

# YORK COLLEGE

FALL 2020 CATALOG

# First-Year Seminars



## FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS. IT'S WHAT WE DO!

Get ready for a fantastic fall!

York College has a great lineup of First-Year Seminar (FYS) courses for 2020. FYS courses are small discussion and activity seminars for first-year students who are new to York College. Your FYS will intrigue you, challenge you, and help you raise your academic game to the next level. In FYS, you will meet people who share your interests, get to know the campus and its resources, and quickly feel at home in your new college life. Most students will register for their FYS at Summer Orientation. You can prepare by browsing this catalog to see which topics interest you the most.

# Learning Communities

**Join an exciting program that combines classroom learning with activities and events that connect directly to the course topic. Enjoy a rich campus life created just for you, more interaction with faculty and peer mentors, and additional support for your transition to York College.**

## **Work, Play, Learn: Pursuit of Happiness FYS 100.105 and 100.111**

Professor Brian Malcarne

Is there a formula for achieving happiness and success? How can you ensure that you enjoy what you do for the rest of your life? Now is the time to plan how you will approach your college education and create a path for success and enjoyment. We will explore theoretical and practical approaches to creating a satisfying life through meaningful work, play, and learning.

## **The Sweet and Savory Tastes of...Science FYS 100.137**

Professors Brian Gray and Alison Kennicutt

*This course is reserved for students admitted into the STEM Scholars Program.*

Do you enjoy waking up to the smell of freshly brewed coffee? Have you ever wondered how we discovered how to make bread or yogurt? Do you know why jams and jellies are so sweet? What are the differences between semisweet, unsweetened and sweet chocolate?

This course explores chemistry and biology through cooking! In addition to learning the science behind cooking, food preservation, taste perception, and fermentation, students will also experiment with a variety of recipes.

## **Disney for Grown-Ups FYS 100.123 and 100.129**

Professor Dianne Creagh

The Disney corporation is a popular topic of study for historians, media scholars, social scientists, and business analysts. Examine Disney from each of these perspectives, compare Disney's past and present, and debate the company today is still "Walt's Disney." This course will include readings, class discussions, group projects, and individual projects, as well as opportunities to join in activities outside of class time.

## **Changemakers, Be the Change FYS 100.134, 100.135, 100.140, and 100.802**

Professor Cody Miller

Take community service to the next level! In this course, you will learn how to leverage your strengths to make a difference—and then partner with community members, local organizations, faculty members, and other student volunteers to transform challenges into opportunities in the local community. Make an impact. Be a Changemaker.

***"My professor was amazing. She and my classmates made me feel very comfortable. I could express my opinions without being judged, and we all kind of became a big family by the end of the semester."***

# Learning Communities

## Find Your People

### Who can join a Learning Community?

Any first-semester freshman can enroll in the Work, Play Learn and Disney for Grownups Learning Communities courses (see page 2). Students accepted into the STEM Scholars program will enroll in The Sweet and Savory Tastes of Science section (see page 2). Students accepted in the Changemakers program will enroll in one of those designated FYS sections (see page 11).

### How is it different from other FYS courses?

A Learning Community is a co-curricular (outside of class) program that is connected to a First-Year Seminar course. The Learning Community enhances the student's experience through activities, trips, workshops, and mentoring. Each program is related to the course theme, which makes it easier to connect ideas from class to the real world.

### Who will I meet in my Learning Community?

You will meet faculty who are experienced with first-year students. They care about you and want to help you succeed. You will meet peer mentors inside and outside of class who serve as your guides to feeling at home on campus. You will meet other students who share your interest in the course topic and, like you, want to make deeper, more lasting connections in their new college life.

### Can I enroll without participating in the part that happens outside of class?

Learning Community courses are only for students who are willing to spend time outside of class in social and learning activities. Students will receive an advance schedule of co-curricular events at the start of the semester, so they can plan ahead to participate.

### Can commuter students take a Learning Communities course?

Commuter students may participate in the full range of the co-curricular programs outside of class, including those held in residence hall common spaces. Some events are scheduled elsewhere on campus, and at various times, to accommodate commuter schedules. Learning Communities are a special opportunity for commuter students to fully connect with campus life and make York College their home away from home.

