

CRN #**Fall 2018 First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions**

These courses are only open to students who have not completed their First-Year Seminar Requirement.

STANDARD LEVEL

- 20432 ANT 110-A, FYS: Families in Cross Cultural Perspective** **4 credits**
Prof. E. Tucker
 An examination of concepts of marriage and family as social institutions from a cross-cultural perspective. Drawing on both classic and contemporary essays as well as in-depth ethnographic studies of marriage and family in several different cultures, we will examine the way in which intimate relationships are construed in different societies. Open to First-Year Students only.
This course is the equivalent to ANT 230 Families in Cross Cultural Perspective and may be applied to the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program.
- 20650 COM 110-A, FYS: Navigating Media Landscape** **4 credits**
Prof. W. Mbure
 This course will provide an overview of the history, structure, performance, content, effects, and future of mediated communication, including issues of media ownership, regulation, and media literacy. As a first-year writing-intensive seminar, students will engage in frequent writing assignments, rigorous analysis of texts, critical thinking, and information literacy. Open to First-Year Students only.
This course is the equivalent to COM 107 Mediated Communication.
- 20437 CRM 111-A, FYS: At-Risk Families and Youths** **4 credits**
Prof. E. Jacobs
 This course examines characteristics of the growing numbers of families and youths on the "fault line" of present-day society in the United States. Causes and solutions that have been proposed to understand, control, and redress problems of at-risk families and youths are discussed. Topics include social stratification, victimization, crime prevention, innovative school programs, and other social intervention programs. Only open to First-Year Students only.
Students may not take both CRM 111 and CRM 432 - Seminar: At-Risk Families and Youths. CRM 111 may not count as an advanced seminar in Criminology.
- 20261 ECO 110-A, FYS: The Economics of eBay** **4 credits**
20262 ECO 110-B, FYS: The Economics of eBay **4 credits**
Prof. H. Kazemi
 Why do some items sell for such ridiculously high prices at auctions of reputable establishments such as Christie's, Bonham's, Sotheby's or even eBay? Has it ever occurred to you why the owners of a house listed for \$1.5 million last year cannot get 1/3 of that price this year? In this class we will examine the way consumers and businesses think and behave as rational entities. Open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Cornerstone Social Scientific Inquiry Requirement and is the equivalent to ECO 176 Microeconomic Principles.
- 20757 ENG 156-A, FYS: Radio: From Broadcast to Podcast** **4 credits**
Prof. S. Cohen
 This seminar will examine the histories and cultures of broadcasting. We will consider radio as a unique mode of storytelling and information distribution. The forms of listening have changed from scheduled or serendipitous dial-spinning to downloading and streaming on demand. But much remains the same about the form and connections that broadcasting makes possible. In addition to unearthing connections between radio and literary and cultural production, we will also create our own podcasts. Only open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

