

First-Year Seminar

Learning to Blaze Your Own Trail



University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point

First-Year Seminar

BLAZE YOUR OWN TRAIL

These small 3-credit seminars, created by faculty members from across campus especially for first-year students, address questions every student needs answered to thrive at UW-Stevens Point.

- **Explore** topics essential to human life, culture and society
- **Learn** skills to help you succeed in college
- **Engage** in hands-on activities such as discussions, research projects and field trips
- **Plan** your education around your interests, abilities and goals
- **Earn** credit toward your General Degree Requirements (GDRs)

Registration will take place during UWSP's Freshman Orientation this summer.

Course/ Instructor	Title	Description (All courses are 3 credits)
FYS 150 (Section 1) MW 9:35-10:50 CCC 126 GDR: SS1 Helena Alden	The Story of Sex	What does it mean to be straight? Gay? Lesbian? Bi? Or queer? How do we understand normative and deviant sexualities? Does this vary by our own place in the social landscape? This course will examine the social development of sexual identity looking at the myriad ways in which movies, the news, religion and medicine have told the story of sex.
FYS 151 (Section 1) MW 9-10:15 Main 102 GDR: SS2 Chris Yahnke	What Inspires You and How Can We Inspire Others?	What Inspires You and How Can We Inspire Others? Inspiration is like love; you know when you see it but it defies definition. Or does it? In this course, we will attempt to understand how the brain processes information, and how this relates to why we are or are not inspired by a message. The message can come from government and community leaders, teachers, peers, or even product advertisements. Prepare to be inspired.
FYS 151 (Section 2) TR 9:35-10:50 CPS 234 GDR: SS2 Sterling Wall	What We Know and What We Thought We Knew: Integrating College with Real Life	We all have our own ideas about what works and what doesn't, for almost all aspects of life. Students are invited to share their ideas about a variety of topics across the seven dimensions of wellness: Social, Physical, Environmental, Career, Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual. Comparing what we think we know with recent scientific discoveries in each of these areas, that is when it really gets interesting!
FYS 151 (Section 3) TR 9:35-10:50 CCC 226 GDR: SS2 Betsy Barrett	Raising the Wellness Bar	Health starts in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our playgrounds and parks, and in the air we breathe and the water we drink. The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have available to us. Resource-poor neighborhoods lack the tools and opportunities we need to make healthy lifestyle choices (e.g., regular physical activity, healthy eating patterns, managing stress, avoiding smoking and drugs, getting enough sleep, practicing safe sex). We will explore the strategies being implemented in communities across the country to give all Americans a fair-play opportunity to choose good health and wellness.
FYS 151 (Section 4) TR 11:00-12:15 HEC 101 GDR: SS2 Betsy Barrett	Raising the Wellness Bar	Same as above
FYS 151 (Section 5) TR 14:00-15:15 TNR 255 GDR: SS2 Paul Doruska	Cha-Ching - Finding the Best Deal Around for Me	From financing one's education to making lifestyle decisions to achieving one's goals, decisions (and their consequences) exist every step along the way. In this course, students will investigate and explore options one faces when making decisions key to the next 10 years of their lives, critically examine the impacts of decisions that are made, and gain critical thinking and decision making skills along the way. Are you up for the challenge to find the best deal around for you?
	Freshman Interest Group Course	<i>This section of FYS is only open to members of the Thomson Hall Freshman Interest Group (FIG) in Fall 2011. Students interested in participating in a FIG should contact Mary Duckworth at mduckwor@uwsp.edu.</i>
FYS 151 (Section 6) W 14:00-16:30 CPS 317 GDR: SS2 Christine Gould	What's Normal Anyway?	Take a literary ride on the short bus as we read and discuss Jonathan Mooney's book, The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal. In grade school, Jonathan Mooney was identified as dyslexic and profoundly learning disabled. His school experiences led him to feel that he was "less than" the other children. After graduation, he bought his own short bus, traveled around the United States, and met thirteen fascinating people with disabilities. In this seminar, we'll read about each of the thirteen people, learn about the ways in which they've solved the puzzle called life, and discuss the fundamental question: What Is Normal, Anyway?