### How do I enroll in a Learning Community?

You can sign up for one of the Learning Community courses during New Spartan Days summer registration. Students must apply and be accepted into the programs for the designated Learning Communities sections.

# Who Are We? How Do We Know Ourselves?

## Knowing Me, Knowing You: Personal and Group Identity

### **Who Am I? What Am I? FYS 100.109 and 100.113**

Professor Dennis Weiss

Who are you now, and who do you plan to become? What makes you the same self you were in high school or will be when you finish college? Are we our bodies or our memories? Are we people, animals, or immaterial minds? Does part of us survive death? Through penetrating readings, films, and discussions, we will explore the philosophical, social, literary, and technological forces shaping our conception of self.

### **Make Up Your Mind FYS 100.102 and 100.119**

Professor Greg Stoutenburg

We are bombarded with information every day. Some of it is true, and some are not. How can you tell the difference? A lot depends on us getting things right. Sometimes it is a matter of life or death: should you own a handgun for personal protection? Agree to surgery with a non-zero risk of death? Limit production to curb climate change? We will explore controversial issues and learn to figure out what is reasonable to believe.

### **From Attitude to Altitude FYS 100.108**

Professor Lisa Hess

What does “success” mean to you? Money? Fame? Does success lead to happiness? We will explore these questions through our beliefs and experiences, as well as compelling books including *Mindset*, *Outliers*, *The Happiness Project*, and *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. As we analyze issues such as perfectionism, procrastination, and happiness, we will learn to cultivate an attitude that propels us to the altitude we desire.

### **Evil Children FYS 100.136**

Professor Christa Shusko

We live in a world where some of the most terrifying acts of violence are not only crimes committed against children, but crimes committed by them. From teenagers who commit mass school shootings to child soldiers in ISIS, we will examine cases of “evil” children. We will discuss how and why some children become “evil”—whether children are born that way or taught “evil” from others—and why pop culture fans are so fascinated by fictional “evil” children.

### **Identity and the Self in a Digital and Pop-Culture Whirlwind FYS 100.118**

Professor Sam Waddell

College is a time of self-reflection, self-discovery, and transition when people want to remake themselves into something new. We will “dissect” our identity through our preferences: how they have formed, how they define us, how they steer our decisions, and how they affect our presentation of ourselves to others. We will examine our “brand” and how we want to be perceived by those whose opinions of us matter the most.

# America: This Land is Whose Land?

## Who Decides? Status, Influence, and Justice

### **Race and Justice in America** FYS 100.125

Professor Peter Levy

Is justice color-blind? If so, why are there more African-Americans under the control of the criminal justice system today than there were slaves in 1850? Through the widely-acclaimed study, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, the TV series *The Wire*, guest lectures, and immersive activities, we will examine and debate the impact of race on the U.S. criminal justice system over the past half-century.

### **Women in Sport** FYS 100.130

Professor Donna Grove

If you love playing or watching sports, you will enjoy studying some key issues with others who share your passion. We will explore questions and controversies related to women in sport. As we volunteer in the community, analyze sporting events, investigate sport media content, and discuss our findings, we will learn to think about sport, society, and ourselves in new ways.

### **Sex, God, and Politics** FYS 100.121

Professor David Bradnick

"God Loves Gays!" "God is Pro-Life!" "One Nation Under God!" "Creationism not Evolution!" Religious beliefs often affect our views on social issues, including politics, sex, education, healthcare, and science. But does religion belong in politics and the public square? Are religious beliefs a private matter or a fundamental part of our democracy? We'll examine the role religion has played in the public square throughout the history of the United States as well as its current impact upon public discourse.

### **How to Elect a President** FYS 100.120

Professor Corey Brooks

It's 2020 and an election year. In this course we'll wonder how and why we elect the president the way we do. We'll strive to better understand the election system laid out in our Constitution, how it has evolved over more than two centuries, who has been included and excluded in this process, and what this election structure might mean for us as potential voters. We'll use the past to help us better understand where we are today as we elect our next president.



