

First Year Seminar Guide

What is a First Year Seminar (FYS) course?

First Year Seminars serve as the first course in Otterbein's Integrative Studies (general education) program. The seminars are diverse in topic and disciplinary perspective, but share a set of goals and outcomes related to student learning and transition into the Otterbein academic community.

The seminars are taught by a wide range of faculty and are designed to provide students with an introduction to interdisciplinary learning. In other words, they'll help you understand what Otterbein classes will be like for the next four years. Students should choose a seminar that seems interesting to them; no major requires one specific seminar. Therefore, the seminars are also a great way for students who are undecided or unsure of their major to explore different topics or areas.

What can I expect from my FYS?

- FYS courses are designed to help with your transition into Otterbein. FYS classes open the door to campus resources and life-changing experiences.
- The courses are rigorous, resulting in a solid foundation for the rest of your Otterbein career.
- After completing your FYS classes, you will have a better understanding of college-level work, which will benefit you in your other classes.
- FYS allows for connections; what you learn in your FYS class will relate to the rest of your time at Otterbein—both in and out of the classroom!
- Your FYS course will help you to tap into your strengths, accept diversity, engage in intellectual conversations and develop relationships with faculty, fellow first-year students and a peer mentor.
- You'll learn fundamental skills such as time management, decision-making and self-reflection.

General Guide for selecting a FYS:

1. Review the comprehensive list of FYS offerings (see attached schedule).
2. Identify a few FYS classes that sound interesting—remember you can pick any FYS course, regardless of your background knowledge or intended major.
3. Pay attention to distinguishing features such as the term offered, LLC Connection or extra costs for travel.
4. In the Course Registration Survey that you will receive through your email, you will be able to preference your FYS courses based on if you really like, like or dislike the course.
5. Have fun with choosing your FYS—this is the first step of your liberal arts education!

First Year Seminar Course Descriptions

Fall 2019

SEARCHING FOR SELF:

FYS 1006 – The Science of Happiness

A consideration of positive psychology, the science of human strengths and virtues. Rather than starting from mental illness, positive psychology begins instead at mental wellness and uses scientific studies, validated tests, and interventions that are proven effective. Topics will include: aspects of happiness and factors that contribute to these aspects, signature strengths and values, the role of cognition and emotion in happiness, and the role of creativity and flow in everyday activities. Reflecting on these principles in student's lives and learning skills that can be used in college and beyond. Gaining an understanding of psychological research methods and the contemporary research findings on positive psychology.

FYS 1008 – Finding Voice; Making Noise

In his self-help/management book, "The 8th Habit," Steven Covey states, "the crucial challenge of our world today is to find our voice and inspire others to find theirs." While Covey brings the concept of voice into popular culture, critical scholars in many disciplines have wrestled with the notion of voice, specifically seeking to hear and understand the voices of marginalized individuals, who have often been silenced. This course will examine power and identity. Through readings, activities, and lectures, students will explore the concept of voice, and uncover how those who have been silenced have found and used their voices. The ultimate goal is for students to apply the lessons to their own experiences, discovering their own voices and the power that they have to be heard and make a difference on campus and in our society.

FYS 1055 – Asking the Big Questions

College is the time for asking big questions: Who am I? What do I want to do with my life? Who will I love? Exploring these questions, and the ways we can use them to make meaning from our experiences in college. What do these questions mean to us as individuals? What do they mean to us as members of a community? How do these questions help us think about the world around us and help us understand the concept of the common good? Service, discussion, readings, films and activities are used to consider the implication of these questions for first year students. Issues of identity, vocation, and relationships will also be explored.

FYS 1075 - Examining Mercy and Justice through Self Reflection and Exploration

Building upon the themes, issues and experiences presented through *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Through additional readings, films, lectures and materials that expand the primary common book topics, engaging in discussion and presentations, research, writing, and experiential learning that challenge you to examine yourself and your responsibilities to local and global communities. Includes a strong "community" commitment and will engage in service, possible field trips, invited guest speakers, and viewing films that expand our views of communities.

