

First Year Seminar Courses: The Basics

What is a First Year Seminar Course?

The first year seminar courses are special courses for first year students to enhance their academic and social integration into college. FYS provides an introduction to the nature of higher education and a general orientation to the functions and resources of the university. The course is designed to help first year students adjust to the university, develop a better understanding of the learning process, and acquire essential academic survival skills. The course also provides a support group of students in a critical transition by examining problems common to new students.

What do I gain from a FYS course?

The class size of your FYS course will be no larger than 20 students. The class meets slightly longer than non-FYS classes so you have time to make deeper connections with your fellow students as you learn about the different services and opportunities that are open to you as a student at IUS. Your professor has been chosen because they want to work with freshmen students and are interested in providing advice and guidance that will enable you to achieve your college goals. In addition to helping you with study techniques, networking skills and time management, you will learn about leadership opportunities and social opportunities that can enrich your college experience. Some of the bonds you will make with your fellow FYS students will last throughout your college career.

When should I take a FYS course?

The best time to take a FYS course is in your first semester. The information provided for the class will answer most of the questions you need to know the answers to. Secondly, you are able to immediately make connections with other students who are also just beginning college.

What if I don't take a FYS course?

Taking a FYS course is a graduation requirement. If you have not taken the course by the time you are a sophomore, you will be placed on a checklist that will prevent you from being able to register for classes. Before this happens you will receive a letter encouraging you to sign up for a FYS class.