FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS.
IT’S WHAT WE DO!

Get ready for a fantastic fall! York College has a great lineup of First-Year Seminar courses for 2019. 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.

See you in FYS on your Day One!
Join an exciting program that combines classroom learning with activities, trips, 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. These courses require participation in campus activities that count toward the FYS course grade. See the back of this catalog for more information. Enrollment takes place during your Summer Orientation registration session.

Women in Sport  FYS 100.133 and 100.140
Professor Molly Sauder and 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.

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 100.138
Professors Jessica Fautch and Brian Gray
This course is required for students admitted into the new 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.

"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."
Learning Communities - Find “Your” People

Who can join a Learning Community?

Any new, first-year student can enroll in a Learning Communities course (see page 2). Commuters, residential students, athletes – all are welcome in the Learning Communities program.

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 Communities 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 event choices at the start of the semester, so they can plan ahead to participate.

Can commuter students take an LC course?

Commuter students 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 Communities courses during New Spartan Days summer registration.

“[This was] the perfect class for me. I met the people I happily call my best friends today, I had an amazing experience.”

Transforming Identities

Discover more about who you are now, and choose who you want to become.

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 that you were in high school or that you 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.

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.

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.

Making Memoir: Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words?  FYS 100.143
Professor Melanie Glennon
This course is inspired by a photographer and his project: Humans of New York. We will examine a timeless maxim about pictures and their potential: Is a picture worth a thousand words and if so, what 1000 words? Will six words do? Can a memoir even be captured in a single picture? We explore these questions, as well as collect memoirs through informal interviews and digital photography.

“[The professor] showed us that we were not going through the tradition to college on our own, that we had many people to turn to for support.”
What's the Big Idea

Explore sources of creativity and innovation, and reveal your own inspirations.

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.

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.

Beauty and Business  FYS 100.132
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.

Capitalism versus Democracy  FYS 100.139
Professor Ken Slaysman
America's free-market capitalism has helped to make it the wealthiest nation in history. At the same time, capitalism promotes powerful forces that threaten the general welfare of democratic societies. While capitalist institutions promote private property and the self-interest of property owners, the U.S. Constitution promotes the general welfare of the whole society. We will investigate the tension between capitalism and democracy, and debate the merits between systems that enable self-interest and those that prioritize the public welfare.

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.

Race and Justice in America  FYS 100.117
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.

Religion and the Public Square  FYS 100.118
Professor David Bradnick
The First Amendment guarantees Americans the free exercise of religion. But what is the proper place of religion in our society? Should they be a private matter? Or should they be part of our public democratic culture? Religious views impact our politics, education, healthcare, science, and sexuality. We will examine religion in U.S. culture in the past and present. We will also consider whether religion has a proper place in the public sphere and how or if it should shape public policies.

“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.”

“The best part of FYS is being able to look back on this whole experience and realize what I have gained.”
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 FYS 100.114
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 100.102
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.

Poop to Pandemics  FYS 100.101
Professor Samantha Petersen
As a brand-new college student, you now do your own laundry, feed yourself, and manage your own time. These are just some of the adult decisions that affect your health. Other decisions you make as an adult can affect the health of entire populations. In this course, we will examine aspects of public health, from waste management of your poop to the effects of Snapchat on your mental health. We will discuss how you can apply what you are learning to make a difference in your own life, and the lives of others in the world.

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.”

“I become 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.”
"Issues in Human Communication"

Explore how we connect – and disconnect – across personal and global boundaries.

Funny You Mentioned It  FYS 100.802
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
The complex nature of today’s global society creates confusion when it comes to messages sent across cultural boundaries. In a world of 7,000 languages, we are more likely than any previous generation to interact with cultural practices and communication different from our own. As we examine messages that travel imperfectly across cultures, languages, and media channels, we will learn to navigate across borders with greater insight and understanding.

How to Keep People from Pushing Your Buttons  FYS 100.126
Professor Erec Smith
Are you angry at the behavior of a friend, a family member, or the world? Do discussions about politics, religion, or Kanye West get you riled up? Are you tired of being agitated and anxious all the time? What if there were a way to rarely, if ever, get angry? What if fear, anxiety, shame, and other negative emotions could also be minimized in your life? From Ancient Rome to contemporary times, people have applied the philosophy of Stoicism to enhance their emotional intelligence and stave off “butt hurt.” We will examine and debate philosophies of stoicism and emotional intelligence to see if we can truly learn to manage our anger and redirect our feelings and our lives.

Consequences of Belonging  FYS 100.116
Professor Randi Shedlosky-Shoemaker
We spend our lives entangled in various social networks - families, friend groups, clubs, teams, classes, cliques, work groups, and other communities. Each group molds who we are as individuals, for better or worse. We will examine how groups shape us - including how our social networks construct and reinforce our attitudes, how we establish status and power within our groups, how we rely on our groups to define who we are, and how we engage in both helpful and harmful group behaviors.

“My FYS class was such a supportive environment. It let me develop important skills while focusing on a subject that I love.”

Imagine a World

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

The Hero’s Journey: Heroes, Villains, and Antiheroes  FYS 100.128 and 100.134
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 Death and Rebirth of Society  FYS 100.112 and 100.124
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.”

Disney for Grown-Ups.  FYS 100.121 and 100.115
Professor Dianne Creagh
If you are an adult who loves Disney, you are not alone! We will explore the power and pervasiveness of Disney from a grown-up perspective, examining the corporation, the theme park experience, children’s relationships to Disney, and animated films. Through the perspectives of fans, parents, journalists, critics, and scholars, we will discuss and debate the impact of Disney on consumers of all ages, and whether adult fans impact Disney as well.

The Harry Potter Phenomenon: Fandom to Scholarship  FYS 100.125 and 100.129
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.

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