

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS

Fall Term 2020



Western Oregon
UNIVERSITY

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED

What are First Year Seminars?

All new students begin their lives at WOU by taking **First Year Seminars**, small classes that only enroll first year students, to help you with successful adjustment to the requirements of college-level courses. These classes are meant to be an opportunity to practice foundational skills such as reading, information literacy, creative and critical thinking, and technological literacy while in a small class setting. You are required to take one writing-focused class and one quantitative-focused class. Each class will be taught around a different topic, and you are free to choose any two classes with topics that interest you. You will need to complete both of the classes you choose by the end of your freshman year.

First-Year Seminars (FYS) will help you learn and practice these skills:

- Intellectual foundations and breadth of exposure
- Multidisciplinary learning

In addition, these courses will refine your abilities in:

- Reading
- Information literacy
- Creative and critical thinking
- Technological literacy

Your writing-focused course, FYS 107, will work on least two of these skills:

- Context of and purpose for writing
- Content development
- Genre and disciplinary conventions
- Sources and evidence
- Control of syntax and mechanics

Your quantitative-focused course, FYS 207, will work on least two of these skills:

- Interpretation
- Representation
- Calculation
- Application/analysis
- Assumptions
- Communication

For more about these skills, visit:

wou.edu/gened/learning-outcomes-and-rubrics

So what do I need to do?

Use the course descriptions to decide what courses to take:

Crisis & Collapse	3
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The Human Condition	5
Life Hacking	6
Save the Planet	7
Science & Culture	8-9
Social Justice	9-10
Tech & Data	11

The description of each course is organized like this:

Course Title

Subtitle (optional)

Description of what topics the course will cover.

FYS 107 OR 207 | WRITING or QUANTITATIVE |
CRN* (for fall term) | INSTRUCTOR(S)

* CRNs are numbers that identify each class section at WOU. You can use them to quickly find classes during registration.

CRNs for winter and spring sections will be posted on wou.edu/gened/students as they become available.

Complete two FYS courses by the end of your first year at WOU:

You can take these in any order or even take both in the same term.

- 1 x Writing Focused (FYS 107) 4 credits
- 1 x Quantitative Focused (FYS 207) 4 credits

Everything in this catalog (and more!) is available online at wou.edu/gened/students.

- ✓ Filter the course list by term, category, topic, professor name, and description.
- ✓ Learn about and view course lists for the other general education requirements.
- ✓ Print extra copies of planning worksheets.

Crisis & Collapse

Fast Zombies vs. Slow Zombies

The Biology of Fear

Explore the biology of fear. Find out what happens in your body during a good fright and explore the evolutionary advantages of fear in humans. Dig into the biological roots of classic frighteners like werewolves, vampires and the walking dead to learn how myths arise from real phenomena. Use your new knowledge to argue your case for the scariest horror books and films of all time. Join with your fellow students to tackle some of your biggest fears about the college experience. Because while creepy clowns are always to be avoided, class projects, office hours and Hamersly Library are nothing to be afraid of.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11214 | BAUMGARTNER

The Opiate Crisis

Medical and Societal Effects of Opiate Use and Addiction

Opiate abuse within the United States is occurring at unprecedented levels. It has long lasting impacts on human health, society, and on our economy. This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to help students understand the physical and psychological nature of opiate addiction, the health implications and treatment options, as well as the larger societal and economic impacts of this disease. Major questions we will tackle this term include: How do opiates affect the brain and why is the death rate from opiate abuse climbing? Are there longterm health consequences to drug addiction? Are current social and treatment programs effective at reducing opiate-related deaths? What are the major economic and social impacts caused by opiate addiction?

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11210 | FLATT

Worse Than the Great Depression

An Impending Global Economic Crisis?

