Spring 2021 First Year Seminars

All students must complete a First Year Seminar in the Fall or Spring of their first year.

NEW for Spring 2021  FYS151 Inequality in American Society
This one-credit course is a co-requisite to specific First-Year Seminars, similar to a lab requirement. In this one-credit course, students will engage in discussions about issues related to racism and equity. This course will raise awareness of inequality in the U.S. and assist students to become thoughtful citizens committed to making the world more equal. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to recognize and understand the causes of inequality in America.

FYS 151 is a required co-requisite for these First Year Seminar Sections:
- ASC 150 Forecasting the Future (CRN 10101 and CRN 10102)
- ARH 150 The Art of Pilgrimage (CRN 10059 and CRN 10060)
- CSC 150 The Joy of computing (CRN10269)
- ECN 150 Ripped from the Headlines: Economics in the News (CRN 10360)
- HIS 150 Race and Sport in America (CRN 10595)
- PHL 150 Religion, Philosophy, American Identity (CRN 10834 and CRN 10836)
- POL 150 Bringing Ethics Back In: Normative Approach to Internat Politics (CRN10912)

Spring 2021 first Year Seminar Course Descriptions

Actuarial Science
ASC 150 Forecasting the Future
FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar.
FY1 MWF 10:10-11:00 Whitaker - must also register for FYS 151 D01 (CRN 11349)
FY2 MWF 12:20-1:10 Whitaker - must also register for FYS 151 D02 (CRN 11350)

Actuaries identify, evaluate, and quantify risk. This first year seminar course provides an introduction to the techniques actuaries use to forecast the future and quantify risk. Selected topics include time series analysis and statistical correlation, credibility theory, pricing insurance products and risk load, portfolio theory and asset allocation management. Students are also required to make a presentation on a topic of current interest in actuarial science. The course is taught in a computer classroom and students make extensive use of Microsoft Excel in the development of mathematical models.

Art History
ARH 150 The Art of Pilgrimage
FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar.
FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Easton - must also register for FYS 151 OL3 (CRN 11357)
FY2 TR 2:00-3:15 Easton - must also register for FYS 151 D06 (CRN 11354)

This course explores all sorts of journeys, with a focus on the emphasis on pilgrimage in different religious traditions, but also travel for other reasons such as warfare and exploration, or even touristic pilgrimages to places like baseball stadiums, or Disney parks around the world. We will pay particular attention to how these experiences are both reflected and shaped by material
culture. While the primary focus of the course will be the pilgrimage experiences of the medieval Christian, we will also examine pilgrimage in the ancient world, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. In addition to looking at the art and architecture of particular pilgrimage sites such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain, and Canterbury Cathedral in England, we will also discuss the significance of the cult of the saints in medieval religious belief and practice; relics and reliquaries; objects associated with pilgrims such as pilgrim badges; the Crusades as a form of pilgrimage; memory and spiritual journeys; and representations of pilgrims and travelers in all forms of visual culture.

Biology

**BIO 150L Cells Lab Phage (Honors)**
*HN1 TR 12:30-2:25 PM Lee-Soety*

This two-semester Phage Genomics Laboratory Honors course satisfies the lab components of BIO 101: Cells and BIO 102: Genetics. The BIO 150L lab also satisfies the first-year seminar requirement. The genomics lab provides a unique opportunity to participate in an authentic research experience rather than a “cookbook” lab. Designed for freshman Biology, Chemical Biology, or Environmental Science majors in the honors program (although all students in these majors are encouraged to apply), this lab experience combines themes and technology from several specialized biological fields, including microbiology, molecular biology, genomics, and bioinformatics. Application (available on-line here) is required and due by June 20th. Go to the Biology Department website (see Information for incoming students) for more information.

Computer Science**

**CSC 150 The Joy of Computing**

**FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar.**
*FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Krueger- must also register for FYS 151 D05 (CRN 11353)*

The course will introduce programming fundamentals using Python and html. It will explore various technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Search engines. We will discuss the implications on society and how to adjust our actions and choices to take advantage of new technologies throughout our chosen careers. Suitable for any major.

Economics**

**ECN 150 Ripped from the Headlines: Economics in the News**

**FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar.**
*FY1 TR 2:00-3:15 Fox (online) - must also register for FYS 151 OL1 (CRN 11355)*

Economics is everywhere—and every day. In this course, we will study economic current events and the underlying economic principles behind them. Some examples will be obvious—unemployment and inflation, proposed mergers, “price gouging” during natural disasters, the Google antitrust lawsuit, minimum wage. Other stories will not have such an obvious connection to economics, such as the Maurice the Rooster law suit in France, 47% of respondents to a recent poll said they would find it difficult or somewhat difficult to pay an unexpected expense of $250, and how to allocate the (eventual) Covid vaccine.

