From the City to the Farm:
Pedagogy and Logistics of Field Trips in Online Courses

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Field Trips Sites in PLS Courses

**PLS 392 Humanities**

Angelic Organics Farm
Canal Origins Park
Stearns Quarry Park
Wolf Point (Chicago River)
Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary
Chicago Humanities Festival
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago History Museum

**PLS 391 Natural Science**

Chicago River
Des Plaines River Wetlands
Field Museum of Natural History
Indiana Dunes
Argonne National Laboratory
Fermilab
Volo Bog State Natural Area
Field Trips Sites in SUST Courses

SUST 210 Sustainable Future

Chicago Center for Green Tech
Wild Things Environmental Conference
Spring Valley Nature Center (Schaumburg)
Millennium Park
Chicago Architecture Foundation

SUST 220 Water

Chicago River
Salt Creek / Busse Woods
Des Plaines River Wetlands
Lake Michigan (someday!)
From the City to the Farm (PLS 392)

Urban Landscapes: Canal Origins and Stearns Quarry Parks

Exploration of Chicago's urban parklands: old and new waterways, riding the El, reading the urban landscape, aesthetics of concrete and steel, Chicago history (picking litter)

Rural Landscapes: Angelic Organics Farm

Exploration of IL's rural lands at CSA farm near Rockford, IL: film analysis (*The Real Dirt on Farmer John*); aesthetics of farmland; agriculture and community; rural transformations of nature; organic farming and environmental restoration (picking greens and petting animals)
Field Trips and Online Pedagogy

• Online discussion: complements and enlivens reading assignments
• Formal writing: detailed analytic reflection on experiences
• Transformative learning: toward a new way of seeing the landscape
• Documentation: photos essays on my faculty website
Logistical Considerations

- Plan carefully (timing, directions, on-site contacts)
- Integrate with syllabus (readings + assignments)
- Use travel waiver forms for RU (and possibly the site itself)
- Keep fees low ($25 max in my experience; free is good!)
- Provide alternatives for those who can't attend (local and/or online)