This course will undertake a brief historical study of the Great Depression, with a primary focus on economic and political conditions in the United States in the late-1920s and early-1930s. It will then make a comparison with current economic macroeconomic situation in the United States, along with the political climate. From there some projection and simulated thinking will lead us to a predictive and speculative inquiry into whether the next large-scale global recession will indeed be "worse than the Great Depression." This will include an estimation/description as to in what ways and in what magnitude such events might unfold.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11471 | TBA

Express Yourself

American Identity Through Pop Culture

Bridging Generational Divides

Popular culture is comprised of dominant cultural artifacts and icons that help to shape the experiences of individuals in a society. In the U.S., each new generation of youth has shared a unique popular culture that becomes integral to the identity of that generation. Over time, generations can become more divided as their identities, values, and beliefs become more disparate from one another. This course examines various similarities and differences across generations in how individuals consume culture, interact with dominant artifacts and icons, and express themselves as a result. It will explore how popular culture has shaped the boundaries of our normative understanding of issues like race, gender, sexuality, and power in the U.S., and ultimately how it has helped shape identity across generations, exploring themes such as film, TV programs, music, sports, corporate and personal branding, books, radio, video games, and the internet.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11435 | CANNON

Illuminating the Code of Dance

This course will explore the parallels between dance and coding and will culminate in creating and an iPuppet dance using basic tools from dance choreography, illuminated puppet pieces, and basic coding skills. No previous dance or coding experience is needed.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11280 | THOMAS

Moving in the Movies

What do the feel-good song and dance moments in movie musicals tell us about American culture? How do the popular dance forms highlighted in these films reflect and challenge social trends of the 20th century? These are some of the questions this FYS seeks to explore. We will examine a selection of American movie musicals analyzing how the story and the dance within the film excavate "the temper of the age." Movie musicals reflect back to us shifting American values and cultural trends in relation to race, gender, economics, class, history and religion. While grappling with this seemingly light-hearted genre we will have the opportunity to analytically examine a distinctly American genre at different points in American history.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11289 | COWART

Nature and Photography

What is nature?

This course considers ideas and images of nature from a variety of perspectives. Students explore challenging questions about nature through discussion and writing, and by creating photographs. Includes instruction in photography.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11644 | TANKERSLEY

Signs & Symbols

History, Communication, and Design

A part lecture/part studio class investigating signs and symbols: their history & how they have evolved, how they communicate, their role in society, and how to conceive & create them. Many discussions and activities will revolve around signs/symbols observed in everyday life as well as how they connect to students' chosen disciplines, majors, and interests.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11645 | BRACY

Storytelling with Data

Creating Effective Infographics

Data visualization leverages the power of human visual perception to find patterns in data (exploration) and uses those patterns to effectively tell a compelling story (communication). As you gain experience as a writer, you can tell good writing by "ear", that is, how it sounds in your head. This class will help you develop your "eye" for good visualizations.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11274 | LEADLEY

Trend Lines Versus Headlines

Has the world become better or worse? How do we know? How far have we come, and where might we be headed? By objectively looking at the trend lines, often by contrasting them against the screaming and misleading news headlines, we will investigate the state of the world and, thereby, think about how to make the world a better place for future generations.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11032 | KHE

The Great Outdoors

Americas National Parks and Monuments

An Exploration of their Geologic Significance and Preservation Challenges

America's National Parks and Monuments preserve some of the most iconic landscapes on Earth. The historical reasons of why these places have been set aside will be explored and we will investigate what makes some of them geologically significant. In addition, challenges to their preservation both now and in the future will be discussed.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11263 | SMITH

Dinosaurs!

Science, Art, and the Public Understanding of Science

Did you know that there is a dinosaur singing outside your window? By the end of this course you will know why we know that! This course will introduce fundamental scientific principles and explore how science and the arts interact to shape the public understanding of science using this iconic

group of animals. We will use dinosaurs as a case study of evolution, and explore how our understanding or misunderstanding of these animals through time has shaped our perceptions of these legendary creatures. Exploring dinosaurs takes a multidisciplinary investigative approach, introducing how we evaluate evidence across the sciences, and how the arts and media can shape our understanding of the way science works, for better or for worse.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11223 | HARWELL, HOPKINS

Exploring the Solar System

We live in exciting times to learn about the Solar System. In this seminar, we will see how our understanding of the Solar System has evolved over the centuries and how a revolution in astronomy led to the birth of modern science. Students will learn how our understanding of physics has been essential for predicting the motions and properties of Solar System bodies. By conducting an analysis of the structure and composition of the Solar System, students will see what this information reveals about the origin and evolution of the Solar System. We will explore the surface geology of planets and moons and learn what physical processes have shaped these unique worlds. In addition, students will examine the latest information acquired on solar system bodies and assess the significance of these recent discoveries.