English
ENG 150 Psychology and Literature  
FY1 TR 9:30-10:45 Brennan
The purpose of this First Year Seminar is to give students a sense of how psychoanalytic theory provides a lens for the reading of selected literary texts. Using the classic Freudian construct of the Oedipus complex as our touchstone, we will see how this model allows the psychoanalytic critic to illuminate the interconnection between writer, character and audience in articulating how texts in different genres work. In the process we will consider how the ego’s defenses and resistances beget a literary discourse of significant complexity. As a way of testing the limits to this model of criticism, we will also consider narrative expressions of prejudice and altruism and the difficulties both present to psychoanalysis.

ENG 150 National ID in Mod Irish Lit  
FY2 MWF 9:05-9:55 Powell | MWF 10:10-11:00 Powell
In this course, we will consider the constituting factors of Irish nationalisms both in the early 20th century and now, in the 21st century, as well as a wide variety of perspectives that Irish nationalisms have attracted. With that in mind, in the first half of the semester we will take an in-depth look at the early 20th-century Ireland and cultural nationalism in order to understand how the newly independent Republic envisioned itself and defined the Irish nation. In the second half of the semester we will compare the Ireland of Irish Cultural Revival to the 21st-century Ireland – an increasingly multicultural island nation that is now dealing with an influx of immigrants, Brexit and the everyday problems of our increasingly globalized world. As we move into the era of globalization, our focus will be on the ways in which immigration, racial diversity and growing diaspora have redefined the Irish national psyche articulating how texts in different genres work. In the process we will consider how the ego’s defenses and resistances beget a literary discourse of significant complexity. As a way of testing the limits to this model of criticism, we will also consider narrative expressions of prejudice and altruism and the difficulties both present to psychoanalysis.

History

HIS 150 Race and Sport in America
FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar. FY1 MWF 11:15-12:05 Yates- must also register for FYS 151 OL4 (CRN 11358)
This course uses the sporting arena as a site for important discussions of race, racism, nation, and identity in American society. After an introduction to race and ethnicity in America, we continue with the American context and examine the journalist Howard Bryant’s The Heritage which details Black American athletes’ activism in the 20th and 21st centuries. The class also examines what Spanish speaking players tell us about America’s “color line” playing America’s pastime, baseball using Adrian Burgos’ Playing America’s Game. This course concludes with selections on the intersections of economic gain, identity, nation, and sports in the 21st century. Assignments include weekly responses, reading quizzes, exams, and a research presentation. The research paper will require the students to follow a story on race in sports in America for an entire semester.
Leadership, Ethics & Organizational Sustainability

**LEO 150 Serious Comedy & Social Justice**
*FY1 TR 3:30-4:45 Weidner*

Comedy has long been a vehicle by which performers and audiences can engage uncomfortable truths and issues of social injustice. Comedy is increasingly important to individuals’ identity; recent research has shown that comedy is essential to how people view themselves and others. Comedy (including satire and parody) is also a growing business, as evidenced by the popularity of Comedy Central, movies, television programs, YouTube, and other platforms. In this course, we will explore important issues of social justice (e.g., globalization, racism, gender equity, poverty) as presented in comedy across a variety of sources both contemporary (e.g., South Park, The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, The Simpsons) and classic (e.g., All in the Family, The Smothers Brothers, M*A*S*H).

Modern and Classical Cultures

**MCC 150 Iconic Women of Latin America**
*FY1 MWF 12:20-1:10 Hennes*

This First-Year Seminar takes a critical look at representations of iconic Latin American women as a lens for better understanding the cultural values, societal norms, and historical circumstances that have shaped their images. Such figures include the environmental activist Berta Cáceres, the conquest-era interpreter known as La Malinche; the Virgin of Guadalupe; the Liberator of the Liberator, Manuela Sáenz; the Mirabal sisters (a.k.a. the "Butterflies"), the Queen of Salsa, Celia Cruz; indigenous rights activist Rigoberta Menchú; Frida Kahlo and the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Primary sources include literary works, film, public performance, and visual art. Secondary sources draw from the fields of cultural studies, biography, cultural history and social history. As we examine diverse representations of these figures, we describe the mutual relationships between the myths that surround them and their historical, political and cultural contexts. In particular, we consider gender norms and ideas surrounding sexuality, and we discuss ways in which these representations reinforce or challenge these norms. As we explore the course material, we will also discuss ways to be successful in college. We will talk about note-taking and reading strategies, how to conduct library research and evaluate sources, how to write for various purposes (including a research paper), and how to deliver a research presentation. Daily class discussions will rely heavily on the active and informed participation of students. This course is approved for the minors in Gender Studies and Latin American and Latinx Studies. It is also a Diversity overlay course for the GEP. All materials and class discussions will be in English, though students wishing to use Spanish-language sources are encouraged to do so.

