

## **First Year Seminar (FYS) Course Descriptions**

Northern's First Year Seminar program is designed to serve as a springboard to success in your college career. While honing your skills in college-level reading and writing, critical thinking and teamwork skills, you will benefit from the opportunity to explore an area in depth as indicated below in the descriptions for the various FYS courses offered during the upcoming academic year.

### **Fall 2024**

#### **All the World's a Stage: Patterns of Literature, Theater, History, and Life, 2-2:50pm, MW (N12, 92563)**

This class will help clarify the connections between academics and "real" life. Why do we study things like theater, literature, and history? In exploring these themes, the class will make extensive use of theater game techniques. You will learn basic improvisational skills and ways of exploring the world of ideas using the techniques developed by the great Greek playwrights and their successors.

#### **Amazing Food, 10-10:50am, MW (N11, 92562)**

Focusing on food for the mind and the body, students will be exposed to a series of articles to help them succeed at NSU and quickly become masters of the library by finding articles about food. They will work in groups to design and create the perfect dish. Students will be asked to consider their future by writing a paper on what they plan to do after they graduate from NSU.

#### **Twenty-First Century Skills, asynchronous online (NT1, 92207)**

This first year seminar is designed to help students develop their critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills by exploring the topic of Twenty-first Century Skills. Through this first year seminar course, you will be encouraged to make connections across disciplines as you explore ideal options for a twenty-first century skill set, and thereby to appreciate and enhance the relevance of your general education. The readings in this course will enable you to reflect on your personal and academic values, ethics, and goals.

#### **Just Edit Yourself, 9-9:50am, TuTh (N13, 92567)**

This course is designed to help you develop your critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills via the exploration of literary readings in English from 16th century Spain. You will be encouraged and coached to write clearly and coherently, responding to the course texts, with a view to 1) understanding the readings and intelligently lodge possible interpretations/applications in the 21st century, 2) writing coherently and as grammatically correct as possible in the first draft, and finally, 3) learning to proofread your writing before submission of the task.

#### **Learning the Good Life, 2-2:50pm, MW (N10, 92300)**

This seminar considers how we live well. Aristotle said that the city comes into being for the sake of mere life but has as its end the good life. That could be said for us as individuals as well. The aim of this course is for students to contemplate what makes for a good life and how their education might be conducive not just to making a living, but living well.

#### **Building Community, 9-9:50am, MW (N09, 91732)**

In this course you will explore how people create spaces and places to build connections and belonging – at Northern, in Aberdeen, and beyond. This first-year seminar integrates an “Everyone has a Story” assignment where you will consider what makes a community and reflect on your own values and understandings to foster your sense of belonging and find your place on campus.

**Great Books, 2-2:50pm, MW (N06, 91721)**

Over the semester you will read excerpts from some of the greatest books ever written, and hear various professors talk in person about the books that have shaped their lives and thinking. You will discover that these great books are really helpful in exploring big questions relating to you and your college experience: Why are you here and what do you hope to get out of college? How can your time at NSU lead to a fulfilling life and career? Where will you find community at NSU and beyond? How can your education equip you to make the world a better place?

**Introduction to Research Skills, 9:30-10:20am, TuTh (N08, 90731)**

In this course, you will learn how to navigate the web as well as scholarly resources to complete your best research. You’ll also gain insight into the importance of academic integrity. Identifying different types of misinformation, as well as applying evaluation skills to detect fake or biased information, will also receive attention here. In the end, you will be able to effectively communicate your research, information, and media literacy skills to others.

**The Benefits of Being Fully Present, 1-1:50pm, TuTh (N07, 91730)**

Throughout this course, you will learn and apply strategies for building effective habits to expand interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, leading to habits that help you create a more productive and impactful life. You will reflect upon your own skills and areas of personal improvement while working together to understand how these personal improvements can lead to deeper relationships with others – profoundly impacting your personal and professional lives. Additionally, the course will focus on the practice of mindfulness and the benefits that come with intentionality in our habits and behaviors.

**Major Clues: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies and Problem Solving, 6-7:50pm, M (N05, 91607)**

No one learns, works, or lives in a bubble. Every person from every background must encounter, work with, and solve problems with individuals who hold different beliefs, come from different cultures, and have experienced a different education. This course will expose you to peers from other majors and ask you to work together using interdisciplinary methodologies, to understand and address problems that touch every aspect of your lives. It will also foster possibilities of active citizenship in a global society by identifying “clues” from each “major” and putting them together to learn and solve issues in thorough and diverse ways.

**Learning Business the Taylor Swift Way, 11-11:50am, MW (N04, 91606)**

This seminar will focus on learning areas of business by using Taylor Swift as an example. We will look at management and employee relations, marketing tools, and finance and economic impact through research on Taylor Swift’s business methods. This theme will appeal to all majors because Taylor Swift is known by most people in this demographic. Learning about business topics is important because there are relevant business aspects to everyone’s daily life.

**Mapping Your Success: The Art of Being Yourself, 11-11:50am, TuTh (N03, 91605)**

This seminar is in three parts: The first is a discovery and examination of the self. This leads to personality tests and discussions of same, including optimal career matching with personality/temperament. Then discovery and discussion of hierarchies in our society through the work of educational sociologist Dr. Ruby Payne. Then a discovery and discussion of people who will lead a student, a person astray in their life at university and beyond. The second part is the common read, where the students form groups to discuss and produce a report on the group's findings, agreements, and disagreements. The third part is about gaining financial awareness which is most often not included in a university degree.

**How to Be Funny and Interesting, time TBA (N02, 91553)**

An interdisciplinary look at the theory and practice of being funny, this course will equip you with the understanding you need to succeed in this daunting aspect of charisma. Because funniness is highly contextual, it will require you to understand differing perspectives within your audience and empathize with diverse viewpoints. Given the universality of our constant human endeavor to relate to other people, this course will equip students of all majors with an important life skill.

**Photography Changes Everything, 9-9:50am, MW (N01, 91514)**

Over 95 million photographs are uploaded to Instagram every day. We will take more than 1.72 trillion pictures this year. Our society is consumed with the activity of taking pictures. Today photographic images are used as a form of communication. This course will introduce you to the language of photography and help you develop an understanding of the medium's vernacular. Through observation, creation, discussion, and research, you will gain insight into the countless applications of photography in contemporary society. We will explore ideas of Photographic Truth and Photographic Fiction along with the specific roles of photography within science, exploration, portraiture, landscape & cityscapes, war and conflict, social awareness, and fantasy.

**Spring 2025****Twenty-First Century Skills, asynchronous online (NT1, 20916)**

This first year seminar is designed to help students develop their critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills by exploring the topic of Twenty-first Century Skills. Through this first year seminar course, you will be encouraged to make connections across disciplines as you explore ideal options for a twenty-first century skill set, and thereby to appreciate and enhance the relevance of your general education. The readings in this course will enable you to reflect on your personal and academic values, ethics, and goals.