***"I became very comfortable speaking up and presenting to a class. I used to be scared, but it became such a normal event. My oral communication skills improved significantly because of this course."***

# Living Creatures, Living Planet

**Explore the human impact on the natural world, and help shape the future.**

## **Animal Rights and Human Responsibility FYS 100.104 and 100.107**

Professor Valerie Houghton

How do animal lives relate to one another and to people? We will examine animal experimentation, factory farming, euthanasia of unwanted animals, hunting and killing animals for pleasure, and animals as companions and assistants. We will debate questions of justice, morality, ethics, and legislation, as well as consider the effectiveness of positive activism in freeing animals from domination and subjugation.

## **What's for Dinner? Food Issues and Choices FYS 100.110 and 100.115**

Professor Kay McAdams

What's for dinner? We face a world of labels, diets, and endless advice about "eat this, not that." How do we make those choices, and what are the implications for ourselves, the environment, and for those who produce the food that reaches our table? Through hands-on exploration, discussion, and debate, we will investigate food issues and politics, and become more informed consumers of food.

## **Chocolate: Dark or Light? FYS 100.101**

Professor Peggy Herr

Chocolate: the food of the gods, a reward, a pick-me-up after a hard day. While enjoying that sweet, rich and smooth treat, have you ever considered the origin of chocolate, or exactly what steps are required to bring the cacao bean to the consumers who crave it? This course will explore the process of chocolate production and the worldwide impact it has on economics, ecology, politics, and social justice.

## **Energy, Environment, and Sustainability FYS 100.128**

Professor Kala Meah

Imagine a day without any energy—no electricity and no gasoline! It's our responsibility to use energy resources wisely and conserve them for the future; and yet, energy harvesting methods and uses are controversial for their impact on our environment, politics, and society. We will explore hot-button issues such as global warming, renewable energy, our individual and collective carbon footprints, and sustainable energy solutions.

***"The peer mentor in my class was so helpful. She taught us note-taking and time management. She also invited us to fun campus events for new students. I still text her today when I need advice."***

# "Huh?" Human Communication and Connection

Explore how we connect across personal, digital, and global boundaries.

## **Funny You Mentioned It FYS 100.801**

Professor Andy Shaw

Humor has a powerful impact when we communicate. The gif you posted. Super Bowl commercials. They diffuse. They help us relate. They can offend. Why was that funny commercial persuasive? Why does one joke "kill" and another fall flat? We'll examine the "how" and "why" behind humor, from pop culture to our own lives, and explore how humor can help us become better written and oral communicators. #therewillbememes

## **Talking Past Each Other FYS 100.114**

Professor Mary Boldt

Have you ever hit a wall of misunderstanding when you were trying to reach out in a friendly way across cultures? Can our society talk civilly about politics, especially in an election year? And how do our electronic devices help or hinder communication? In our complex global community of nearly 7000 languages, impassioned political views, and round-the-clock connectivity, meanings are easily confused and feelings are easily hurt. In this course, we will explore ways to grow as empathetic, informed communicators equipped to navigate the messages that travel imperfectly across cultures, languages, political perspectives, and media channels.

## **Footprints in Silicon: Implications of a Digital Life FYS 100.103**

Professor Vickie Kline

Are you the same person online as you are face-to-face? What devices will actually become part of you? What happens when your devices start talking back to you? Will your digital existence extend past your physical life? Through hands-on examination, we will analyze the footprints in silicon that we are all making. We will discover our digital selves, and debate how the digital world shapes our relationships and our society.

## **Peace and Pop Culture FYS 100.122**

Professor Myra Toms

How "woke" are you? What does Lady Gaga have to do with peace? Can Chance the Rapper create more change in his community than politicians? In Peace and Pop Culture we will explore what peace looks like in the eyes of a variety of influential people, and we'll evaluate the efforts of celebrities to create change. There are many individuals striving for peace in the world, and you may be surprised to find out who places peace as a priority in their lives.

