University of Wyoming First-Year Seminar
USP 2015

Students will critically examine and evaluate evidence, claims, beliefs, or points of view about meaningful, relevant issues. Students will be introduced to active learning, inquiry of pressing issues, and individual and collaborative processing of ideas through the First-Year Seminar curriculum. These skills will be reinforced throughout the baccalaureate experience.

Learning Outcomes
FYS courses must meet all six Critical and Creative Thinking student learning outcomes:
1. Access diverse information through focused research, active discussion, and collaboration with peers;
2. Separate facts from inferences and relevant from irrelevant information, and explain limitations of information;
3. Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and reliability of conclusions drawn from information;
4. Recognize and synthesize multiple perspectives to develop innovative viewpoints;
5. Analyze one's own and others' assumptions and evaluate contexts when presenting a position; and
6. Communicate ideas in writing using appropriate documentation.

USP Policies
1. FYS may not be required for a major or a minor, nor may they be listed on a check list for a major or minor. These seminars are meant to foster intellectual engagement rather than meet foundational disciplinary requirements.
2. FYS courses are to be taught by highly motivated and experienced instructors.
3. FYS instructors should be engaged in professional development regarding FYS.

Course Policies
1. First-Year Seminar courses must be 3-credit hours.
2. First-Year Seminar courses will be limited to 24 students.
3. Exceptions to the capacity limit may be made on a case-by-case basis to the USP Committee consistent with course outcomes. A request for an exception must be in writing and accompany the USP 2015 Course Approval Form request through the approval process.
4. FYS courses are to be taught by highly motivated and experienced instructors.
5. FYS instructors should be engaged in professional development regarding FYS.
6. GA(s) may be used in the FYS courses if they are under the direction of a faculty member and not exclusively teaching the course. If you are proposing to include GAs in the delivery of a FYS course, please explain the role of the GA(s) in the delivery of the course. This explanation must be in writing and accompany the USP 2015 Course Approval Form request through the approval process.
7. Departments must submit syllabi annually for all approved First-Year Seminar courses.
8. A significant paper/project assignment must be included in all FYS courses (e.g., research paper; multi-modal research project; web-design advocacy project; conference poster; case studies/ethnographies with primary research; other).
9. Class sessions must be devoted to teaching the research process.
10. A grading scale of A/B/C/D/F without +/- is strongly recommended.

Student Policies
1. A student must obtain instructor and advisor permission to withdraw from the course.
2. First-year students (less than 30 hours of post-high school graduation credit) will take the first year seminar (FYS) during their first or second semester.
3. A student opting into USP 2015 with 30-60 hours will be exempt from FYS seminar.
4. FYS students will be expected to achieve a grade of “C” or better to receive USP credit for the course.

Course Numbering
1. The Registrar’s Office has created a common course number for FYS: 1101. The university prefix (UWYO), a college, or a department prefix may be used with that number.
2. A CARF form is not required for FYS courses. The USP Committee will send all approvals directly to the Registrar’s Office.

For more information or questions about the First-Year Seminar contact Kari Morgan, USP 2015 First-Year Seminar Coordinator at 766-5111 or kmorgan@uwyo.edu.