



After grappling with huge, what-am-I-doing-with-the-rest-of-my-life questions, thinking about your First-Year Seminar (FYS) is a process that will actually be fun! The FYS is a required, four-credit course taken during your first semester. Your FYS experience will be your first exposure to Southwestern’s *Paideia*® philosophy of making connections. Your FYS faculty member will guide you as you begin to practice an education that arcs over the whole course of your college experience and across the Southwestern curriculum, connecting the questions and perspectives you encounter and the skills you develop to each other and to the world.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR TOPICS

Now, don’t let the intriguing titles mislead you. Seminars are real multidisciplinary courses focused on exploratory topics that will help you think about what you are learning in your other courses and even in your out-of-classroom experiences. Seminars are not intended to be introductions to majors—although you may end up liking the subject area so much that you consider it as a major!

Seminars meet for 10 hours during Welcome Week, which begins Monday, August 21, and continue meeting twice per week through Thursday, November 2. Each seminar includes a summer experience designed to help you hit the ground running when you arrive on campus—watching a film, keeping a journal, reading a novel, or conducting an interview. One of the highlights of the FYS program is First Symposium, at which students present their work to the campus community.

Recent FYS offerings:

- Robots in Fact and Fiction
- Food, Health, and the Environment
- Taking a Walk in a Painting: Velazquez’s *Las Meninas*
- Running for Your Life!
- Understanding Race and Racism
- “A Pirate’s Life for Me”: Pirates, Piracy, and Southwestern University
- Medicine: New is Old — Ancient Greek Practice and Modern Medicine
- Barrel and Crude: Oil in American Life

Selecting Your FYS

Check out southwestern.edu/academics/first-year-seminar to learn more about each of the exciting seminars. You will submit your five FYS choices at the same time as you sign up for Sprig Orientation. You will be notified of your assigned FYS a few days prior to your Sprig Orientation, and your course schedule will be built around the seminar.

