FIR SYMPOSIA – FALL 2015

FYS101A - The Art of Genius

(Delle, S.)

This course will use masterworks from visual art, dance, music and theatre to delve into the creative process. All works will be studied in their historical perspective with emphasis on the Classical and Romantic movements as they relate to modern/contemporary art. This course requires written and oral analysis of art works and attendance at CSC concerts/performances. Throughout the semester, we will examine a variety of artistic works and ideas in order to explore the role, meaning, and implications of questions that have shaped the human experience: Who am I? What can I know? How should I act?

FYS101B - Motorcycle Mania

(Campbell, L.)

This course is designed to expose the student to the world of motorcycles. Motorcycles have been in existence since the late 1800’s and have influenced many components of society. The course starts with the history of the motorcycle then a look at the mass appeal of the motorcycle and the various companies that manufacture and sell bikes. The motorcycle’s impact on literature, film and television will also be reviewed. Societal issues such as biker gangs, male and female biker organizations and their financial support of various charities will also be examined. The motorcycle’s influence on environmental and economic issues will also be analyzed.

FYS101C - NH Primary: Marketing the Presidency

(McCosh, J.)

This course will explore New Hampshire’s first-in-the-national Presidential Primary. Every 4 years the candidates come to New Hampshire to compete. This unique blend of politics and marketing provides an opportunity for students to explore both disciplines as the campaigns unfolds. We will look at the history of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. New Hampshire’s role will be explored not only from a political and historical dynamic but also from a marketing perspective. The candidates running for the 2016 primary and their campaigns will be reviewed. The course will include guest lectures from individuals knowledgeable about the campaigns and possibly some of the candidates.
**FYS101D - #NotInMyBackyard: Bringing Social Justice**  
(Jackson, O.)

Many strides toward inequality have been made in America. However, continued work is necessary. This class will cover the previous and current strides, in a socio-historical fashion, well as those areas in need of continued social justice. Accordingly, students will examine their individual social locations in efforts to advocate for underserved members of a similar social location.

**FYS101E – American Conspiracy**  
(Flynn, M.)

This course will explore media and popular culture, focusing particularly on the way paranoia and conspiracy theories are represented in a variety of resources. We will especially look at how conspiracy culture in the United States has addressed issues of political extremism, race, the body, State secrecy and surveillance, populism, and the emergence of new technologies. We will be concentrating on the proliferation of conspiracy theories from the Lincoln Assassination through today, with an historical context provided.

**FYS101G – Size, Shape and Symmetry**  
(Kilic-Bahi, S.)

The primary objective of this course is to give students a different perspective to study the visual beauty and show the broad applicability of mathematics. In particular, the deep connections between the visual and mathematical arts will be explored through the study of patterns, perspective, proportion, and symmetry. Examining the underlying patterns, studying the geometric structure of objects created by different cultures at different time periods, and making comparisons in terms of the underlying mathematical concepts are the major foci of this course.
The First Year Seminar “Live Free and Die Free” will utilize multidisciplinary perspectives to explore the human experience of death. Although we recognize that death is inevitable for everyone, it is often a taboo subject cloaked in mystery or fear. This course will examine death using sociological and psychological concepts as well as various cultural practices. Ethical, religious and historical perspectives will be discussed. Death will be considered through art, theater and media. Students in this course will deliberate on the impacts our current healthcare systems have on people who are facing death, while also reflecting on their own mortality.

FYS101I – Live Free & Die Free
(Scott, M.)

FYS101J – Chasing the Tale
(Fay, A.)

Within us all there is a story we have to tell. “Chasing the Tale-Storytelling through the spoken word and digital media” will tap in to your natural storyteller through written work, analysis of different storytelling techniques (spoken and visual), reflective exercises to tap into personal stories, that are uniquely yours, and group work to collaboratively assist in presentation development. Take a chance, explore your voice, and tell YOUR story! The class will end with a final storytelling event chosen by the participants.

FYS101N – Daily Bread
(Malan, L.)

In this course we will look at our society through the lens of food. Food is an essential component for the survival of all species, we are no exception. At the same time, we know that our current food system is neither sustainable nor fair. Many people on the planet are starving to death, while others suffer from obesity. The production of food relies on large inputs of fossil fuel, but that finite resource will run out, what then? This is a very broad and complicated topic and this course will offer only a brief introduction. The topic touches on many different disciplines and ways of knowing and the intent of the course is to get you to think critically about an everyday topic like food.
**FYS101O – Nature of the Game**

(Watts, S.)

Sport is an important and meaningful human activity, reaching across all cultures and continents. But, there is more to sport than participating in it or cheering for a favorite team. Sport reflects elements of art and play; it is associated with ethics, values, and fairness; and sport is connected to politics, education, and democracy. Beyond its intrinsic worth, sport has vast educational potential. This course is designed to engage students in an in-depth examination of sport and what it teaches us about ourselves, society, and philosophy. “It is only by achieving a deeper understanding of sport that we can help it to function in service of the human good” (Reid, 2012, p. xiii).

**FYS101P – Where’s the Child**

(Stoedefalke, K.)

Growing up in the 21st Century: Where’s the Child?, explores the role of physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of children in the 21st century. Are we expecting too much? What is the role of the parent, friends, and the community in the youth experience? Are we providing opportunities for children that will encourage them to be happy, independent, and productive adults? What is the impact of technology? Are the prevailing values in our society threatening the experience of childhood? Through readings, class discussions, group presentations, written assignments and personal reflection, we hope to uncover: Growing up in the 21st Century: Where’s the child?

**FYS101R-OL - Friend Me!**

(Hayward-Wyzik, L.)

Bing, Emailing, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagrams -- the list goes on. In this First Year Symposium we will explore how the digital world of googling, social-networking, creating profiles, friending, texting, and tweeting has affected our lives, particularly how we learn and understand knowledge, establish relationships and ultimately define ourselves. We will start by considering the pre-digital world of knowledge, identity and relationship creation and then consider what we have gained and what we have lost in the digitized world we now live in.
FYS101T-HN- Speech! Win Friends, Crush Enemies (HONORS)

(Robertson, P.)

This course is an introduction to the role of speech in human society over the course of history. Students will explore the physiological features of speech, focusing on human evolution and the formation of human society and culture. They will then trace the role of speech in different historical eras. Students will apply speech-theory to famous speeches, become versed in the history of rhetoric, and attend speeches within the community to explore differing speech contexts. The course will culminate in a final project that involves an analytical element (modern, influential speech-act) and a creative element (YouTube video).

FYS380A - FYS Peer Mentor

A FYS peer mentor is a sophomore, junior or senior who works with a faculty member to provide new students at the college with a unique educational experience in the First Year Symposium. The peer mentor serves as a more experienced co-learner in the FYS and provides first year students with guidance and information to help them address their academic and social adaptation needs. May be repeated for up to a total of four credits. Offered fall.