- 20759 ENG 155-A, FYS: Mirror of Friendship** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Green
 "Without friends," wrote Aristotle, "no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods." For the Greek philosopher, in fact, friendship was a higher value than justice and one of the purest forms of love. Oscar Wilde, with tongue in cheek, had a somewhat different take: "Friendship is far more tragic than love. It lasts longer." In this course, we will examine the philosophy and literature of friendship from the ancient world to the contemporary era of one-click "friending" on Facebook. We'll look at friendship in its many hues: from the innocent relationships of childhood and the intensities of adolescent bonds to friendships that cross over into romantic love and friendships that spiral into dependency, rivalry, obsession, and betrayal. As we gaze into what Aristotle called the mirror that friends hold up for one another, we will also examine what the border-crossing power of friendship shows us about race, class, gender, and sexuality. Authors we will consider may include: Aristotle, Cicero, Michel de Montaigne, Francis Bacon, William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, David Mitchell, Achy Obejas, ZZ Packer, Junot Diaz, Sherman Alexie, and Mohsin Hamid. Frequent writing assignments will ask you to explore a variety of kinds of writing, such as "quotes and notes" annotations, blog posts, personal essays, and formal critical analysis. Special attention will be paid to developing basic writing and composition skills with an emphasis on formulating clear and persuasive arguments. We will also use Voice Thread as a way to converse with one another about these texts and our questions and ideas. Only open to First-Year Students only.
[Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement](#)
- 20744 ENG141-A, FYS: African American Literature** **4 credits**
Prof. D. Itzkovitz
 An introduction to the major themes and issues in African American literature, from the 18th century to the present. Only open to First-Year Students only.
[Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement](#)
- 20750 HIS 141-A, FYS: History and Horror** **4 credits**
20751 HIS 141-B, FYS: History and Horror **4 credits**
Prof. K. Spicer, CSC
 An examination of the history of horror films. This course is an excursion that will compare and contrast the fictional world of the macabre with the historical realities that form and challenge our social and cultural lives. With the aid of film, this course will analyze the phenomenon of the horror genre down through the ages. Only open to First-Year Students only.
[Fulfills the History Cornerstone requirement](#)
- 20544 PHL 114-A, FYS: Our Bodies, Ourselves** **4 credits**
Prof. M. Mitchell
 This course explores some of the questions that are raised by recognizing that we are not just minds- we are embodied creatures. How should we organize society to provide for our bodily needs? Should we worry about the death of our bodies? Are our minds and our bodies really different? Only open to First-Year Students only.
[Fulfills the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.](#)
- 20541 PHL 117-A, FYS: Mind, Body, Self, Science** **4 credits**
Prof. C. Mekios
 An examination of how philosophers have historically treated questions pertaining to the relationship between mind and body, the concept of the self, the human condition, and the limits of what we can know about such things. What makes these problems philosophical in nature? Could they be resolved by science instead? Only open to First-Year Students only.
[Fulfills the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.](#)
- 20538 PHL 121-A, FYS: Philosophy as a Way of Life** **4 credits**
Prof. E. McGushin
 Philosophy is often taught as a theoretical discipline about abstract ideas and arguments. This course will emphasize how the ideas and insights of different philosophers might be applied to our daily lives and potentially change the way we live, helping us lead wiser, better and more authentic lives. Only open to First-Year Students only.
[Fulfills the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.](#)
- 20717 POL 110-A, FYS: Power, Order, and Justice** **4 credits**
Prof. B. Scholz
 This course will explore the dilemmas facing all governments: on what principles should the political order be based? What is the nature of the just state? What determines citizenship, political authority, and power? What is the good life and how is it related to the political order and the satisfaction of justice? Open to First-Year Students only.
[This course is the equivalent to POL 171 Power, Order, and Justice.](#)

- 20168 REL 112-A, FYS: Saints and Sinners in Church History** **4 credits**
Prof. R. Gribble, CSC
 Saints and sinners, much like victors and vanquished in war, are often determined by those who triumph in Church conflicts. This course will address several Church controversies throughout the 2000 years of its history, review the issues and debates that arose through the reading of primary and secondary sources, and who in the end were considered victors, saints, and the vanquished, sinners, in Church history. Open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.
- 20196 REL 118-A, FYS: Pilgrimage in Nature** **4 credits**
20197 REL 118-B, FYS: Pilgrimage in Nature **4 credits**
Prof. C. Ives
 Stories in scriptures and the experiences of pilgrims remind us that religious life does not always take place indoors. Much of human religious experience occurs outside, in nature. We will explore this dimension of human religiosity through examination of Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist pilgrimages to such places as Lourdes, Mecca, and northern India, as well as the broader themes of nature symbolism and nature mysticism. Only open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.
- CENTRIC LEVEL** (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)
- 20681 WRI 110-A, FYS: Writing in New Media** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Softcheck
 Let's face it, writing in the 21st century is accomplished online. This course explores reading and writing across social media and other web spaces through genre study, cultural analysis, and real-world practice. Through posts, tweets, blogs, emails, and texts students will hone valuable skills necessary in the twenty-first century thought-place. Creating web-based resumes and professional avatars will also be discussed. Course may be applied to the American Studies program. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20682 WRI 110-B, FYS: Writing in New Media** **4 credits**
Prof. A. Brecke
 Let's face it, writing in the 21st century is accomplished online. This course explores reading and writing across social media and other web spaces through genre study, cultural analysis, and real-world practice. Through posts, tweets, blogs, emails, and texts students will hone valuable skills necessary in the twenty-first century thought-place. Creating web-based resumes and professional avatars will also be discussed. Course may be applied to the American Studies program. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20683 WRI 110-C, FYS: Writing in New Media** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Solomans
 Let's face it, writing in the 21st century is accomplished online. This course explores reading and writing across social media and other web spaces through genre study, cultural analysis, and real-world practice. Through posts, tweets, blogs, emails, and texts students will hone valuable skills necessary in the twenty-first century thought-place. Creating web-based resumes and professional avatars will also be discussed. Course may be applied to the American Studies program. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20684 WRI 111-A, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture** **4 credits**
20685 WRI 111-B, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture **4 credits**
Prof. S. Morris
 We live in a world haunted by the fantastic. Vampires, werewolves, witches, fairies, ghosts, and even caped crusaders invade our everyday lives through entertainment media and advertising. This course will look at how these familiar creatures evolved and what they can teach us about history, culture, and ourselves. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20686 WRI 111-C, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture** **4 credits**
Prof. H. Sadler
 We live in a world haunted by the fantastic. Vampires, werewolves, witches, fairies, ghosts, and even caped crusaders invade our everyday lives through entertainment media and advertising. This course will look at how these familiar creatures evolved and what they can teach us about history, culture, and ourselves. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.