LEARNING TO LEAD:

FYS 1013 - Women's Leadership

The meaning and significance of leadership in general, as well as the historic, current, and future challenges and opportunities associated with women seeking and fulfilling leadership roles in their professions and in society. Examining various perspectives on leadership and advice on how to become a leader today and in the future, as well as the social, cultural and economic factors associated with women and leadership. Speakers who work in different sectors will discuss their individual views and experiences related to women and leadership roles.

FYS 1024 - Leadership Pathways

The formative paths toward an understanding of leadership principles and practices. Examining and experiencing emergent ways of seeing ourselves, others, and human situations defined locally and globally - all against a background of traditional and non-traditional leadership roles and models. Through critical self-reflection, identifying pathways for joining the sides of the self, achieving common purposes, collaborating, effecting change, and accepting the responsibilities of the engaged citizen. Introduces students to the goals of the Integrative Studies program. Includes participation in FYE and service-learning activities. Prereq: not open to students with credit for LEAD 1000

FYS 1069 - How to Succeed in Business

An introduction to business and the effects business operations has on its leaders, employees, stakeholders, and the society it serves. The essential functions of business operation, the impact operations have on the local community and overall society, the impact business has on the culture of the regions it markets to, and the ethical questions businesses encounter. Topics include introductions to accounting, finance, economics, business planning, human resources, strategy, marketing, international business, and management. Questions of individual ethics and social responsibility, and understanding the basic rudiments of business, the basic operations of a business, and the challenges faced by businesses in terms of the general components that impact business decision-making.

CREATIVITY, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE:

FYS 1028 - The Other in World Literature, Art, and Cinema

Introduces first-year students to academic discourse using world art (Frida Kahlo's Self-Portraits and her Diary, literature (Lispector's *The Passion according to G. H.*, Oyono's *Houseboy*), and film (Ozon's *The New Girlfriend*, Denis's *Chocolate*) to explore the relationship between the self and the other. Taking the other as it appears in the world as a concrete person, this seminar begins with Jacques Lacan's mirror stage scenario to lay out the framework for subsequent discussions of those moments of "selfi(e)ng" and "othering" that inform our discussions of otherness in terms of gender, race, and sexuality. Going beyond Lacan's egoistic image of the subject, we will examine the relationship between the self and the other in a wider context, in which the other's gaze plays a crucial role in the way the subject constitutes an identity sexually, racially, ethically, or socially. These perspectives inform not only how the self relates to others in the real world, but also how this relationship should be lived ethically: How should

one approach the other? How does one respond when the other is abusive or violent? Or, what can you do for the other that would have a positive impact on her/his life?

FYS 1045 - Alcohol/Food in History & Culture

Examining the roles that food and alcohol play in shaping societies and culture. Exploring questions of how food and alcohol consumption shapes and reflects our individual and cultural identity as well as differences in gender, class and race. Tracing the history of food and alcohol production and consumption and reflecting on how the modern food system (including science) shapes our behavior. Exploring the roots of contemporary issues related to cultural identity, industrialization, globalization, and sustainability.

FYS 1074 - History of Musical Theatre

Musical theatre is a complex and absorbing art form that has existed since the creation of opera in the Italian Renaissance of the early 1600s. Three hundred years later, American musical theatre has drawn on the talents and sensibilities of creative and insightful composers, lyricists, directors, choreographers and performers throughout the twentieth century and into the present. In this course, we will survey the entire history of musical theatre, beginning with a unit on the current state of the art and Lin-Miranda's *Hamilton*. We will then travel back to trace that history from the first operatic masterpiece, Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (1607) through the twentieth century. Instead of spending a few moments with many works, we will explore in some detail a series of epochal masterworks, which hold a mirror to American society, and provide a framework for discussion of race, class, gender, ethnicity and the American project. Shows we will discuss and view in part include: *Show Boat*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Oklahoma!*, *West Side Story* and *Cabaret*.

