



# First Year Seminars: Fall 2013

<b>Course Information &amp; Instructor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Course Description</b>
<b>FYS 101 (Section 01)</b> Tues/Thurs/Fri 8:00-8:50 am CCC 224  Nancy LoPatin-Lummis	The Band That Changed the World	This First Year Seminar explores the phenomenon of The Beatles in Great Britain and the “British Invasion” which transformed U.S. social and cultural norms for young people. The story of how four lads from Liverpool, England ushered in a revolution in music, popular culture, social and religious values, business practice and changed history is the topic of this Freshman Year Seminar. The class will explore “Beatlemania” through a variety of materials from the history, art, film, poetry, eastern religious studies, business practices and political engagement, and, of course, music, in order to fully understand how the Beatles were more than the greatest rock band ever, but one which truly “changed the world.”
<b>FYS 101 (Section 02)</b> Mon/Wed 9:00-10:15 am Old Main 102  Chris Yahnke & Alvin Schuller	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.
<b>FYS 101 (Section 04)</b> Mon/Wed 12:35-1:50 pm CCC 334  Shanny Luft	A Very Special Christmas Seminar	Christmas in America is inescapable. Beyond cherished experiences in homes and churches, Christmas is hailed through advertising, shopping centers, and politics, and permeates television, movies, and radio in December. This seminar will introduce you to the academic study in the humanities by exploring how scholars across disciplines have shed light on the history and practice of Christmas. By approaching Christmas through lenses of religion, literature, culture, media, and history, we will gain a deeper understanding of how the holiday has developed over time, and why some Christmas controversies reappear every year. More broadly, exploring the ubiquitous winter holiday in an academic context will introduce you to some of the ways that a liberal arts education helps provide insight into our contemporary experience.

<b>FYS 101 (Section 06)</b> Tues/Thurs 9:35-10:50 am CCC 126  Karin Fry	Philosophy Through 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.
<b>FYS 101 (Section 07)</b> Tues/Thurs 9:35-10:50 am SCI D 216  Jeana Magyar-Moe	The Pursuit of Happiness	“Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” is one of the most famous phrases in the United States Declaration of Independence and is considered by some to be part of one of the most well-crafted, influential sentences in the history of the English language. Although the pursuit of happiness is considered an inalienable right, many do not know how to enhance their experiences of happiness, well-being, engagement, and satisfaction with life. In this seminar, we will explore what happiness entails, participate in strategies for enhancing well-being, and discover ways to find more engagement and satisfaction in life via capitalizing upon our strengths in college, in the world of work, in relationships, and beyond. (Warning: this course may cause smiling, laughter, feelings of gratitude, random acts of kindness, tears of joy, a sense of awe, inspiration, optimism, and hope.)
<b>FYS 101 (Section 08)</b> Tues/Thurs 9:35-10:50 am CCC 320  Tom Wetter	Running and the Meaning of Life	Oprah Winfrey said, “Running is the greatest metaphor for life, because you get out of it what you put into it.” Mixing science, philosophy, culture, evolution, history, and art, we will explore what running tells us about life and our place in it. Are you curious about how the body adapts to the stresses of running? Have you ever wondered why a marathon is 26.2 miles long? Have you considered whether it is the mind or body that limits human performance? Through intensive reading we will be inspired by the words and actions of other runners and reflect on what running means to us. Somewhere along the way we may find that running is a useful guide for how to be successful in college and life. It doesn’t matter if you are fast or slow but a commitment to training for a personal running goal is required. Life moves pretty fast, how fast can you run?
<b>FYS 101 (Section 10)</b> Mon/Wed 11:00 am-12:15 pm CCC 324  Karin Fry	Philosophy Through Popular Culture	<i>Same topic as FYS 101 (Section 06) above.</i>  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.

