

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 course taken during your first semester that cultivates a sense of belonging and inclusion, and exposes you to SU's expectations for your academic work. Though each faculty member teaching in the program organizes their seminar around a different topic, all of the seminars work towards developing a common set of skills, including information literacy, reading critically, writing cogently, and participating in informed discussion and debate. Your FYS experience will also be your first exposure to Southwestern's Paideia philosophy of making connections. You will learn how seemingly disparate ways of thinking can be fully interwoven and how to connect liberal arts learning with the extra- and co-curricular activities and organizations in which you engage.

## 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 18, and continue meeting twice per week through early November. 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

### Next Steps

Check out [southwestern.edu/academics/first-year-seminar](https://southwestern.edu/academics/first-year-seminar) to learn more about each of the exciting seminars. You will be notified of your assigned FYS a few days prior to your Sprog Orientation, and your course schedule will be built around the seminar.

