

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

First-Year Seminars: Fall 2015

FYS 101:	Instructor	Section Title	Section Description
Course Information			
Section 01 Tues/Thurs: 9-10:15 CCC 320	Barringer, Brian	Science & Society	The relationships between science and society are as provocative as they are complex, and they routinely influence, or are influenced by, many other important dimensions of our lives, including education, nutrition, health care, politics, and religion. For example, what is the evidence for evolution and what are the relationships between evolutionary theory, religion, and other aspects of society? To what extent is climate change caused by human activities and how will climate change impact life on earth? What are genetically modified foods and are they cause for concern? Is there any evidence that some vaccines cause autism? In this course you will explore a numer of important topics related to the historical and contemporary relationships between science and society, including evolutionary theory, climate change, the origin of the universe, genetically modified food, embryonic stem cell research, vaccines, and birth control. While exploring these topics you will develop and hone your critical thinking skills and engage in reflective thought to help you better understand your own reactions to these interesting and important issues.
Section 02 LAB:Thurs.: 9 - 10:50 HEC 154 SEM: Tues.: 9:00-9:50 HEC 146	Johnson, Johnny	<u>Wilderness</u> <u>Leadership</u> <u>Orientation</u>	Note: This course will be reserved for students who participate in the Pathways to Point Orientation program. Students will re-visit their experiences from the trip they were on and process how they can apply the experiential lessons they learned to their college life. Discussions and active learning strategies will focus on the Seven Dimensions of Wellness and how each of those dimensions is relative to success in college. Students will explore campus involvement opportunities, identify student resources available to them, and connect with other students and faculty. Ultimately, the students will gain the knowledge to create a holistic college experience. http://www.uwsp.edu/peat/Documents/Lead_Pathways_Brochure.pdf.
Section 03 LAB:Thurs.: 9 - 10:50 HEC 154 SEM: Tues.: 10:00-10:50 HEC 116	Johnson, Johnny	<u>Wilderness</u> <u>Leadership</u> <u>Orientation</u>	See FYS 101 section 02 for course description.

Section 04	Barry David		The last Time Lovel once said. (Maly a oll stories in the and lust make its and any 17 this was from
Section 04 Mon/Wed: 9:35-10:50 CCC 330	Barry, David	Understanding Society Through Science Fiction	The last Time Lord once said: "We're all stories, in the end. Just make it a good one!" This quote from the popular British science fiction TV show, Doctor Who, illuminates the link between fiction and reality. Indeed, creative products like film and literature are often noted for being a commentary on our society today and where we are headed. The aim of this course will be to explore various examples of science fiction in order to better understand our own society and the future we hope to attain. Multiple scientific disciplines (e.g., sociology, psychology, history, film studies, and literature) will provide an interdisciplinary approach toward examining important social issues depicted in science fiction such as: inequality, social order and deviance, pluralism and social tolerance, and progress and development. We will examine popular favorites like George Orwell's 1984, forgotten favorites like Saint Thomas More's Utopia, stories from abroad like Yevgeny Zamyatin's We, American contemporaries like Gary Shteyngart's Super Sad True Love Story, and many others. This is an opportunity for anyone to get their 'geek' on and explore how science fiction can reveal a better understanding of our own everyday lives. As the good Doctor would say: "Allons-y!" (Let's go!)
Section 05 Mon/Wed: 9:35-10:50 CCC 231	Lopatin-Lummis, Nancy	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."
Section 06 Mon/Wed: 9:35-10:50 SCI D214	Lowery, Angela		Did you know that the person who is most likely to buy a self-help book is someone who recently purchased another self-help book? A lot of money and effort is spent on programs that promise to help people lead blissful and successful lives. However, common methods promoted in self-help books and motivational seminars often lead people to feel worse. In this seminar, students will learn why these common techniques do not work for many people, and we will discuss an alternate path to a sense of tranquility in our daily lives. Students will discover that many of the techniques that can lead us to a feeling of contentment are counterintuitive. Drawing from the wisdom of ancient philosophies, students will learn about contemporary psychological research that supports these counterintuitive methods for finding peace.
Section 07 Tues/Thurs: 9:35-10:50 CCC 231	Lopatin-Lummis, Nancy	The Band that Changed the World	See FYS 101 section 05 for course description.