<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 12)</b>  Mon/Wed  11:00 am - 12:15 pm  CCC 308</p> <p>Dorothy DeBoer</p>	<p>Violence in American Society</p>	<p>Americans are tantalized and terrified by violence. We watch television shows about serial killers, cheer for violent sporting events, and spend billions of dollars on video games that engage players in reckless carnage. Yet, Americans fear violent crime and call for action when violence gets too close to their homes. This class will examine violence in American society and the various issues that surround our fascination with, and fear of, violence. This class will examine the history of violence in America, recent incidents, current violent trends, and the media portrayal of violence. It will also survey programs developed to decrease violence.</p> <p><i>Note: This First Year Seminar section is reserved for Freshman Interest Group (FIG) participants only. Students interested in participating in the FIG program should contact Mary Duckworth at <a href="mailto:mduckwor@uwsp.edu">mduckwor@uwsp.edu</a></i></p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 13)</b>  Tues/Thurs  11:00 am - 12:15 pm  CCC 233</p> <p>Arnold Lelis</p>	<p>The DNA of Sex, Migration, and Languages</p>	<p>Modern genetics research, such as mtDNA and Y-chromosome studies, has opened up undreamed-of possibilities for investigating both the human past and the present. We will explore what this new data can tell us about evolution, about thousands of years of human migration worldwide, about the formation of cultures and languages, about the role of war and social dominance in human reproduction – and about your own family history!</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 14)</b>  Tues/Thurs  11:00 am - 12:15 pm  CCC 231</p> <p>Susan Brewer</p>	<p>My History</p>	<p><i>“History is what human beings can know about themselves.”</i> This First Year Seminar is for students who want to find out their own history and how it is intertwined with family, local, national, and global history. In this course, you will explore “My Place” by finding out about the place you come from, its natural history, and the people who have lived there. You will learn about “My People” by doing family history. You will examine “My Lifetime” by investigating recent history and what happened in the year you were born.</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 16)</b>  <u>Class:</u> Mon/Wed/Fri  12:00-12:50 pm  CCC 231  <u>Film Lab:</u> Friday  1:00-1:50 pm  CCC 231</p> <p>Edgar (Gar) Francis</p>	<p>Arabian Nights</p>	<p>Aladdin, Ali Baba, and Sinbad are all characters taken from the <i>Arabian Nights</i>, a collection of wondrous tales of medieval Baghdad. But there is much in the <i>Arabian Nights</i> that is less familiar. Have you ever heard of “The Historic Fart,” “The Young Woman and Her Five Lovers,” or “Ali of the Large Member”? In this class, we will read both familiar and obscure tales from the <i>Arabian Nights</i> in various translations. We will also examine how these tales have been interpreted in other media, such as film.</p> <p>These tales will provide a vehicle—a magic carpet, if you will—by which we can examine such diverse subjects as: supernatural beliefs, medieval Islamic history, Arabic storytelling traditions, and the representation of the Middle East in Western literature and film. <b>WARNING:</b> Due to the nature of the source material and its interpretation, we will address many different sexual issues frankly. Students who are easily offended by such material or who cannot address such issues in a mature manner should not enroll in this course.</p>

<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 17)</b>          Mon/Wed          12:35-1:50 pm          CCC 308</p> <p>Dorothy DeBoer</p>	<p>Violence in American Society</p>	<p><i>Same topic as FYS 101 (Section 12) above.</i></p> <p>Americans are tantalized and terrified by violence. We watch television shows about serial killers, cheer for violent sporting events, and spend billions of dollars on video games that engage players in reckless carnage. Yet, Americans fear violent crime and call for action when violence gets too close to their homes. This class will examine violence in American society and the various issues that surround our fascination with, and fear of, violence. This class will examine the history of violence in America, recent incidents, current violent trends. and the media portrayal of violence. It will also survey programs developed to decrease violence.</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 18)</b>          Tues/Thurs          12:35-1:50 pm          CCC 324</p> <p>Mary Bowman</p>	<p>From Private Obsession to Global Phenomenon: The Story of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i></p>	<p>You've probably seen the movies. You may have read the books. But do you know where <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> originated? Have you ever thought of Tolkien as an environmentalist? Or <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> as "profoundly Christian"? (as Tolkien considered it.) Would you be surprised to know to 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.</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 21)</b>          Mon/Tues/Thurs          2:00-2:50 pm          SCI D 228</p> <p>Edwin (Jed) Herman</p>	<p>Are Numbers Real?</p>	<p>From an early age, we are indoctrinated with numbers. We are taught to count apples, then we are taught to add, subtract, multiply, and divide as if these were absolute truths. Later we are taught more complicated representations, like fractions and decimals and even square roots. Certainly, these actions have practical value in our society, but are they the only way to think about numbers? Are these ways of thinking really the <i>right</i> way to think about numbers? We will start by examining different historical and cultural views about numbers, looking at notation and counting but also thinking about language itself. In fact, some languages do not even have words for numbers greater than two! How would you view numbers if you grew up in such a society? We will then turn our attention to creating new number systems – some quite different from our traditional "real" numbers – by changing the rules we use in subtle ways. Some of the systems we develop might not make sense at first, but some may give us a new perspective and help us decide if some numbers are more real than others.</p>

