

**First and Second Year Seminars**

<http://www.bridgew.edu/fys/> and <http://www.bridgew.edu/SYS/>

First and Second Year Seminars are central parts of the Core Curriculum that emphasize central learning outcomes for all students and build on skills developed in Writing I and II and a speaking skills course. A First Year Seminar (FYS) is a writing-intensive, topical course that introduces students to academic thought and discourse. FYS courses address learning outcomes designed to prepare and orient students toward productive and fulfilling college careers. These outcomes include the development of written fluency, the ability to read texts purposefully, and the capacity to gather topic-appropriate research materials.

Whereas the First Year Seminars introduce students to academic thought and discourse, the Second Year Seminars engage students in a specific academic area of interest and provide them with the opportunity to reinforce, share and interpret knowledge. One way in which they might do that is through engagement with the outside world. Second Year Seminars (SYS) are 3 credit speaking intensive or writing intensive discipline-based topic courses that build on the academic skills and habits introduced in the First Year Seminar.

**Contact Information:**

FYS Coordinators:

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*Tom Kling will serve his final semester as FYS Coordinator in Spring 2010. Maura Rosenthal will continue as the FYS Coordinator in the 2010-2011 academic year.*

SYS Coordinators:

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*Teresa King will serve her final semester as SYS Coordinator in Spring 2010. Catherine Womack will continue as the SYS Coordinator in the 2010-2011 academic year.*

**Questions:**

1. Can I teach a First or Second Year Seminar? How do I get a seminar onto my department's schedule?
2. What are the learning outcomes of the seminars?
3. What professional development support is available to me as a faculty member teaching a seminar?
4. What does it mean to be "writing intensive" or "speaking intensive"?
5. What is teaching a seminar like?

*More FAQ and answers can be found at the FAQ pages on the FYS and SYS websites!*