

First Year Seminar Course Descriptions
Fall 2020

Personal Finance Basics, 10-10:50am, MW (N02, CRN 90500)

We will go over the basics of managing your personal finances during college and afterwards.

Superheroes: Comics, Fandom, and Community, 9-9:50am, MW (N03, CRN 81703)

Look! Up in the sky! Superheroes are a popular cultural commodity and lucrative entertainment genre. This class introduces approaches to studying popular culture with the superhero as our lens. We'll examine the superhero's not-so-secret origin in comic books and consider how such characters became media marvels. Our interdisciplinary class will further tackle fandom, conventions, and cosplay as we investigate how discourse communities spring up around superheroes across media.

Everybody has a Story, 11-11:50am, MW (N04, CRN 90501)

This course explores the importance of human, face-to-face, connection. Recognizing the humanity in each person and realizing that everybody came from somewhere, that everybody has a story, requires a lot of listening and a lot less talking. Readings will include stories on addiction, racism and homelessness in the United States. This course will help students understand how people's experiences shape their perspectives through class discussions and assignments.

Virus & Vaccines 11-11:50am, TTh (N05, CRN 889952)

This section of the course will define viruses and vaccines and examine past and current diseases caused by viruses. There will be a focus on COVID-19. The "anti-vaxxer" movement will be discussed in the context of vaccines providing herd immunity to vulnerable citizens. The common read will also be required, and the course will provide an orientation to NSU resources for students.

Environmental Champions, 10-10:50am, MW (N06, CRN 89975)

Environmental Champions will focus on important people and events related to environmental conservation. We will read and discuss 'Silent Spring', which greatly increased environmental awareness. We will also research and discuss a variety of environmental issues currently making headlines. In addition, the Common Read will be incorporated into the course, along with information on how to be a successful student at NSU.

Great Books, 2-2:50pm, TTh (N07, CRN 82417)

The theme of this section of FYS is "great books." Over the semester you will be reading short snippets from some of the greatest books ever written, while also hearing from various professors who will visit the class to talk about the books

that have shaped their lives and thinking. What you will discover in the process is that these great books are a great help in exploring the big questions relating to you and your college experience: Why are you here and what do you hope to get out of your college education? How can your time at NSU lead to a life beyond college that is filled with purpose and meaning? Where will you find community at NSU and beyond? What makes for fulfilling career? Finally, how can your education equip you to make the world a better place? For the final project you will create your own list of books that will allow you to respond to these questions and to further develop your values, interests, and career goals.

Rhetoric & Visual Literacy, 9-9:50am, TTh (N08, CRN 90286)

We all do it. We sit on the phone and scroll through images for hours without really thinking too much about the meaning of what we see. This class wants to make sure you never scroll passively past those images again. Over the semester, you will become fluent in a visual language that you've been staring at for years—in memes, in videos, in graphic novels, even in picture books.

How to Think, 2-2:50pm, MW (N09, CRN 82133)

This particular seminar considers how we think. Is “critical thinking” a skill we can learn and then apply to any subject, or does “critical thinking” require that we actually know something? The theme of the course is to discuss the ways in which our modern condition, especially our experience of technology, influences how we experience the world and how it might influence how we learn. We will discuss what education is, what it is for, and how living in a technological age might affect how we answer those questions.

Technology and Society, 11-11:50am, MW (N10, CRN 90029)

This class will explore the different ways technology and society interact, how technology influences the development of society and vice versa, how people in society view and use technology both in theory and in practice, and how we define what is considered acceptable or unacceptable when it comes to technology.

Rhetoric and Graphic Novels, 1-1:50pm, TTh (N11, CRN 81795)

In this class we will explore how graphic novels engage historical and contemporary issues by allowing readers to insert their own experience into the story. Reading how graphic novels are made and how they can vary drastically will help students realize the potential for the medium to enact understanding about real world problems. Along with this area of investigation students will get a well rounded introduction to NSU.

War and Society, 6-7:50pm T (N12, CRN 91148)

The First World War was one of the greatest upheavals in history, involving an estimated 70 million combatants—9 million of whom lost their lives—and setting off shock waves that were felt worldwide for decades. In the closing

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months of the war, a flu pandemic emerged that killed at least 50 million people by 1920. In this seminar we examine the daily experiences of ordinary soldiers and civilians, men, women, and children, whose lives were shattered by the continuous series of brutal surprises and shocks that the First World War and subsequent pandemic brought forth. Readings include memoirs, works of fiction, and poetry. Students enrolled in this seminar should be prepared to engage in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking. It is a strikingly relevant course for our troubled times.

Mapping Your Success, 11-11:50am TTh (N14, CRN 86658)

Blood Quantum and the Future of Native Nations, 11-11:50am MW (N15, CRN 86667)

This IDL course introduces the history of blood quantum and identity as it relates to Native (Tribal) Nations. Students will be introduced to individuals or Native American tribes throughout history that have paved the way for Native self-governance. While examining the topic, the students will also continuously reflect on who they are as an individual.

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