<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 22)</b>  Mon/Wed  2:00-3:15 pm  CCC 231</p> <p>Pat Kluetz</p>	<p>Frozen Music –  When Buildings  Become  Architecture</p>	<p><i>“If a building becomes architecture, then it is art.”</i></p> <p>Every day we experience and are surrounded by the built environment—our homes, schools, retail stores, high-rise commercial buildings, churches and synagogues—but have you ever wondered why these buildings look the way that they do? What motivated the architects who designed them? Why did they decide to have this particular building appear and function in this specific way? In this seminar you will learn how to consider and analyze contemporary architecture. Iconic buildings from around the world, such as the new Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, or the 9/11 memorial Complex in NYC, will be the starting points from which we will discover how architects think, what influences from the past have impacted their ideation, and ultimately how they determined the designs for their buildings.</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 25)</b>  Mon/Wed  3:35-4:50 pm  CCC 231</p> <p>Pat Kluetz</p>	<p>Frozen Music –  When Buildings  Become  Architecture</p>	<p><i>Same topic as FYS (Section 22) above.</i></p> <p><i>“If a building becomes architecture, then it is art.”</i></p> <p>Every day we experience and are surrounded by the built environment—our homes, schools, retail stores, high-rise commercial buildings, churches and synagogues—but have you ever wondered why these buildings look the way that they do? What motivated the architects who designed them? Why did they decide to have this particular building appear and function in this specific way? In this seminar you will learn how to consider and analyze contemporary architecture. Iconic buildings from around the world, such as the new Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, or the 9/11 memorial Complex in NYC, will be the starting points from which we will discover how architects think, what influences from the past have impacted their ideation, and ultimately how they determined the designs for their buildings.</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 26)</b>  Mon/Wed  3:35-4:50 pm  CAC 201</p> <p>Rhonda Sprague</p>	<p>Navigating Personal  Relationships in  College</p>	<p>You will encounter many different types of relationships during college. Your experiences will force you to develop and maintain relationships with friends, family, roommates, professors, advisors, co-workers and significant others, to name only a few. What does it mean to have a relationship with someone? Which characteristics distinguish one type of relationship from another? What are the rules of relationships and how do you learn them? This class will explore some of the more common elements of personal relationships – such as power, language and intimacy – and how learning to understand these can help you navigate the many different relationships you will encounter. We will consider different types of relationships as they are portrayed in popular culture (television, movies, magazines, etc.) and compare them to the relationships you have experienced. Ultimately, this seminar will help you learn to use your relationships to help structure your future in college and beyond.</p>

<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 29)</b> Tues/Thurs 9:35-10:50 am CCC 330</p> <p>Betsy Barrett</p>	<p>Raising the Wellness Bar</p>	<p>In this FYS course we will examine how our personal wellness practices are impacted by where we live, learn, work and play. Wellness is a function of more than genetics and making healthy lifestyle choices (e.g., regular physical activity, healthy eating patterns, managing stress, avoiding smoking and drugs, getting enough sleep, practicing safe sex). The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have available to us. Wellness 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. Some neighborhoods do not offer the tools and opportunities for individuals to pursue paths to better health. We will explore strategies and policies that give all Americans an opportunity to choose good health and wellness.</p> <p><i>Note: This First Year Seminar section is reserved for incoming students with health-related majors who are participating in the Pointer Unity Program (PUP). Students interested in registering for this FYS section should contact Toni Sage at <a href="mailto:tsage@uwsp.edu">tsage@uwsp.edu</a> or call 715-295-8911</i></p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 30)</b> Tues/Thurs 11:00 am - 12:15 pm CCC 330</p> <p>Betsy Barrett</p>	<p>Raising the Wellness Bar</p>	<p><i>Same topic as FYS 101 (Section 29) above.</i></p> <p>In this FYS course we will examine how our personal wellness practices are impacted by where we live, learn, work and play. Wellness is a function of more than genetics and making healthy lifestyle choices (e.g., regular physical activity, healthy eating patterns, managing stress, avoiding smoking and drugs, getting enough sleep, practicing safe sex). The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have available to us. Wellness 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. Some neighborhoods do not offer the tools and opportunities for individuals to pursue paths to better health. We will explore strategies and policies that give all Americans an opportunity to choose good health and wellness.</p>
<p><b>FYS 101 (Section 32)</b> <u>Class:</u> Mon/Wed/Fri 1:00-1:50 pm NFAC 201 <u>Film Lab:</u> Fri 2:00-2:50 pm NFAC 201</p> <p>Linda Schubert</p>	<p>What Does Jesus Sound Like: "Jesus Films," Meanings, and Music</p>	<p>Whether or not you follow a particular faith tradition, it is worth considering how films and their music influence the images you hold of historical and religious figures—such as Jesus. Music is vitally important in forming images and impressions, as well as guiding (or manipulating) your response to them. In this course we will examine many "Jesus films" including <i>The Last Temptation of Christ</i>, Mel Gibson's <i>The Passion of the Christ</i>, musicals, epics, silent films, and others. Assignments will include writing reviews, analyzing films and music, collecting data about specific films, and writing about specific aspects of filmmaking (such as directing and composing). By the end of the course we will have a greater understanding of how music and images work together to create powerful, different, and sometimes conflicting, portraits of Jesus.</p>