Course/ Instructor	Title	Description (All courses are 3 credits)
FYS 151 (Section 7) MW 15:35-16:50 CAC 237 GDR: SS2 Timothy Halkowski	The Language of Medicine and the Medicine of Language	How do people talk about symptoms, diagnoses, tobacco and alcohol use, diet and exercise? How does medical language help to ease a patient's problem (or worsen it)? Drawing from medical discourse research (as well as poetry and theatre), we will discover how people use stories in medical settings, and what they use those stories to do.
FYS 151 (Section 8) TR 15:35-16:50 LRC 310 GDR: SS2 Axel Schmetzke	Your Past Before Your Eyes, Your Future In The Making	What is your family history? What educational choices did your ancestors make, and why? To which extent may social, economic, political and cultural conditions have influenced their choices? After exploring these questions, students will reflect on their own circumstances, learn more about the opportunities available to them at UWSP, and plot a tentative educational course for the next four years and beyond.
FYS 152 (Section 1) MWF 13-13:50 SCI A109 GDR: NS* Brad Hinaus	This Old House: The Science of Your House	How does your house work? Find out why architecture stands up, how the electrical, heating and cooling systems function, what the traditional and alternative sources of energy are, and why the cool gadgets in your house work.
FYS 153 (Section 1) T 8:00-10:30 NFAC 126 GDR: HU1 Anne-Bridget Gary	Make Your Own Cultural Crafts	Can you weave a tapestry? Create a loom? Make pottery? Have you ever wanted to learn? This course will emphasize craft-arts in their cultural context from around world. You will be engaged by examples of Hmong Tapestries, Chinese calligraphy, the Japanese Tea Ceremony and Pueblo pottery. You will have hands-on experiences with materials such as wool and clay and work with others to create costuming and artifacts.
FYS 153 (Section 3) TR 14:00-15:15 CAC 202 GDR: HU1 Elizabeth Fakazis	A Culinary Memoir	"Tell me what you eat, and I'll tell you who you are." We will explore the United States' great diversity of culinary traditions from Texas chili parlors to Main clam bakes, from Gullah rice to Kansas City BBQ, from Cajun gumbo to fried candy bars at Minnesota state fairs. We will use these explorations to analyze relationships between food, culture and identity. We will learn about the culinary memoir, a form of autobiographical nonfiction that tells life stories through food. Finally, we will write our own culinary life stories, putting to the test that famous dictum, "we are what we eat."
	Freshman Interest Group Course	<i>This section of FYS is only open to members of the Hansen Hall Freshman Interest Group (FIG) in Fall 2011. Students interested in participating in a FIG should contact Mary Duckworth at mduckwor@uwsp.edu.</i>
FYS 153 (Section 4) TR 12:35-13:50 CPS 210 GDR: HU1 Steve Seiler	Technique and Persuasion in Documentary Film	Analyze some of the top-rated documentaries of all time to learn how filmmakers captivate (and perhaps motivate) their audiences. We will view films that illustrate diverse approaches to filming and discuss how these approaches can help tell stories or distract from them. In addition to discussing and reflecting on the films, we will pursue fact-finding research projects to evaluate their broader impact.
FYS 154 (Section 1) MW 9:35-10:50 CCC 320 GDR: HU2 Cheryl Brickner	A Literary Journey into Cultural Divides	Where do preconceived ideas about cultural differences come from? Through various forms of literature this course will examine the force of society which oppresses "the other" and in turn creates cultural divides. We will study cultural divides from the mid-twentieth century to the present, focusing on the Holocaust, the African American and Hispanic American experience, and the Afghan culture in contemporary America.
FYS 154 (Section 2) MWF 11:00-11:50 CCC 106 GDR: HU2 Mary Bowman	From Private Obsession to Global Phenomenon: The Story of The Lord of the Rings	You've probably seen the movies. You may have read the books. But do you know where The Lord of the Rings originated? Have you ever thought of Tolkien as an environmentalist? Or The Lord of the Rings as "profoundly Christian"? (as Tolkien considered it.) Would you be surprised to know that some scientists study and teach his work? Come learn how Tolkien's personal life and professional career shaped his fiction, explore the complex world he created, and consider the effects of translating his work to the medium of film.
FYS 154 (Section 3) MWF 12:00-12:50 CCC 106 GDR: HU2 Mary Bowman	From Private Obsession to Global Phenomenon: The Story of The Lord of the Rings	Same as above
FYS 154 (Section 4) TR 14:00-15:15 CCC 226 GDR: HU2 Rebecca Stephens	Liberal Arts in the Digital Age	Does Facebook alter your brain? Some argue that it not only changes the way we think, but also that the digital technologies around us every day are threatening our American democracy, while others believe that these technologies are actually making us smarter. This course will ask you to explore the meaning of a liberal arts degree for your generation, and offer opportunities to explore what it means to be an individual, what it means to be engaged in a community, and what it means to be educated.