***"On my first day of class I made my first friend here due to their input into a class discussion. This really helped me ease better into school and find people who share views similar to mine."***

# Imagine a World

**Escape to places real and imagined that thrill, inspire, and amaze you.**

## **The Hero's Journey: Heroes, Villains, and Antiheroes** FYS 100.126 and 100.132

Professor Nicki Herdson

Come journey through the life of a hero—from mythical giants of ancient times to the Marvel and DC comics of today; from Black Panther's roots in Wakanda to the depths of the Spider-Verse. In this course, we will explore the essence of fictional heroes, villains, and anti-heroes and consider their real-world implications. Through films, myths, and heroic texts, we explore who these characters are, what they do, and why they matter in our lives.

## **The Harry Potter Phenomenon: Fandom to Scholarship** FYS 100.124 and 100.127

Professor Eva Polites

Whether you are a casual fan or a Potterhead, we invite you to explore the *Harry Potter* series through fanfiction, fandom, and scholarship. We will examine its popularity and commercial viability, as well as its literary themes, structure, and character development. We will also compare *Harry Potter* to other popular series, including *Lord of the Rings*, *Twilight*, *Hunger Games*, and *A Song of Fire and Ice*.

## **A Musical Life** FYS 100.106

Professor Grace Muzzo

Music is all around us and within us. We experience it in live performances, as well as in digital entertainment and media. As we explore musical culture, we will strengthen our connection to music past and present through listening, performance, discussion, and research. Music majors and non-majors are welcome—just bring your love of music.

## **Beauty and Business** FYS 100.131

Professor Michele Yoder

Beauty exists in many forms: in photos and songs, in the solution to a difficult math formula, in the discovery of a new historical fact, the design of a building, a computer code, a poem, or in the stars. This course will explore the concept of beauty from a number of perspectives. We will debate how our understanding of beauty has been narrowed and defined by commerce, and how business has influenced standards of beauty over the years. We will discuss how views of beauty affects us, and how our own views can be informed by a broader perspective.

## **The Death and Rebirth of Society** FYS 100.112 and 100.117

Professor Tammy Taylor

*The Walking Dead* is our guide to exploring what creates and destroys a society. We will examine this popular television series, as well as other dystopian communities in literature. We will analyze what causes a society to break down and why so many fans are captivated by the phenomenon. Ultimately, we will define our own utopias or "perfect worlds."



# Serving to Make a Difference

## Live Your Values and Make a Lasting Impact

### **Bootcamp, YCP Style FYS 100.116**

Professor Robyn Maitoza

Returning to college as a veteran? This class is geared for you! Connect with other veterans at YCP and learn how to translate your service experience and skills to be successful in the college environment. Explore the learning styles of adults and the meaning of service in addition to engaging in a group project.

### **Changemakers, Be the Change FYS 100.134, 100.135, 100.140, and 100.802**

Professor Cody Miller

Take community service to the next level! In this course, you will learn how to leverage your strengths to make a difference—and then partner with community members, local organizations, faculty members, and other student volunteers to transform challenges into opportunities in the local community. Make an impact. Be a Changemaker.

### **Entrepreneurial Thinking FYS 101.801**

Professor Dominic DelliCarpini

*This course is required for Graham Scholars and Eisenhart Scholars*

Do you consider yourself to be creative? How can you use entrepreneurial thinking to connect with your creative abilities, solve problems, and gain confidence? Through teamwork, we will explore real-world problems using Design Thinking, a human-centered process of innovation. Partnering with a local organization and working downtown, we will learn how strategic risk-taking and failure help propel us toward success.

### **Education in Today's Society FYS 110.101**

Professor Nicole Hesson

*This course is required for Secondary Education majors (all content areas), K-12 Spanish majors, and K-12 Music majors. This course is not open to Early Elementary Education or Middle Level Education majors.*

Join other Education majors to explore how education is tied to social, political, and economical issues.

We will examine and debate the social framework for teaching and learning, as well as human development, learning theory, curricular frameworks, diversity, and professionalism.

**"I liked the field trips we took. We went canoeing together. It was great to be with my professor outside of class and get to know him better."**



# Reserved FYS Sections

These FYS sections are set aside for students in particular programs or majors.

