandburg's poem—"City of the Big Shoulders"—has become an iconic phrase.

What are the major forces that make up this city? How does its geographical location play into its history? How did nineteenth-century immigration and the Great Migration shape its identity? While analyzing the city's rich culture—from its music, food, art, literature, architecture, theater, and comedy—to its sports and sports culture, wild politics, gangsters, bootleggers, and entrepreneurs—to its crises, riots, fires, world's fairs and exhibitions, settlement houses, and immigration stories—we will grow to understand that there is nothing more central to the city than the intersections of race, ethnicity, segregation, integration, wealth, and poverty.

We will ask: Where can we see historical and present-day examples of the city's extraordinary, innovative responses to the past and present problems the city faces? What are examples of non-profit organizations striving to foster community and youth empowerment through arts, education, civic engagement, job training, and housing programs? What is (and has been) the role of journalism, radio, and (now) podcasts in this city?

Chicago Daily Itinerary

Day 1 | March 21 | Thursday

Take Santa Barbara Airbus to LAX (Flight & Bus TBD). Arrive Chicago late. Bus transportation to Chicago Holiday Inn Mart Plaza River North <https://www.martplaza.com/location.aspx>

Day 2 | March 22 | Friday

Breakfast at hotel and then bus ride to the University of Chicago in Hyde Park, on the city's South Side. We'll begin by visiting The Chicago Maroon, UChicago's independent student newspaper, meeting Co-editor-in-chief Pete Grieve and available staff members of the publication. Grieve suggests: "We can discuss different methods for reporting stories—how we use anonymous sources, how we use software and social media to find people who are hard to track down, and how we look for public records (ex. filing FOIA requests and getting court documents). If

enough Maroon people are available, we may have your students sit in on a short editorial board meeting where we debate an issue and try to come to a consensus on a viewpoint the paper could take. We could also do a mock editorial board meeting with the kids if scheduling doesn't work for Maroon people to have a real one."

An informal tour of the campus and lunch will be followed by a neighborhood walk toward 53rd Street. This will include stops by important places, ranging from Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House to the renowned Seminary Coop Bookstore and Harold's Chicken Shack. After Hyde Park, we'll head north toward the Gold Coast and Near North neighborhoods and walk toward Oak Street Beach to experience the famous southward-facing view of Lake Michigan.

- <https://www.uchicago.edu/>
- <https://www.chicagomaroon.com/>
- <https://flwright.org/visit/robiehouse>

Day 3 | March 23 | Saturday

This is a more traditional "soak up central aspects of the city/be a tourist" day. Begin with a visit to the Chicago History Museum, Chicago's oldest cultural institution that was founded in 1856 and incorporated by an act of the state legislature. Providing a full picture of the history of the city—music, politics, architecture, conflicts, riots, fires, renovations, innovation, exhibitions, the World's Fair—the museum offers students stories of the city and its people. Next, we take a 90-minute "Must-See" Chicago Architecture Center walking/"hop-on hop-off the L" tour of the city featuring the Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower, Willis (Sears) Tower and more. Our evening concludes with a visit and tickets to a TBD theater, musical, improv comedy experience.

- <https://www.chicagohistory.org/>
- <https://www.architecture.org/tours/detail/must-see-chicago-2/>
- <https://www.msg.com/the-chicago-theatre>
- <https://aptpchicago.org/our-mission/art/>

Day 4 | March 24 | Sunday

We'll begin the day by traveling to Chicago Police Headquarters for an open discussion about Chicago's current climate of crime, violence, racial tensions and historical political corruption with Chicago Police Department Sergeant Al Stinites. A friend of *The Hate U Give* producer Bob Teitel, Sergeant Stinites will be familiar with the film and with questions that have come up in class discussions. Afterward, we will visit the House of Blues for their famous Gospel Sunday Brunch. While enjoying live entertainment and being treated to its famous chicken and waffles, students will experience the House of Blues' mission of "celebrating the diversity and brotherhood of world cultures and promoting racial and spiritual harmony." In the afternoon, we'll visit The Art Institute of Chicago, one of the world's major museums, and then explore Millennium Park and the mysterious *Cloud Gate* sculpture (aka "The Bean"). A trip to the top of Hancock Tower/360 Observation Deck and shopping on the Magnificent Mile conclude the day.

- <http://www.houseofblues.com/chicago/gospelbrunch>
- <http://www.artic.edu/>
- <https://360chicago.com/>
- <https://www.themagnificentmile.com/shopping/>

Day 5 | March 25 | Monday

We are extremely fortunate on this day to be able to immerse ourselves in I Grow, a non-profit organization in Englewood that is working to "heal the hood" through youth empowerment, community engagement, and skills-building, and, more generally, by creating an atmosphere of safety, love, and hope in its Peace House and neighboring community. Through its "one street/one corner at a time" vision, I Grow has created 15 different programs with the intent of bringing "justice, hope, and love to all in our city and beyond." We will be the recipients of that mission as we are invited to join community members in a yoga class, take a tour of the Peace House, and participate in service learning activities that will provide understanding of the I Grow philosophy. If possible, we hope to explore options for a pen-pal exchange before our visit.

<https://www.igrowchicago.org/our-work/>
<https://www.igrowchicago.org/our-work/change-philosophy/>

On either end of this experience, we have the unique opportunity to visit WBEZ 91.5, Chicago's NPR radio station that launched Jenn White's podcast *16 Shots*, the story of the shooting of Laquan McDonald. Students will again be able to make connections to their study of Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give* and in-class discussions of the podcast. <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/643309816/16-shots-the-police-shooting-of-laquan-mc-donald>

The late afternoon/early evening will be left open for students to enjoy chaperone-led free-time activities (which will be based on student input). The evening ends with dinner and reflection. [Explore dinner options: Wicker Park/Bucktown]

Day 6 | March 26 | Tuesday

Depart Chicago O'Hare early afternoon; return to Santa Barbara via LAX and Santa Barbara Airbus

This morning is intentionally left open, and we'll solidify activities based on student input and scheduling/logistics. Options include:

- Visiting non-profit organizations whose missions center on youth empowerment through arts, education, and civic engagement:
 - Street Level—"Street-Level is a youth multimedia center where young people can participate in video and audio production classes, join clubs, and find a welcoming environment through our Open Lab. Street-Level's mission is to educate Chicago youth in media arts and emerging technologies for use in self-expression, communication, and social change." <https://street-level.urbangateways.org/>
 - Social Works Chicago—Founded by Chance the Rapper who was born and raised in Chicago, Social Works offers multi-faceted programming to support children in Chicago Public Schools: "Aims to empower youth through the arts, education, and civic engagement while fostering leadership, accessibility, and positivity within Chicago."
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rttGKuDXCCc>
 - <https://www.socialworkschi.org/about-us/>
- A visit to Northwestern Memorial Hospital to meet Dr. Scott Moses, the Director of Women's Health, Bioethics, & Medical Humanities, whose Ob/Gyn practice delivers 2,000 babies/ year
- A walking tour/lunch in Wicker Park or Bucktown.

SAMPLES OF CLASS of '19, '20, '21 POST-TRIP RESEARCH PROJECT WEBSITES AND POST-TRIP VIDEOS

<http://lbsnola.weebly.com;>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoRMBH5LPUw&feature=youtu.be>