

ANCHOR COURSE

Section Descriptions

FYE101/E109

Heroes and Heroines

From Ancient Greece to the present day, from epic poetry to Hollywood films, stories of big adventures and legendary heroes abound — all to help us understand where we come from, what we value, what we are called to do, and how we can overcome the challenges that might lie in our paths. We'll examine a few of these well-known stories, especially in terms of gender roles. What makes a hero, and what makes a heroine? What skills, qualities, or lessons do heroes and heroines need to learn in order to overcome challenges and assume their social roles?

FYE101/PH109

Philosophical Perspectives on Our World

This class examines both classical and contemporary philosophical texts with the goal of beginning a philosophical conversation to explore the questions of how men and women understand their place in the world and their relationships to each other. A common insight we will explore is how the quality of a person's life is profoundly affected by the political and moral health of the community.

FYE101/ED109

How Youth Succeed

This course looks into the lives of educators and the role that education plays in supporting the development of children and young adults. You'll contemplate how a community's culture influences the educational experiences of its youth, the critical importance that educators play in shaping their students and community and the enriching lives that teachers in and outside of the classroom lead in our society.

FYE101/COM108

Sport Communication

This class will use sport communication theories, topics, and case studies to examine sports identity and give students a practical introduction to the various communication professions involving sports and sport culture. Specific areas to be examined (but are not limited to) include: fan cultures, parent/child/coach interactions, careers in sport communication, digital and social media in sport, gender in sports.

FYE101/COM109

The Power of Language

The ability to use language is a gift and a blessing. Language can also be a weakness, something that makes us hesitate or causes us to distort the actual experience we want to express. This class introduces students to an awareness of the role of language in human life, to a consideration of how language has been and is used for both good and evil, and to the distinctive way that images, as well as words, communicate with us.

FYE101/CJ109

Justice in America

In places like Ferguson, Cleveland, Staten Island, Chicago, and elsewhere across the nation, recent calls for justice accompany protests against police brutality, income inequality, racial, sexual and gender oppression, and other sources of inequality. But what does justice in America look like? This seminar explores the historically changing notions of justice that have been foundational to narratives of U.S. national identity. How have differing concepts of justice informed Americans' perceptions of rights, liberty, community responsibilities, and the role of the government? This course explores traditional as well as alternative forms of justice. Through the exploration of text, narratives, and media, students will tackle questions of adversarial, restorative, and social justice.

FYE101/H109

Home Away from Home?

Winona and the Immigrant Experience

This course examines the ways different immigrant cultures engaged in place-making in Winona, the purposes they brought and made here, and the cultural, political, and economic aspects of their efforts to establish healthy communities here. It also considers the role of students as immigrants in the history of Winona and explores their evolving relationships to this place.

FYE101/B109

Environmental and Human Health

Microorganisms significantly impact human health, including the food we eat. We all know of someone who has suffered from a food borne illness and realize that measures must be taken to keep our food safe from contamination. But sometimes we tend to forget that microbes can also be used to produce many of the foods and beverages we love, including cheese, bread, beer, and wine. In this class we will explore the negative and positive influences microorganisms have on food. We'll study foodborne illnesses caused by microbes, techniques used to preserve food and prevent contamination (dehydration, canning, salting, etc.), and the use of microbes to generate food products. We will learn by reading, discussing, and doing. This course will provide the opportunity to practice food preservation techniques and produce foods using microbes.

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FYE101/PY108**Mindset for Change: You, Me, and Them**

Who are you and how do you relate to others? This course examines this question and how mindset helps you succeed individually and as part of a community. You will learn about obstacles and opportunities in dialogue with those different from you. Ultimately, you will examine strategies to better understand yourself and more fully engage with others.

FYE101/H108**Home and Away in American History**

This course explores the ways in which Americans have historically, culturally, and artistically understood the idea of home, the experience of leaving home, and the challenges of creating new homes elsewhere. It focuses on topics such as the history of colonization, territorial expansion, and voluntary and involuntary migration; what it means to be homesick; the role specific places play in shaping who we are; and the meaning of “home” and “away” games in sports.

FYE101/TA109**What’s Your Story?**

Offered through the Department of Theatre and Dance, this course seeks to foster creative inquiry into community and personal identity through story, storytelling, and the creation of public performance. We will examine storytelling devices, attend live on-campus and community arts events, and view recorded performances. Student groups will devise a performance exploring the multiple perspectives of a topical issue or event and each individual will research, script, create, and perform their own personal narrative. The goals of the course are to empower students to develop empathy, take ownership of their personal narrative, and ethically advocate in service of others.

FYE101/MU101**Music that Changed the World**

In this course you will discover how music has influenced and even changed both national and world events. You’ll explore the processes surrounding music creation and the connections between music and society in America and around the globe. This class will provide the knowledge to support your musical passions.

FYE101/P109**Ants, Brain, Riot, Stock Market ... and Universe: Science of Complexity**

If you’ve ever wondered how birds flock, ants organize, or mosh pits spontaneously form, then this might be a course for you. In this class we survey our current understanding of how order spontaneously emerges out of seemingly random interactions. We will learn general theories and implications using various examples from natural phenomena (e.g. flock of birds) to society (stock market).

FYE101/CJ109**Justice in America:****Traditional and Alternative Forms of Justice**

This seminar explores the historically changing notions of justice that have shaped narratives of social and environmental justice in America. How have differing concepts of justice informed Americans’ perceptions of rights, liberty, community responsibilities, and the role of the state? This anchor course introduces students to an interdisciplinary approach that puts legal and philosophical concepts in dialogue with social science data. How do academics, activists, and artists (not mutually exclusive categories) represent environmental and social injustices, define and implement solutions to those injustices, and envision a just world? Questions we will consider throughout the seminar include: What is social justice? What is environmental justice? Whose rights and needs are addressed in efforts to achieve social and environmental justice? How do factors such as race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and ability inform definitions of justice? Where should issues of justice be decided — on the community level or the national level?

LH110**Foundations (both sections)**

This first course in the Lasallian Honors Program introduces students, through the close reading of foundational texts, to the critical skills necessary for success at a university and in the Lasallian Honors Program, to the communities (both local and national) of which they’ll be part of, and to the origins of significant intellectual and cultural traditions throughout history. It fosters inquiry into the cultural conditions, literary expressions or epistemological assumptions that inhere in texts and events from both past and present and asks students to reflect on how parallel conditions and assumptions might shape their own world and worldview. As part of the introduction to the Saint Mary’s community, students also participate in university First-Year Experience activities and attend and reflect on artistic campus events.