



FIRST YEAR SEMINAR COURSE INFORMATION

First Year Seminar

Otterbein's First Year Seminar (or FYS) courses are taught by outstanding faculty and staff who are uniquely invested in helping new students make the transition to Otterbein. The FYS course will be one of the first courses you take in the General Education program and is most often taken during your first semester on campus.

First Year Seminar course topics are designed as passion projects by the faculty who teach them. They'll be full of great content on the topic but will also be infused with relevant and timely information that you need to know to be successful on campus. Each course is taught by both a faculty member AND a staff member—together their job will be to guide you all semester as you adjust to life as an Otterbein Cardinal.

On the following pages you'll find the course descriptions of the First Year Seminar courses offered during the fall semester.

Note: Students who have been asked to join the Honors Program will take an Honors section of First Year Seminar

First Year Seminar Course Descriptions

Fall 2024

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.

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.

EXPLORATION OF SELF AND OTHERS:

FYS 1079: Self-Awareness, Personal Branding, Cultural Competency, Diversity & Inclusion

Designed to help students understand and articulate their social identities through diverse perspectives; Valuing one's experiences and being self-aware about their blind spots and respecting others' point of view. This course will encourage students to begin to build their personal brand through self, group and community involvement; There will be a community service project that the class will serve collectively while acknowledging their unique personalities, conflict management styles, communication styles, implicit and explicit biases; We will assess our individual awareness, skills, knowledge and civil behavior as it relates to cultural competency.

FYS 1089: Exploring Neurodiversity in Our Social World

We live in a world where neurodiversity is increasingly visible in film, television, and culture. From Julia on Sesame Street to Wednesday Addams, the increased representation of neurodivergent people in our popular culture signifies a historic change in understanding this traditionally misunderstood population.

This class will explore the realities of neurodiversity, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, and more. We will consider questions such as, “What are the social constructions of disability?” “What does it mean to be ‘disabled’?” “What stereotypes, stigmas, or traumas do neurodiverse people commonly face?” “What strengths and singularities can the neurodivergent brain access?” “How do people of all neurotypes create a better world?” Along the way, all students will reflect on how they fit into their communities -- their hometowns, Otterbein, and their future worlds. Together we will consider how to make neurodiversity more visible in the here and now.

CREATIVITY, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE:

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*.

FYS 1087: The Sociology of Star Trek

Science Fiction gives us an opportunity to look at our own culture from the outside, or to confront issues indirectly that are too controversial or scary to do so directly. We will use the lens of the *Star Trek* universe to examine the sociological issues brought up by episodes, and how we can apply that thinking to our own reality. We will pay special attention to race, gender, and social class, but other sociological topics are fair game as well.

FYS 1090: The Creative Habit

In the book *The Creative Habit* renowned American choreographer Twyla Tharp offers practical suggestions for how to develop the creative habit and “use it for life”. Tharp’s inventive work-routines, as well as the research and lived experiences of other artists and thinkers, form the basis for this course. Hands-on experiences and immersion in meaningful learning processes round out the content and build creative muscle. You will read, speak, write, play, make, look, listen, reflect, and interact in dynamic ways. There will be trial and error and mistakes and failure, but also surprise and adventure as these are all typical ingredients of an inspired, empowered life. The vision for the course is two-fold: That we practice and reflect on creative ways of being, learning and changing – some tried-and-true, some new – in an encouraging environment, and to give our creative habits a lasting boost.

LITERATURE, FILM, AND MEDIA STUDIES:

FYS 1007: Uncommon Experiences: Building on the Common Book

Building upon the themes, issues and experiences presented by the common book reading. Through additional readings, films, lectures and materials that expand the primary common book topics, you will engage in discussion and presentations, research, writing, and experiential learning that challenge you to examine yourself and your responsibilities to local and global communities. This course has a strong

"community" commitment and we will be engaging in service, possible field trips, inviting guest speakers and viewing films that expand our views of communities.

FYS 1009: True Crime Film

This class will engage the stories we tell about "true" crime and "true" criminals. We will explore crime narratives – across film and television – that have captivated a mass audience. Narratives like *The Pharmacist*, *American Gangster*, *Catch Me If You Can*, and more. We will grapple with questions like: what is so seductive – so fascinating – about the killer, the con artist, and the gangster? What do these stories reveal about the tangled relationships between crime and desire, power, and freedom? What can they teach us about the social injustices that make the crime or the criminal? What realities of gender, race, class, nation, and other facets of identity haunt these stories? Together, we will read, think, talk, and write the outlaw. Note: this class will engage content that depicts different forms of violence and its impact.

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.

FYS 1083: Playlists and Perspectives

Helps students consider their emerging identities amidst recent political and social events through curated music playlists and selected readings. Students will begin with familiar musical genres and grapple with new sounds and perspectives as reflected in the socio-political contexts of America and its citizens. Broad topics such as censorship, race, gender, and class will be discussed and focused through specific songs, artists, and commentary from music critics, contemporary writers, and various media outlets.

HISTORY AND POLITICS IN THE PAST AND FUTURE:

FYS 1039: The 411 on Election 2024

It is easy to be disillusioned by politics and to convince ones' self that individual citizens are not empowered to make improvements. However, this situation seems hopeless because of how the election and daily governance are portrayed by the media. Restoring lost hope by analyzing some of the challenges the media faces by examining the candidates' communication in the context of the 2020 Election. Exploring recurring communication strategies in candidates' advertising, speeches, and presidential debates. Examining strategies and gaffes that emerge in this particular campaign.

FYS 1046: Eastern Encounters: Identity and Change in Modern East Asia

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 civilization.

HONORS SECTIONS *(open to students who have been invited into the Honors Program)*

FYSH 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.

FYSH 1013: Women's Leadership

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FYSH 1054: The History of Rock & Roll

An introduction to the history and culture of rock and roll. An overview of ancestors and influences: blues, boogie-woogie, jazz, country and western, and gospel, in particular, and the success in the 1950s of rhythm and blues musicians that marked the birth of rock and roll. The musical and social trends of the 1960s, including the influence of the British Invasion, the rock explosion and social upheaval of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the emergence of new genres such as punk, reggae, disco, funk, new wave, heavy metal, and grunge during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. An exploration of current musical trends and genres including rap and hip-hop. Exploring the historical progression of rock and roll while also examining topics such as cultural geography; rock and roll as a working-class art form; race, gender, and class relations; generational conflict; youth cultures and subcultures; and the business of rock and roll.

FYSH 1074: The History of Musical Theater

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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

Courses are subject to change.

Refer to the link in your Course Registration Survey for the most accurate courses descriptions.