Section 09 Mon/Wed: 10:00-11:15 CCC 205	DeBoer, Dorothy	Violence in America	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.
Section 10 Mon/Wed/Fri: 11:00-11:50 SCI D216	Nemeth, Robert		What is college for? Do you feel like you really had a choice in deciding to attend college? Do you think it will get you a job that you will love? This class will use Matthew Crawford's book, <u>Shop Class</u> <u>as Soulcraft</u> , to explore questions about the purpose of education, our current society's implicit distinction between thinking versus doing, and how to find meaning in one's work.
Section 11 Mon/Wed/Fri: 11:00-11:50 SCI D214	Weisgram, Erica		Is it a Boy or Girl? Should I buy Pink or Blue? Those are questions that many expectant parents face and illustrate the importance of gender in children's development and in our American society. Children are given numerous and various messages about how to "be a man" or "act like a lady" at a young age from parents, peers, siblings, media and other influential aspects of society. In this First Year Seminar, we will examine the ideas children have about gender, the gender expectations and gender stereotypes they face, and critically examine gender differences and similarities in children's development. These important issues will be examined through popular press books and research articles, films, and children's media as well as experiential learning activities such as observations or interviews.
Section 12 Mon/Wed/Fri: 12:00-12:50 CCC 231	Prendergast, Neil	Hurricane Katrina	Simply called "the storm," Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August 2005 and nothing again was ever the same. Levees broke, homes flooded, and people suffered. That it was a disaster was clear, but the lessons it offered about social justice, the environment, and the role of government were less easily grasped. To learn what "the storm" might teach us, students in this course will explore the humanities and use them as tools for understanding the nation's largest problems.
Section 13 Mon/Wed: 12:35-13:50 CCC 320	DeBoer, Dorothy	Violence in America	See FYS 101 section 09 for course description.
Section 14 Mon/Wed 12:35-13:50 CCC 205	Luft, Shaanan	A Very Special Christmas	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.

Section 16 Mon/Wed: 14:00-15:15 CAC 315	Bodor, Tamas	Art of Persuasion: How to Get What You Want While Still Being Nice	Persuasion is all-pervading. Like fish in the water, we live our lives in a constant stream of persuasive messages. Commercial and political ads are bombarding us through every screen we immerse our face into: TV, computer, or smart phones. Persuasion penetrates our family life, friendships and social media networks, as well as our workplace. What do persuasive sources want from us? They want us to change our mind, feelings, or actions. On the flip side, our success in life largely depends on our persuasive skills. Persuasion is power. Persuasion makes winners and losers. This First Year Seminar will help to demystify persuasion and by discovering how persuasion works, you will become a critical consumer of persuasive messages. Also importantly, you'll learn how to exercise the power of persuasion in a responsible and ethical way.
Section 17 Tues/Thurs: 14:00-15:15 SCI D223	Magyar-Moe, Jeana	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.)
Section 18 Wed: 14:30-17:00 NFAC 126	Bywaters, Diane	The Arts as a Spiritual Journey	Create, discover and explore the Central Wisconsin area through art! Students will create hand-made journals (sketchbooks/field notes) through collage, sketching, and writings. In the process, you will discover that the Stevens Point community is rich with art – public sculptures, a natural history museum, art centers, and numerous galleries on and around campus. Students will regularly take walking field trips to consider art work on display, while at the same time exploring the spiritual and renewing qualities of art. At the end of the semester you'll have a richly designed handmade art book of your very own. Don't worry: <i>Not an artist?</i> You will discover ways to be artistic. And if you and artist, you'll have ample opportunities to be very creative.
Section 19 Mon/Wed: 12:25-13:40 CCC 114	Chrisinger, David	Back from the Front: Transitioning from Military to Civilian Life	Note: reserved for military veterans and current military service members only. Military veterans have always experienced challenges coming home from war. They've also always found ways to overcome those challenges. In this course, we will take an inter-disciplinary approach to studying the history of coming home from war, drawing comparisons from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror. We will also learn to identify the unique and valuable skills you developed in the military and apply them in civilian settings. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to (1) read with perception and discernment, (2) write with clarity and precision, and (3) think both critically and courageously—skills that are sorely needed in today's workforce.

Section 01	Collins, Jennifer	Exploring Ecuador	Are you interested in other cultures? Do you enjoy learning about the world and thinking about
Mon/Wed/Fri: 9:00-9:50 CCC 324			issues from different perspectives? The South American country of Ecuador will serve as our vehicle for connecting to the broader world. Its dramatic geography stretches from Amazonian tropical rainforests, to the high peaks of the Andes, and across the sea to the Galapagos Islands, made famous by Charles Darwin. It is a multicultural nation with vibrant indigenous, mixed, and Afro- Ecuadorian communities, and politically this small country has been at the forefront of struggles for indigenous rights and new environmental thinking. Exploration of Ecuador's physical, political, and cultural realities will serve as a window through which to learn about global issues, Latin American cultures, and developing nations. This course will help you develop as a global citizen, challenging you to think critically and opening doors to new cultures, experiences, and perspectives.
Section 02 Tues/Thurs: 9:35-10:50 CCC 334	Klekovkina, Vera	French Cooking and Culture	The French are famous for their cuisine and the art of conversation, systematic approach to critical thinking and aesthetic appreciation of the arts. In this seminar, students will learn some of the key French cultural practices that can help them advance in their studies at UWSP and beyond. We will read bestselling texts, such as Mireille Guiliano's, <u>French Women Don't Get Fat</u> as well as René Descartes', <u>Discourse on the Method</u> . To put theory into practice, we will make some staple foods of French students, such as Croque-Monsieur and savory crêpes. The culminating project of the semina will be to develop a course of study at UWSP while using the famous French approach – Système D, which could be loosely translated as "Fend for yourself and be resourceful!"
Section 03 Mon/Wed/Fri: 10:00-10:50 CCC 106	Collins, Jennifer	Exploring Ecuador	See FYS 102 section 01 for course description.
Section 04 Tues/Thurs: 11:00-12:15 CCC 231	Barske, Valerie	Samurai to Hello Kitty: "Pop" Images of Japan	On any given night in the UWSP residence halls, bouncing sounds of "Fruit Ninja" fill the air as Hello Kitty pajamas dance in the hallways. Roommates display "samurai" Lego figurines or chuck ninja "throwing stars," as friends post "Memoirs of a Gaga" photos of Lady Gaga in "geisha" gear. In this course, we will play with, examine, and challenge these global "pop" images that sell Japanese culture as historically warrior-based, sexualized, or "cute." We will study an exciting variety of materials from original 18th century "erotic" woodblock prints to contemporary anime, toys, and multi-media advertisements. Weaving together methods from History, Anthropology, and Asian Studies, students will learn how to analyze images, to question racial stereotypes, and to complicate worldwide consumer practices.