<p><b>FYS 102 (Section 01)</b>  Tues/Thurs  9:35-10:50 am  CCC 304</p> <p>Tobias Barske</p>	<p>Soccer vs. Football</p>	<p>The world loves soccer, but most Americans may only love to hate it. In fact, Tom Weir once wrote in <i>USA Today</i> "that hating soccer is more American than apple pie, driving a pickup, or spending Saturday afternoons channel surfing" (1993). In this course, we will explore the impact of sport on culture, especially how an American national identity is constructed through football against the "other" worldwide foot-ball passion, soccer. Students will analyze media representations of soccer as a game for "pussies" as opposed to muscle-bound real men who play football. Assignments will include original interviews and data collection, media analyzes of famous soccer rivalries, and experiential learning to organize and play soccer with international students on campus.</p>
<p><b>FYS 102 (Section 02)</b>  Tues/Thurs  11:00 am - 12:15 pm  CCC 126</p> <p>Sarah (Sally) Kent</p>	<p>The Ideal Society:  Utopia and Dystopia  in History,  Literature, and Film</p>	<p>The Ideal Society will take a look at one utopia (Thomas More) and several novels that depict dystopias, or utopias gone bad, such as <i>Brave New World</i>, <i>We, 1984</i>, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>. We will also watch at least two films such as Terry Gilliam's <i>Brazil</i> and Francois Truffaut's <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>.</p>
<p><b>FYS 102 (Section 03)</b>  Mon/Wed/Fri  1:00-1:50 pm  CCC 206</p> <p>Camarin Porter</p>	<p>Percy Jackson:  The Boy-Hero, the  Greek Myths, and  the Publishing  World Legend</p>	<p>This seminar adopts Percy Jackson, star of Rick Riordan's <i>The Lightning Thief</i>, as a launch pad into the world of classical Greek history and culture and contemporary societies' fascination with it. We will become students of Greek history, geography, culture, literature, warfare, technology, political theory, economics and ethics; engage in a critical discussion of what seems "familiar" to us about Greek culture in our own society, and what customs distinguish the ancient Greeks from us as a social and cultural "other"; dig deeper into the Greek literary tradition, and discuss classical understandings of fate, interactions between the gods and humans, and how Percy measures up compared to the Greek literary archetype of hero; and examine Riordan's book series, <i>Percy Jackson &amp; the Olympians</i> and <i>The Heroes of Olympus</i>, and the adaptation of <i>The Lightning Thief</i> into a 2010 film at the level of modern marketing.</p>