LITERATURE, FILM, AND MEDIA STUDIES:

FYS 1067 - The Uses of Enchantment: The Literary and Cultural Legacy of Fairy Tales

There is no culture on the planet that does not have some tradition of folk or fairy tales. Originally fairy tales were not intended for children, as throughout most of their history they were told to adult audiences for entertainment and education. Many of the popular fairy tales we know today were originally transcribed and collected by two brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, who edited and shaped them from their original and sometimes lewd, violent content into narratives more suitable for younger minds. While the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm reflected many of the specific values of their Germanic culture, fairy tales are now widely viewed as raising universal and archetypal questions about human nature, culture, and morality. Exploring and analyzing the cultural purposes of fairy tales from around the globe by examining their history, narrative forms, and traditions, and how they have continued to develop and change over time. Modern adaptations of traditional tales, and how they reveal themselves in contemporary literature, film, television, gaming, and advertising. Engaging with the tales from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including literature, psychology, feminist and film studies, anthropology and sociology in order to appreciate how fairy tales help us understand the human condition.

FYS 1053 - Orientation to Media Genres

The far-reaching impact of the modern day media landscape is enough to make someone say "OMG!" An orientation to media genres that encourages a deeper understanding of today's

media platforms as an interconnected global industry. Gaining an appreciation for the importance of media professionals to actively pursue public engagement and social responsibility. Reflecting on how media programming provides images, lifestyles, and stories that relate to the identity of the human self and its place in the world.

HISTORY AND POLITICS IN THE PAST AND FUTURE:

FYS 1035 - Political Scandals: The Consequences of Temporary Gratification

Examines political scandals of the 20th and 21st century to evaluate why political officials and decision makers risk their political careers and personal lives for sex, money and power.

FYS 1072 - Fake News and Political Conspiracy Theories: Critical Thinking Strategies to Unmask the Truth

Controversy has recently erupted regarding conspiracy theories, fake news, and the fourth estate. The media plays a crucial role in America's checks and balances by helping to inform citizens. However, with the explosion of the internet and an information glut in contemporary society, it is difficult to know what sources to trust. Developing critical thinking skills and unmasking sources that lack credibility. A campus, community, national, or international problem area to focus on will be chosen in development of research, critical thinking, and argumentation skills.

FYS 1046 - Eastern Encounters: Identity and Change in Modern East Asian History

An examination of Asian history through the lens of identity. How personal and collective identity interacts with and informs larger political, social and cultural transformations. Inquiring into the nature of political power, the succession of dynasties and military regimes, the assertion of territorial and ethnic boundaries in the past and in the present, and the transformation of family structures, economies, and diplomatic relations. Focuses on the modern history of East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) from the eighteenth century onward, including the national histories of each of these countries, and also develops a comprehensive understanding of the broad and lasting cultural heritage of East Asian civilizations.

FYS 1066 – Global Flash Points

Contemporary political flash points in a global perspective. How conflicts arise within and between states across the world. The causes and contexts of conflicts as well as the means and prospects for their resolution, including the role that other states and organizations like the United Nations, and NGOs can and do play in resolving tension. Contemporary problems, such as nuclear proliferation, migration, disease economic development, social justice and/or food security in these conflicts. Areas may include the Middle East, Asia, Africa the Ukraine, and Latin America.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES:

FYS 1077 – Our Voices: Race and Ethnicity in America

Explores the experience, analysis, and critique of race in America from its founding to the present, while also examining institutional racism as a force that has shaped the nation, as well as the counter-movements undertaken to reshape racial narratives and enact social and racial progress. We will read Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me* for its analysis of

whiteness in America; Toni Morrison's new book *The Source of Self-Regard* on what it means to be a person of African descent in the US; excerpts from Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning* and Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the US* for historical context on indigenous and enslaved people in America; and other selected readings and films. We'll ask how institutions of higher learning position us to think about race and racial injustice.

ONWARD TO HONORS:

(these sections are open to students who have been invited into the Honors Program)

FYS 1009 – Screening Teens/Scripting Identity

“All we are not stares back at what we are.” – W.H. Auden. Contemporary teen film – films that take adolescent and adolescents seriously – and the identity scripts that “stare back” at us. Teen Cinema's depictions of what we are, and what we aren't, as we come of age. How movies document the “Identity assemblages” of youth, gender sexuality, race, class nation, ability, etc. that are written on teen cinematic bodies. How film dramatizes the realities of a twenty-first-century adolescence: Sex, drugs, love, rage, violence, poverty, alienation, rebellion, etc. Screening films, such as: *The Breakfast Club*, *Heathers*, *Thirteen*, *Elephant* *Almost Famous* *Juno*, *Pariah*, and *Winter's Bone*. Reading relevant theory and criticism.