- 20932 WRI 111-D, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture** **4 credits**
Prof. E. Parks
 We live in a world haunted by the fantastic. Vampires, werewolves, witches, fairies, ghosts, and even caped crusaders invade our everyday lives through entertainment media and advertising. This course will look at how these familiar creatures evolved and what they can teach us about history, culture, and ourselves. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20695 WRI 241-A, FYS: The Art of the Essay** **4 credits**
20696 WRI 241-B, FYS: The Art of the Essay **4 credits**
Prof. S. Connor
 In this workshop-based course students will sharpen their writing skills in a rigorous yet supportive workshop setting; explore the flexibility and versatility of the essay form in a variety of rhetorical contexts; and prepare a final portfolio of revised writing that demonstrates mastery of the essay form. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20919 WRI 241-C, FYS: The Art of the Essay** **4 credits**
Prof. H. Sadler
 In this workshop-based course students will sharpen their writing skills in a rigorous yet supportive workshop setting; explore the flexibility and versatility of the essay form in a variety of rhetorical contexts; and prepare a final portfolio of revised writing that demonstrates mastery of the essay form. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20906 WRI246-A FYS: Reading & Writing Diverse Lives** **4 credits**
Prof. S. Westhues
 An exploration of the autobiographical essay as a form of cultural critique. A critical analysis of how writers use their life experiences to examine the challenges inherent in the cultural diversity of American democracy. In addition to reading and analyzing autobiographical essays, this course will serve as an introduction to the craft of life writing.
- 20698 WRI 299-A, FYS: Topics in Writing: Music Culture Critique** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Solomons
 Music has been used to protest specific ideologies, protest political policies; it has been used as a voice for the voiceless; it has been used as a way to unite those who have been marginalized. This course will focus primarily on music that has been used in this way. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20699 WRI 299-B, FYS: Topics in Writing: Time Travel in Popular Culture** **4 credits**
Prof. G. Scala
 If there is one thing that we cannot control, it is time...yet, our literary and cinematic counterparts never cease trying—and this leaves us simultaneously perplexed and astonished. In this First-Year Seminar, we will consider the potential scientific, philosophical, and religious aspects and ramifications of time travel and examine the ways in which this theme manifests itself in popular culture. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20700 WRI 299-C, FYS: Topics in Writing: Storytelling Across Media** **4 credits**
Prof. M. Krejci-Papa
 This course looks at the role of storytelling across media in popular culture, whether in a verbal medium (short story, novel, prose poem, or lyric poem) or in a visual medium (fresco series, film, graphic novel, or dance). Students will gain experience in the essay form, both as creative expression and critical analysis. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20701 WRI 299-D, FYS: Topics in Writing: Finding Your Path** **4 credits**
Prof. S. Smith
 Offers students the opportunity to explore individual career aspirations in a small-class format. Emphasis on writing, discussion, critical thinking, and reflection on the choices we make when considering potential career paths. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20702 WRI 299-E, FYS: Topics in Writing: Representing Young Adulthood** **4 credits**
Prof. M. Freitas
 This First-Year Seminar explores the growing authority of young people by focusing works that examine the challenging social, emotional, and intellectual problems they face as they come of age. Through a series of creative and analytic assignments that foster writing and critical thinking, students will encounter new and familiar works such as *Coraline*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Persepolis*, and *The Company of Wolves*. Open to First-Year Students only.

- 20703 WRI 299-F, FYS: Topics in Writing: Writing and Social Justice** **4 credits**
Prof. K. Wickham
 This class explores the rhetorical aspects of social justice writing. Students will critically analyze a diverse range of writing from activists and intellectuals who utilize writing as a form of social critique, identity formation, and as a means of advocacy or dissent. Students will select a social justice issue relevant to their interests and develop, revise, and assess their own writing strategies and ethics. Only open to First-Year Students only.
- BASIC LEVEL** (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)
- 20687 WRI 141-A, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Chichetto, CSC
 This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20688 WRI 141-B, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
20689 WRI 141-C, FYS: Introduction to College Writing **4 credits**
Prof. B. Troupe
 This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20690 WRI 141-D, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
Prof. M. Freitas
 This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20691 WRI 141-E, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
Prof. S. Smith
 This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- ~~**20692 WRI 141-F, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **CANCELLED** **4 credits**~~
~~**Prof. J. Solomons**~~
~~This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.~~
- 20693 WRI 141-G, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
Prof. K. Wickham
 This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.