Course/ Instructor	Title	Description (All courses are 3 credits)
FYS 156 (Section 1) MWF 10:00-10:50 CCC 204 Lab: R 17:30-19:30 CCC 303 GDR: BSHI and NW Brian Hale	Witches, Werewolves, and Vampires	This course will begin with an examination of witches, werewolves, and vampires in Europe from ancient times to the twenty-first century in art, film, literature, music, theater, secondary works and written sources. It will conclude with an investigation of witches, werewolves and vampires in other cultures, including China, Sub-Sahara Africa and the Americas. At the end of the semester, students will have achieved a greater understanding of the "other" over time in a variety of cultures and societies.
FYS 156 (Section 2) MWF 13:00-13:50 CCC 224 Lab: R 17:30-19:30 CCC 303 GDR: BSHI and NW Brian Hale	Witches, Werewolves, and Vampires	Same as above
FYS 157 (Section 1) TR 11:00-12:15 CCC 231 GDR: BSHI and MNS Rob Harper	Drawing Lines, Crossing Lines: Histories of American Borderlands	Political, social and cultural boundaries have shaped Americans' lives for centuries. Where did these lines come from? How have they influenced American communities? And how have they changed over time? We will explore boundary-making and boundary-crossing from the time of Columbus through today's debates over trade, immigration and homeland security.
FYS 159 (Section 3) TR 14:00-15:15 HEC 119 GDR: HU3 Karin Fry	Philosophy and Popular Culture	Explore the history of ideas through popular culture, from Socrates to South Park, from Husserl to Harry Potter, and everywhere in between. Using examples from popular films, music, television and the Internet, we will explore age-old questions about the meaning of life, the importance of art, the tension between logic and emotion, as well as religion, science, politics and morality. Through viewing various media, discussing particular philosophical topics, and using them as a touchstone, we will trigger discussions concerning the college experience and how it may differ from high school.
FYS 159 (Section 4) TR 15:35-16:50 HEC 119 GDR: HU3 Karin Fry	Philosophy and Popular Culture	Same as above
FYS 161 (Section 1) MW 9:35-10:50 CCC 231 GDR: BSHI, NW, and EL Francis Dube	Environmental Disasters	From hurricane Katrina to the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, environmental disasters have affected us all. We will look at the causes of environmental disasters, how people around the world have tried to prevent and mitigate environmental disasters, and how disasters have shaped history. By critically analyzing past disasters, students will encounter new ways of understanding, dealing with, and finding solutions for future ones.
FYS 162 (Section 1) TR 8:00-9:15 CCPS326 GDR: HU1 and NW Kathe Julin	The World is Your Classroom—So Travel!	"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page." - St. Augustine. Come explore a variety of ways to travel and learn in an international, global context (as a student, volunteer or professional) and plan out several options for your own travels (based on time and budget). A virtual tour of the world highlighting several unique places will help you discuss and prepare for your own personal journey. Modern and ancient architecture, cultural and social aspects, and activities of a variety of cities (Western and non-Western) will be examined. This course will inspire you to follow Mark Twain's advice on travel. "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover."
FYS 162 (Section 2) TR 9:35-10:50 CPS 304 GDR: HU1 and NW Kathe Julin	The World is Your Classroom—So Travel!	Same as above
FYS 163 (Section 1) TR 15:35-16:50 CCC 231 GDR: BSHI and HU4 Sarah Kent	Anatomy of Auschwitz	How and why do episodes of mass violence occur? How can seemingly ordinary people commit mass murder, and why don't the victims appear to fight back? We will examine such questions through the focal point of Auschwitz, the central death camp in the Nazi concentration camp universe. You will explore Auschwitz through a wide variety of on line and print materials from art, biology, film, human geography, history, journalism, literature, music, photography, psychology and religious studies.

*GDR designations remain tentative and are subject to change. Each section is limited to 20 students. Students may enroll in only one First-Year Seminar.