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Learning History through Voyagers' Accounts

This course unveils the different approaches and interpretations that foreigners visiting Latin American territories have made of significant historical events taking place in the region since colonial until modern times. During the class, we will examine, in chronological order, primary sources such as diaries and memories written by travelers during their stay in South and Central America, and the Caribbean. The course will also include secondary sources such as monographs or collection of articles describing the experiences of travelers during their stay in the region. Differences of gender, race, religion and purpose among these travelers will show to the students the diversity and mobility that has existed in Latin America since colonial times. This course will develop analytical and critical thinking of the students, their formal and informal writing, as well as their oral skills through classes' discussions and presentations.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11052 | PELEGRIN TABOADA

The Great Outdoors (continued from page 4)

WOU Earth Corps

Beginner's Guide to Environmental Stewardship

This course engages service-based learning with a focus on environmental restoration of water, land and soil. Students apply basic principles of Earth Science and Permaculture design to hands-on environmental restoration projects in the community. Four hours of active learning and group discussion per week.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11432 | TAYLOR

The Human Condition

Family Matters

Exploring Diverse Family Experiences

This class focuses on diversity of family structures with regard to race, social class, gender, work, and other social institutions. The course will look at family structures noting how social issues impact these structures.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11434 | OURADA

Fast Zombies vs. Slow Zombies

The Biology of Fear

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11214 | BAUMGARTNER

Faster, Bigger, Tougher

Making your Brain Work for You

Research in psychology has given us insight into how human attention, memory, problem solving, and decision-making functions. This course will explore ways to use what we know about the brain and cognition to our advantage in our academic careers. Learn shortcuts to memorization, critical thinking, and study techniques that utilize the way your brain already works.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11673 | KING

How Can I Help?

What We Know About What Works in Charity, Humanitarianism and Development

Many of us aspire to make a positive difference in the world, but it can be hard to know how. This course looks at what current research in a variety of fields can tell us, and explores a variety of perspectives on what it means to do good in the world.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11103 | MILLER

Logic, Language, and Alice

A lesser-known fact is that Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was written by an Oxford logician. It is filled with logical fallacies and whimsically named creatures. In this seminar we will study some logic through examination of some seriously silly arguments, but we will also *investigate a serious philosophical question about whether names can have meaning*, by reading Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, alongside Plato and John Stuart Mill.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11237 | HICKERSON

Me, Myself, and I.

Who the Heck am I?

New Course: This course examines the perplexing question of what constitutes the self from a philosophical, psychological, existential, and biological lens. Consideration will progress from a broad theoretical understanding of self to an individually focused look at one's own self-identity. Deeper self-understanding should lead to better decision-making and overall well-being in life here at WOU and beyond.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11482 | POWELL

Stories About Your Ancestors

We all want to know where we came from and who came before us. This is why genealogy-based programs and services are more popular than ever. This course focuses on supporting your own process of research and discovery for finding the resources necessary to tell engaging and meaningful stories about your family and ancestors.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11288 | KOSHNICK

The Good, The Bad, and The Ambivalent

Understanding Parent-Child Relationships Over Time

Relationships with parents are always changing and not always easy. Using a developmental and multidisciplinary approach, this course focuses on the relationships between parents and children as both age over time. Particular attention will be given to the multiple and changing social contexts of parent-child relationships beginning when children are first born. Students will gain first-hand knowledge through lifespan interviews and will learn about their own family relationships as they relate to the concepts learned in class.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11481 | MANOOGIAN

Adulthood

The course will focus on the skills of "Adulthood" including: financial literacy, budget, basic economics, and so much more! It will prepare students to make informed financial, political, and personal decisions and develop key skills to be used in everyday life.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | BOYLE

Life Hacking

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FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11673 | KING

Getting Woke to Being Broke

The True Cost of "Getting By" reflected in your Values and Goals

In this class, we will research and practice what it means to be first-generation or low-income in the current U.S. educational system. Individual values and goal setting will be explored and will be central themes in the work produced. This course is cost-remitted for students in the Student Enrichment Program (SEP), and meets the SEP course requirements.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11215 | TBA

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FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11224 | TBA

Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics

Cultivating Media Numerical Literacy

We are confronted with an astronomical amount of information in the modern era. Much of this information is tied to numbers and statistics, yet often little or no context is offered so people can truly understand what the data shows. Worse yet, there are entities that are purposefully obfuscating the truth by misstating the data or presenting them in a misleading way. This course will focus on how data and statistics are used in the media and modern culture and how to view data through a critical lens to understand what the information means and whether it is being presented in a truthful manner.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11102 | ALDRICH, ANDERSON

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11482 | POWELL

Money Management

Make Your Money Work For You

The goal of this class is to help students to become financially responsible, conscientious members of society. To reach that end, this course develops students understanding and skills in such areas as money management, budgeting, career planning, financial goal attainment, the wise use of credit, insurance, investments, and consumer rights and responsibilities. This course will give students the tools and resources needed to make wise financial decisions. Students will analyze their personal financial decisions, evaluate the costs and benefits of their decisions, recognize their rights and responsibilities as consumers, and apply the knowledge learned to financial situations encountered later in life. Ultimately, they will learn how to put their money to work.

FYS 107 | QUANTITATIVE | 11250 | ILIEVSKI

Started from the Bottom Now We're Here

How Underrepresented College Students will Inherit the Earth

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11212 | TBA

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An Exploration of their Geologic Significance and Preservation Challenges

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11263 | SMITH

Can Our Food Choices Help Save the World?

Reflecting on Our Impact

What does it mean to eat compassionately? This seminar will examine plant-based living and its potential consequences on personal health and the world.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11478 | SCHMIDT

How Can I Help?

What We Know about What Works in Charity, Humanitarianism and Development

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FYS 107 | QUANTITATIVE | 11432 | TAYLOR

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11289 | COWART

Oregon History Detectives*Discovering Diverse Voices*

Oregon History Detectives will introduce students to the tools they need to discover and analyze the lives of diverse Oregonians in our history and teach others about their experiences to build a richer understanding of our past. Methods for students to gain these analytical, comprehension, and teaching skills, include gallery walks with primary source documents, role-playing through literature, comparing and contrasting worldviews through human stories, self-reflection activities, story mapping, and gaining observation, reflection, and questioning skills during field studies. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources through discussion and in writing.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11104 | CARANO, JENSEN

Stories About Your Ancestors

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11052 | PELEGRIN TABOADA

WOU Earth Corps*Beginner's Guide to Environmental Stewardship*

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FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11432 | TAYLOR

Your App is Racist*The Good, the Bad and the Biased*

An algorithm is a precise sequence of instructions for processes that can be executed by a computer. Algorithms are a part of everyday life, influencing where we live, what we eat, what job we have and who we marry. They use data to inform decisions, which seems to promise the results will be objective and fair. However, algorithms are created and used by fallible humans and can introduce or exacerbate bias in our systems. This seminar focuses on the interaction between algorithms and culture: How are algorithms affecting culture? How is culture affecting algorithms?

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11225 | FLESCH

Getting Woke to Being Broke*The True Cost of "Getting By" reflected in your Values and Goals*

In this class, we will research and practice what it means to be first-generation or low-income in the current U.S. educational system. Individual values and goal setting will be explored and will be central themes in the work produced. This course is cost-remitted for students in the Student Enrichment Program (SEP), and meets the SEP course requirements.

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FYS 107 | WRITING | 11104 | CARANO, JENSEN

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How Underrepresented College Students will Inherit the Earth

In this class, we will research and write about what it means to be first-generation or low- income in the current U.S. educational system. This course is cost-remitted for students in the Student Enrichment Program (SEP), and meets the SEP course requirements.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11213 | TBA

The Opiate Crisis

Medical and Societal Effects of Opiate Use and Addiction

Opiate abuse within the United States is occurring at unprecedented levels. It has long lasting impacts on human health, society, and on our economy. This course provides and interdisciplinary approach to help students understand the physical and psychological nature of opiate addiction, the health implications and treatment options, as well as the larger societal and economic impacts of this disease. Major questions we will tackle this term include: How do opiates effect the brain and why is the death rate from opiate abuse climbing? Are there longterm health consequences to drug addiction? Are current social and treatment programs effective at reducing opiate-related deaths? What are the major economic and social impacts caused by opiate addiction?