**MCC 150 Learning Across Cultures**
*FY2 MWF 9:05-9:55 Daniel*

This course helps students develop strategies for learning effectively. It also helps them understand how our cultural background and our identity can influence our ways of thinking, our attitudes and our ability to communicate and collaborate with others. In the course, we will explore many themes, beginning with definitions of “culture.” We will learn about brain processes that underlie learning and memory. We will do research into how cultural differences can become obstacles to learning. We will reflect on how cultural differences can also empower vigorous, productive, and collaborative learning experiences. The course employs readings, videos, online
forums (or discussion boards), pair work in class and outside of class, small group reading activities, group projects, ePortfolios, and whole-class discussions. It is designed for students who expect to pursue international careers, who are bilingual or non-native speakers of English, and/or who are interested in study abroad.

Philosophy

**PHL 150 Religion, Philosophy, American Identity**

*FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar.*

FY1 MWF 1:25-2:05 Payne - must also register for FYS 151 D03 (CRN 11351)
FY3 MWF 2:30-3:20 Payne- must also register for FYS 151 D04 (CRN 11352)

This course will involve students in an investigation of the roots of American identity in religion and philosophy. In the past two hundred and forty years, many different people have shaped our sense of what an American is: Puritan preachers such as Jonathan Edwards; inventors and businessmen such as Benjamin Franklin; church leaders such as Richard Allen; and philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and W. E. B. Du Bois. Students will consider the influence and meaning of their ideas. As part of this class, students will make at least two visits to historical sites in Philadelphia which are associated with some of these authors.

**PHL 150 Sweet Revenge**

FY2 MWF 10:10-11:00 Linehan

The course will deal with a family of themes: revenge, retribution, restorative justice, forgiveness, and mercy. All of these respond to wrongs: sins and/or crimes. In a perfect world there would be no sins or crimes, and so no need to consider possible responses. But in the world we live in people do wrong and harm one another. What then? Many take it as a fundamental moral intuition that those who deliberately harm others deserve to suffer, and advocate retribution -- or even revenge. Drawing on philosophical and literary sources primarily, we will evaluate these responses – and alternatives to them.

Political Science

**POL 150 Bringing Ethics Back In: Normative Approach to International Politics**

*FYS 151 Inequality in American Society is a co-requisite for this First-Year Seminar.*

TR 12:30-1:45 Fukuoka- must also register for FYS 151 OL2 (CRN 11356)

What is morality in international politics? Is ethical reasoning and action possible in international affairs? If possible, when and how? Proponents of IR Realist often claim that there is virtually no room for morality in international affairs, and states and state actors are rational thinkers in the state of international anarchy. For them, ethics are simply luxury and irrelevant. On the other hand, thinkers under the tradition of IR liberalism/idealism emphasize the ethical dimension of state decision making and state behaviors. On what moral ground or ethical reasoning, are the moral behaviors taken place and observed/unobserved? The primary objective of the course is to help students enhance their analytical ability for the study of international ethics. To this end, the course will explore the main traditions and theories of international ethics with a focus on such topical areas as just war and use of force, universal human rights and humanitarian intervention, global environmental problems, and international justice.
Risk Management & Insurance

**RMI 150 Natural Disasters and Community Recovery**  
*FY1 TR 11:00-12:15 Redden | FY2 MW 3:35-4:50 Staff*

The goal of this course is to empower students to use primary and secondary sources to investigate community recovery from natural disasters. The research will highlight the economics and social impact of insurance. Specifically, students will compare and contrast community recovery from different types of natural disasters while evaluating the successes and/or struggle of insurance products in aiding community recovery from natural disasters. *May only fulfill the GEP First-Year Seminar requirement. Does not satisfy any major or minor Risk Management & Insurance requirement. Does not satisfy any free elective credit.*

Sociology

**SOC 150 What's in a Neighborhood: At the Intersection of Space and Inequality.**  
*FY1 TR 2:00-3:15 Clampet-Lundquist*

Students taking this First Year Seminar will hear the stories of young people who have grown up in different types of communities, learn about how neighborhood inequality gets passed down from generation to generation, and understand how inequality is built into local institutions such as schools. In addition, empathizing with others who come from backgrounds different than yours is a crucial skill, and we will practice how to deepen this skill.

Theology

**THE 150 Religious Vision Fiction & Film**  
*TR 9:30-10:45 Aspan*

This course introduces fiction and films that are driven by religious sensibilities and theological insights. Issues rising throughout the course include deity, sin, forgiveness, grace, redemption, virtue, and community. Student expectations entail critical analysis and theological reflection, as well as a very basic grasp of the phenomenon of human religiosity.