

Civic Connections for Entering Students: Linking the Curriculum with the City

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Civic Connections for Entering Students at IUPUI

- Introductions
- Setting the context
 - IUPUI
 - University College
- Why this work is important

Civic Connections for Entering Students at IUPUI

UCOL U110: Discover Indianapolis

- Course Design and Pedagogy
- Co-curricular integration
- Course assignments and final project
- Assessment



Course Design and Pedagogy

– First Year Seminar

- Five member instructional team

– Course Goals/ content

- New student success topics
- Introduction to the city
- Civic awareness/ engagement
- Diversity appreciation

Course Design and Pedagogy

– Indianapolis Cultural Districts

- Excellent and easy way to introduce entering students to areas of the city
- Developed in 2002 by Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission
- 6 districts highlighting distinct artistic/ cultural contributions

Co-curricular integration

- Faces of America production (Indiana Avenue)
- “Mama Mia!” Broadway theatre production (Mass Ave)
- Eiteljorg Museum visit (Canal & White River State Park)
- Indianapolis Art Center/ Dinner at the Dean’s house (Broadripple Village)
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Co-curricular Integration

Service & the City

- Day-long service project for first-year students
- City Tour
- Civic Leadership Luncheon
- Service and reflection

Course Assignments and Final Projects

- **Using newspapers to learn about the city**
 - Weekly articles and reflections on social issues
 - Final letter

Assessment

Tools/ instruments used

- American Democracy Project (ADP) Survey
 - Measures civic awareness and engagement
- Miville-Guzman Universality Diversity Scale – Short Form (MGUDS-S)
 - Measures diversity Knowledge, awareness & behaviors
- Written reflections
 - Qualitative measure of student diversity experiences

Findings

As a result of this course:

- Increased political awareness and involvement
- Increased awareness of community involvement
- Increased participation in volunteerism
- Increased diversity knowledge and awareness

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- **QUESTIONS?**
- For additional information on this course, look for the forthcoming text: First-Year Civic Engagement: Sound Foundations for College, Citizenship and Democracy.