

First-Year Seminar

The First-Year Seminar (FYS) provides the opportunity for students to work closely with faculty to explore important and challenging issues. All undergraduates entering Xavier in Fall 2015 are required to take a FYS within two semesters of their arrival.

FYS Goals: Students will...

- 1) Become engaged in intellectually challenging and interesting questions and problems
- 2) Develop strong mentoring relationships with faculty in and out of the classroom
- 3) Join the community of scholars at Xavier University
- 4) Establish a solid foundation on which subsequent Core Curriculum courses will build
- 5) Engage with a common theme across all seminars.

Current Status:

- There are 42 sections for Fall 2015 (See topics on back of page).
- Courses are being offered by 28 faculty from 13 departments (9 CAS; 4 CSSHE).
- 660 first-year students are registered for FYS courses.
- 40 sections are expected to be offered in Spring 2016, plus one for transfer students if needed.

Overall Goal: Develop the First-Year Seminar into a signature Xavier experience in which first-year undergraduates become passionate and effective learners and develop mentoring relationships with faculty.

Plans for 2015-16 (from Rachel Chrastil):

- 1) **Ensure that staffing meets the needs of students, faculty, departments and fiscal responsibility.**
- 2) **Develop faculty who are prepared to meet the needs of first-year students so that they can fulfill a demanding set of course goals and student learning objectives.**
 - A Summer Institute with 30 faculty in attendance was held in May at which faculty designed an assessment process that will be implemented this academic year
- 3) **Develop a registration process.**
 - FYS team will work with the CCC to develop CORE 150 for transfer students, and develop a plan for students who fail or otherwise do not complete CORE 100 in their first year.
- 4) **Embed FYS in the fabric of university life.**
 - Work to strengthen ties with Goa.
 - Spark: The FYS Call for the Greater Good, September 16 at 7:00 in Cintas
 - Flame: The FYS Celebration of Student Learning, first week of December.
 - FYS Study Abroad Program: Working with Development and the CIE to send a FYS class abroad in Spring 2016

Class Options: First-Year Seminar

All FYS courses examine the theme "The Greater Good" from various perspectives in an intimate seminar and/or experiential learning environment with an average faculty: student ratio of 1:15.

Adapting Austen	Culture, Communities, and Global Social Justice	Inequality
Ancient Greek Heroes	Endless Forms Most Beautiful: Biodiversity and the Greater Good	Lincoln and the Debate on Slavery
Art for the Greater Good	Environment and Film	Medical Madmen
Asia in Cincinnati	Exploring Real and Imaginary Places	Modern Times
Bicycling Our Bioregion	Extraordinary Women: A Comparison of the Women of Grimm and Today's Women with Disabilities	Myth and Modernity
Black Literature & Faith	The Forever War: The US in Iraq	Paris
Bob Dylan	Future Worlds in Literature, Art, and Film	Pop Culture and Civil Rights
Borderlands of Being Human	Gesundheit! Representations of Medicine in German Literature	Quests for the Good
Border Wars	Gimme More! A History of Stuff	Reading the Web
Capital Punishment in America	God Comes to America	Rowling, Lucas, Disney: Passion as Career
Caesar: Tyranny and Political Violence	God on Trial	Separate and Equal: Native Americans and American Society
Chicago: Ecology & History	Health Care: Right or Privilege?	A Short History of the Future
The Choice is Yours: Choosing in Everyday Life	Hispanic Literature and Surrealism	Slow Food: We Are What We Eat
The Christian-Jewish Schism: Religious Tragedy or Greater Good?	The Human Need for Narrative	Socrates Meets Jesus
Civil Disobedience	Human Rights	Technology: Help or Hurt?
Computers, Algorithms & Security	Identity in a Consumer Culture	To Treat or Not To Treat Mental Illness, That is the Question!
Confucius, Laozi, Buddha	Ireland: Culture, & Film	Villains and Antiheroes: So Bad They're Good
Criminal Minds: Acts of Crime in German Literature	The Latino Community as Story: An Immersion Experience	World Religions and the Environment