## FYS for Students Selected for the Graham Scholars and Eisenhart Scholars:

### **Entrepreneurial Thinking FYS 101.801**

Professor Dominic DelliCarpini

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Do you consider yourself to be creative? How can you use entrepreneurial thinking to connect with your creative abilities, solve problems, and gain confidence? Through teamwork, we will explore real-world problems using Design Thinking, a human-centered process of innovation. Partnering with a local organization and working downtown, we will learn how strategic risk-taking and failure help propel us toward success.

## FYS for Students Selected for the STEM Scholars:

### **The Sweet and Savory Tastes of Science FYS 100.137**

Professors Brian Gray and Alison Kennicutt

*This course is reserved for students admitted into the STEM Scholars Program.*

Do you enjoy waking up to the smell of freshly brewed coffee? Have you ever wondered how we discovered how to make bread or yogurt? Do you know why jams and jellies are so sweet? What are the differences between semisweet, unsweetened and sweet chocolate? This course explores chemistry and biology through cooking! In addition to learning the science behind cooking, food preservation, taste perception, and fermentation, students will also experiment with a variety of recipes.

## For Majors in Secondary Education, K-12 Spanish, and K-12 Music:

### **Education in Today's Society FYS 110.101**

Professor Nicole Hesson

*This course is reserved for Secondary Education majors (all content areas), K-12 Spanish majors, and K-12 Music majors. This course is not open to Early Elementary Education or Middle Level Education majors.*

Join other Education majors to explore how education is tied to social, political, and economical issues. We will examine and debate the social framework for teaching and learning, as well as human development, learning theory, curricular frameworks, diversity, and professionalism.

# Reserved FYS Sections

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## FYS for veterans of the armed forces:

### **Boot Camp, YCP Style FYS 100.116**

Professor Robyn Maitoza

Returning to college as a veteran? This class is geared for you! Connect with other veterans at YCP and learn how to translate your service experience and skills to being successful in the college environment. Explore the learning styles of adults and the meaning of service in addition to engaging in a group project.

## FYS for students selected for the Spartan Service Alliance and Impact York programs:

### **Changemakers, Be the Change FYS 100.128, 100.134, 100.135 and 100.802**

Professor Cody Miller

Take community service to the next level! In this course, you will learn how to leverage your strengths to make a difference—and then partner with community members, local organizations, faculty members, and other student volunteers to transform challenges into opportunities in the local community. Make an impact. Be a Changemaker.

## FYS for students selected for the Spartan Strong programs:

### **Planning for Success**

**FYS 100.133 and 100.139**

Professor Adrienne Brenner

What does it take to make it in college, in life? Explore the mindset and habits of successful people. Assess your strengths and challenges, and create your own formula for success. Get to know your classmates in fun and challenging activities outside of class. Emerge as a more confident, capable student with strategies you can use to make college all that you want it to be.





## COMMON HOUR: College Success in Weekly Bites

As part of your requirement for FYS 100, you will enroll in FYS 102, Common Hour. This course in your academic schedule provides sessions and activities that offer essential college transition skills and timely campus information.

### What will I learn in Common Hour?

Common Hour sessions focus on your transition to York College, and offer strategies you can use to have a successful first-year college experience:

**Stress and Anxiety:** Understand and manage the feels in your life

**College Finances:** Make a plan for your money and navigate the York College billing system

**Study Skills:** Get more done and do it better when you're hitting the books

**Priorities and Procrastination:** Find time for everything on your list, including taking care of yourself

**Sleep:** Give your brain the time and rest it needs to learn, and boost your productivity

**Thrive in Life:** Identify your core values, and set goals that help you build a value-driven life

### How is my Common Hour graded?

Your Common Hour attendance is tracked and graded as part of your course average in FYS 100. By attending required sessions, you earn part of your course grade for FYS 100.

### How do I register for Common Hour?

Your summer Academic Advisor will help you register for FYS 102 when you attend New Spartan Days. Your faculty and peer mentors will remind you about attending Common Hour starting with the first week of class.