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11210 | FLATT

Travelers of Latin America

Learning History through Voyagers' Accounts

This course unveils the different approaches and interpretations that foreigners visiting Latin American territories have made of significant historical events taking place in the region since colonial until modern times. During the class, we will examine, in chronological order, primary sources such as diaries and memories written by travelers during their stay in South and Central America, and the Caribbean. The course will also include secondary sources such as monographs or collection of articles describing the experiences of travelers during their stay in the region. Differences of gender, race, religion and purpose among these travelers will show to the students the diversity and mobility that has existed in Latin America since colonial times. This course will develop analytical and critical thinking of the students, their formal and informal writing, as well as their oral skills through classes' discussions and presentations.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11052 | PELEGRIN TABOADA

Trend lines versus headlines

Has the world become better or worse? How do we know? How far have we come, and where might we be headed? By objectively looking at the trend lines, often by contrasting them against the screaming and misleading news headlines, we will investigate the state of the world and, thereby, think about how to make the world a better place for future generations.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11032 | KHE

Worse Than the Great Depression

An Impending Global Economic Crisis?

This course will undertake a brief historical study of the Great Depression, with a primary focus on economic and political conditions in the United States in the late-1920s and early-1930s. It will then make a comparison with current economic macroeconomic situation in the United States, along with the political climate. From there some projection and simulated thinking will lead us to a predictive and speculative inquiry into whether the next large-scale global recession will indeed be "worse than the Great Depression." This will include an estimation/description as to in what ways and in what magnitude such events might unfold.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11471 | TBA

Tech & Data

Your App is Racist

the good, the bad and the biased

An algorithm is a precise sequence of instructions for processes that can be executed by a computer. Algorithms are a part of everyday life, influencing where we live, what we eat, what job we have and who we marry. They use data to inform decisions, which seems to promise the results will be objective and fair. However, algorithms are created and used by fallible humans and can introduce or exacerbate bias in our systems. This seminar focuses on the interaction between algorithms and culture: How are algorithms affecting culture? How is culture affecting algorithms?

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11225 | FLESCH

Illuminating the Code of Dance

This course will explore the parallels between dance and coding and will culminate in creating and an iPuppet dance using basic tools from dance choreography, illuminated puppet pieces, and basic coding skills. No previous dance or coding experience is needed.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11280 | THOMAS

Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics

Cultivating Media Numerical Literacy

We are confronted with an astronomical amount of information in the modern era. Much of this information is tied to numbers and statistics, yet often little or no context is offered so people can truly understand what the data shows. Worse yet, there are entities that are purposefully obfuscating the truth by misstating the data or presenting them in a misleading way. This course will focus on how data and statistics are used in the media and modern culture and how to view data through a critical lens to understand what the information means and whether it is being presented in a truthful manner.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11102 | ALDRICH, ANDERSON

Money Management

Make Your Money Work For You

The goal of this class is to help students to become financially responsible, conscientious members of society. To reach that end, this course develops students understanding and skills in such areas as money management, budgeting, career planning, financial goal attainment, the wise use of credit, insurance, investments, and consumer rights and responsibilities. This course will give students the tools and resources needed to make wise financial decisions. Students will analyze their personal financial decisions, evaluate the costs and benefits of their decisions, recognize their rights and responsibilities as consumers, and apply the knowledge learned to financial situations encountered later in life. Ultimately, they will learn how to put their money to work.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11250 | ILIEVSKI

Signs & Symbols

History, Communication, and Design

A part lecture/part studio class investigating signs and symbols: their history & how they have evolved, how they communicate, their role in society, and how to conceive & create them. Many discussions and activities will revolve around signs/symbols observed in everyday life as well as how they connect to students' chosen disciplines, majors, and interests.

FYS 107 | WRITING | 11645 | BRACY

Storytelling with Data

Creating Effective Infographics

Data visualization leverages the power of human visual perception to find patterns in data (exploration) and uses those patterns to effectively tell a compelling story (communication). As you gain experience as a writer, you can tell good writing by "ear", that is, how it sounds in your head. This class will help you develop your "eye" for good visualizations.

FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11274 | LEADLEY

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FYS 207 | QUANTITATIVE | 11032 | KHE

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wou.edu/gened/students

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