FYS 1028 - The Other in World Literature, Art, and Cinema

Introduces first-year students to academic discourse using world art (Frida Kahlo's *Self-Portraits* and her *Diary*, literature (Lispector's *The Passion according to G. H.*, Oyono's *Houseboy*), and film (Ozon's *The New Girlfriend*, Denis's *Chocolate*) to explore the relationship between the self and the other. Taking the other as it appears in the world as a concrete person, this seminar begins with Jacques Lacan's mirror stage scenario to lay out the framework for subsequent discussions of those moments of “selfi(e)ng” and “othering” that inform our discussions of otherness in terms of gender, race, and sexuality. Going beyond Lacan's egoistic image of the subject, we will examine the relationship between the self and the other in a wider context, in which the other's gaze plays a crucial role in the way the subject constitutes an identity sexually, racially, ethically, or socially. These perspectives inform not only how the self relates to others in the real world, but also how this relationship should be lived ethically: How should one approach the other? How does one respond when the other is abusive or violent? Or, what can you do for the other that would have a positive impact on her/his life?

FYS 1068 - Balderdash, Hokum, Popycock, and Bullshit: Skepticism in the “Information Age”

The earth is flat, vaccines cause autism, and global climate change is a hoax. All of these claims, rejected by mainstream science and refuted by voluminous evidence, are alive and well in the digital realm. But how, if we live in the so-called Information Age, can such obviously wrong claims persist? While it is tempting to dismiss these falsehoods as mere quackery, a critical mind would seek to understand how these ideas gain a foothold, and what they can tell us about the way that we all acquire and communicate knowledge. An introduction to areas of commonly held erroneous belief, cognitive errors that contribute to misinformation, and the importance of testable hypotheses and conclusions supported by data.

FYS 1076 – Gangsters and Grifters: The Cinema of Crime

In this course, we will consider the role of crime and the various figures of the criminal in cinema. Topics will include the gangster film, the heist film, the crime thriller, *film noir*, and the

capers. We will consider a variety of national cinemas and periods, including U.S. mafia films, classical Hollywood and New Hollywood, French New Wave and British New Wave, and contemporary Hong Kong cinema. Students will be introduced to film as an academic discipline and will study the history of film as well as basic elements of film form and analysis. The course also serves as an introduction to the Honors Program at Otterbein University and provides essential advising, mentoring, and co-curricular opportunities for academic success in Honors.

FYS 1073 - The Evolution of Health Promotion: Community, Charity, and Consumerism

Public Health, health promotion, and physical wellness are all championed in American culture, but where did these notions come from and how does their history impact what we value personally, socially, and politically? The roots of public health and health promotion, focusing specifically on the development of grassroots networks within communities, the rise of charity faith-based care, and the socialization and modernization of the medical and health education network. The role of public health as an agent of social change will be explored in the context of the dichotomous influence of health inequality and the wellness industry.

FYS 1046 - Eastern Encounters: Identity and Change in Modern East Asian History

An examination of Asian history through the lens of identity. How personal and collective identity interacts with and informs larger political, social and cultural transformations. Inquiring into the nature of political power, the succession of dynasties and military regimes, the assertion of territorial and ethnic boundaries in the past and in the present, and the transformation of family structures, economies, and diplomatic relations. Focuses on the modern history of East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) from the eighteenth century onward, including the national histories of each of these countries, and also develops a comprehensive understanding of the broad and lasting cultural heritage of East Asian civilizations.

Transfer Year Seminar:

(these sections are open to transfer students who have completed at least 30 credit hours prior to their arrival to Otterbein or have completed a First Year Seminar at another institution. Advisors will use discretion when registering about appropriateness for students)

TYS 2999 – Transition Year Seminar

Assists students transitioning into the Otterbein campus community, specifically those who are arriving at Otterbein with some college level academic work. How past experiences shape who we are and how we approach our educational journeys. Understanding the unique richness and rigor of an Otterbein education. Orientation to campus resources and services that will help achieve personal and academic goals. Repeatable to a maximum of 4 hrs.