Section 05 Tues/Thurs: 12:35-13:50 CCC 231	Barske, Valerie	Samurai to Hello Kitty: "Pop" Images of Japan	See FYS 102 section 04 for course description.
Section 06 Mon/Wed: 15:35-16:50 CCC 322	Reejhsinghani, Anju	Global Baseball	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; and salient issues, such as steroid use, facing the MLB today.
Section 07 Tues/Thurs: 9:35-10:50 CCC 322	Easum, Taylor	Give Peace a Chance: Students and the Vietnam War	In the 1960s, campuses around America erupted in protest over America's war in Vietnam. Students were at the forefront of the anti-war movement, from Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Free Speech movement, to the Dow Chemical protests in Madison and the shootings at Kent State. This seminar has two goals: First, this course will introduce students to this vibrant and transformative history, much of which occurred here in Wisconsin. Second, this course will also ask what the role of a student is in modern America, and what it means to be engaged in your community, as a local, national, or global citizen.
Section 08 Mon/Wed: 14:00-15:15 SCI D320	Odoga, Ismaila	Witches, Witchcraft and Society	Witchcraft has been with us since the dawn of human civilization and was practiced by most societies and cultures. Do witches they have the power to perform supernatural feats? Can they really cast spells? Is there a logical explanation for these seemingly mystic acts? Why are witches predominantly women and the aged? Why is there a fear of witches and witchcraft despite the fact that throughout human history, societies have used sorcery in an attempt to achieve certain outcomes, be it during times of tribulations or to ensure the fate of the season's crops. Witchcraft and the belief in witches has long ceased to be a source of concern in Western society but it remains an active and vital image in the consciousness of people in other parts of the world. In general, this course will examine the origin and practice of Witchcraft and, the persecution of witches. Through the rational analysis that scholarship offers, students will gain a better understanding of the prejudices that serve as the basis for generally accepted attitudes and assumptions towards those considered different by mainstream society.

FYS 103 (GEP: FYS + U.S. Diversity)					
Section 01 Wed/Fri: 11:00-12:15 CCC 320	Chunyu, David	Unwelcome Strangers	America is a nation of immigrants. But how much do we really know about immigrants, their community, and their impacts on the American social, economic, political, and cultural landscape? This course seeks to offer a comprehensive multi-disciplinary overview of immigration and immigrants in the United States. We will examine both the historical and contemporary trends of immigration to the U.S., but will focus more on the contemporary phenomena, the incorporation of the new immigrants into the U.S. economy, politics, community and culture, and the role of policies and politics in controlling immigrant flows. Certain themes covered in this course can be controversial, but students are expected to become better informed of immigration-related issues.		
FYS 104 (GEP: FYS + En	FYS 104 (GEP: FYS + Environmental Responsibility)				
Section 01 Tues/Thurs: 9:35-10:50 CCC 240		Sustainability and the 3 Ps: Critical Thinking for a Future World	This course will help students to better understand how sustainability impacts their everyday world and interests. Students will spend time looking at personal interest issues, university initiatives, and local, regional, and global topics to better understand sustainability in the present world. The course will change the way students see the world and think about solving the problems of the future.		
Section 02 Mon/Wed: 14:00-15:15 CCC 126		Chemical Myths, Legends, and Sagas: Separating Fact from Fiction	From environmental toxins and dangerous food additives to newly discovered "miracle" drugs, chemicals are often portrayed by the media in one of two ways: harmful substances to be avoided at any cost or marvels of modern science. So which is it? Is it really that black and white? And how in the world can a "non-chemist" figure it out? By examining the role that chemicals have played in areas ranging from popular culture to government policy, this course will explore the ways in which decisions about the use of chemicals often depend on more than just science. No prior chemistry experience in required; a healthy curiosity and a willingness to critically examine the evidence is all that is needed.		