<p><b>FYS 102 (Section 04)</b> Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:15 pm CCC 231</p> <p>Anju Reejsinghani</p>	<p>Global Baseball</p>	<p>On Opening Day 2013, 28% of active or disabled players for Major League Baseball teams were born outside the 50 United States. Hailing from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Mexico, and a number of other Latin American countries, as well as Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Australia, these players reflect the global reach of baseball, the quintessential “American” pastime. How and why baseball became globalized is the focus of this course. Using history, film, and other disciplines, we explore the origins of baseball in the United States; its expansion to Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania; the establishment of the Negro Leagues and women’s baseball leagues; the integration of Major League Baseball (MLB) by African Americans and other ethnic and racial minorities; the impact of player unionization and free agency; baseball in the Summer Olympics and World Baseball Classic; as well as other salient issues, such as steroid use, facing the MLB today.</p>
<p><b>FYS 102 (Section 05)</b> Tues/Thurs 9:35-10:50 am CCC 231</p> <p>Sarah (Sally) Kent</p>	<p>The Ideal Society: Utopia and Dystopia in History, Literature, and Film</p>	<p><i>Same as FYS 102 (Section 02) above.</i></p> <p>The Ideal Society will take a look at one utopia (Thomas More) and several novels that depict dystopias, or utopias gone bad, such as <i>Brave New World</i>, <i>We, 1984</i>, <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i>. We will also watch at least two films such as Terry Gilliam’s <i>Brazil</i> and Francois Truffaut’s <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>.</p>
<p><b>FYS 103 (Section 01)</b> Tuesday 9:00-9:50 am Friday 9:00-10:50 am CCC 234</p> <p>Elizabeth Wabindato</p>	<p>Indigenous Storytelling</p>	<p>Do you love a good plot line or clever character? Doesn’t everybody? But stories aren’t always just for fun. Indigenous people have been using stories to teach younger generations decision-making skills, history, spiritual beliefs and community values. And, yes, some were just for fun. We will read and listen to the stories of many indigenous groups across the globe – learning more about their culture, histories and worldview in the process.</p>
<p><b>FYS 103 (Section 02)</b> Mon/Wed 9:35-10:50 am CCC 308</p> <p>Kym Buchanan</p>	<p>Tykea: A Game of Democracy, Diversity, and Persuasion</p>	<p>Welcome to Tykea: a diverse democratic nation with a promising future. How can Tykea reach greatness? How should we define greatness? Our class will become the Tykea Senate. In this semester-long simulation, our debates and decisions will shape national development from about 1970 to 2020. Along the way, we’ll explore topics like pluralism, marginalization, critical thinking, and consensus building. Can you muster power for the good of your constituents and all of Tykea?</p>

<p><b>FYS 103 (Section 03)</b> Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:15 pm CCC 234</p> <p>Kym Buchanan</p>	<p>Tykea: A Game of Democracy, Diversity, and Persuasion</p>	<p><i>Same topic as FYS 103 (Section 02) above.</i></p> <p>Welcome to Tykea: a diverse democratic nation with a promising future. How can Tykea reach greatness? How should we define greatness? Our class will become the Tykea Senate. In this semester-long simulation, our debates and decisions will shape national development from about 1970 to 2020. Along the way, we'll explore topics like pluralism, marginalization, critical thinking, and consensus building. Can you muster power for the good of your constituents and all of Tykea?</p> <p><i>Note: This First Year Seminar section is reserved for Freshman Interest Group (FIG) participants only. Students interested in participating in the FIG program should contact Mary Duckworth at <a href="mailto:mduckwor@uwsp.edu">mduckwor@uwsp.edu</a></i></p>
<p><b>FYS 103 (Section 04)</b> Mon/Wed 1:35-2:50 pm SCI D 214</p> <p>Babak Vaezzadeh</p>	<p>Variety is the Spice of Life</p>	<p>Journey into cultural awareness by exploring and enjoying cultural differences. You will develop confidence in cross-cultural communication that will help your college career and your future. First, through reflections and interactive discussions, you will discover and examine your own stereotypes, fears, and intolerances. Then, through learning accurate, non-biased cultural and historical facts, you will recognize and reflect differences and similarities among different ethnicities. And finally, we all explore and celebrate cultural diversity by listening to different speakers, taste different food, watch selected movies and documentaries and listen to musical pieces from different cultures.</p>
<p><b>FYS 103 (Section 05)</b> Tuesday 2:00-4:50 pm SCI D 214</p> <p>Babak Vaezzadeh</p>	<p>Variety is the Spice of Life</p>	<p><i>Same topic as FYS 103 (Section 04) above.</i></p> <p>Journey into cultural awareness by exploring and enjoying cultural differences. You will develop confidence in cross-cultural communication that will help your college career and your future. First, through reflections and interactive discussions, you will discover and examine your own stereotypes, fears, and intolerances. Then, through learning accurate, non-biased cultural and historical facts, you will recognize and reflect differences and similarities among different ethnicities. And finally, we all explore and celebrate cultural diversity by listening to different speakers, taste different food, watch selected movies and documentaries and listen to musical pieces from different cultures.</p>
<p><b>FYS 103 (Section 06)</b> Mon/Wed 2:00-3:15 pm CCC 240</p> <p>Cheryl Brickner</p>	<p>A Literary Journey into Cultural Divide</p>	<p>Where do preconceived ideas about cultural differences originate? 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 Hmong culture in contemporary America.</p>

For more information about UW-Stevens Point's First Year Seminars, please visit: <http://www.uwsp.edu/AcadAff/pages/FYS/default.aspx>.