



**First Year Seminar (FYS) Course Descriptions
Fall 2022**

Amazing Food, 9-9:50am, MW (N01, 91514)

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.

Great Books, 2-2:50pm, MW (N03, 91605)

The theme of this section of FYS is “great books.” Over the semester you will be reading short snippets from some of the greatest books ever written, while also hearing from various professors who will visit the class to talk about the books that have shaped their lives and thinking. What you will discover in the process is that these great books are a great help in exploring the big questions relating to you and your college experience: Why are you here and what do you hope to get out of your college education? How can your time at NSU lead to a life beyond college that is filled with purpose and meaning? Where will you find community at NSU and beyond? What makes for fulfilling career? Finally, how can your education equip you to make the world a better place? For the final project you will create your own list of books that will allow you to respond to these questions and to further develop your values, interests, and career goals.

Totalitarianism, 2-2:50pm, MW (N05, 91607)

This particular seminar focuses on the subject of totalitarianism. In an era of greater surveillance (hello Siri!), government power, corporate influence, and increasing politicization of all aspects of our lives (entertainment, sports, education, etc.) we need to learn what makes totalitarianism tick. We’ll try to inhabit the totalitarian mind as well as pick up some ideas as to how to resist totalitarianism. There are many dystopic works of fiction that help our imaginations envision what totalitarianism looks like. This course will lean heavily on creative works of fiction to illustrate key themes.

Seeing Persuasion, 9:30-10:20am, TTh (N06, 91721)

You’re used to the idea that persuasive words are swimming all around you. Have you ever stopped to consider, though, that you’re being persuaded by the images you see? Our seminar will center around rhetoric and visual literacy. Since all students (and all academic disciplines) are immersed in a culture of images, digital and otherwise, this is a universal topic that will incorporate students of all walks of life.

Personal Finance Basics, 10-10:50am, MW (N07, 91730)

This course will cover how to analyze capitalization of interest rates, types of investments and risks of each, corporate social responsibility, credit inquiries, home loans, family finances vs. costs of living, how to take notes, budgeting funds in college and after vs. living paycheck to paycheck, a finance/estate plan for the future and anything else we can squeeze in.

Rhetoric and Graphic Narrative, 10-10:50am, MW (N08, 91731)

The course brings a rhetorical perspective to graphic narrative as a medium of print communication in its own right as well as a species of visual rhetoric, although graphic narratives merge verbal and visual representation in specific textual forms. We will examine a series of narratives chosen for their technical innovation, rhetorical

sophistication, and critical significance along with scholarship and criticism chosen to present relevant theoretical concepts and critical approaches. Our emphasis throughout is the available means for creating meaning in graphic narratives.

Everybody Has a Story, 11-11:50am, MW (N09, 91732)

This course explores the importance of human, face-to-face, connection. Recognizing the humanity in each person and realizing that everyone comes from somewhere, that everyone has a story, and it requires a lot of listening and a lot less talking. This course will help students understand how people's experiences shape their perspectives through class readings, discussions, and assignments.

Water Warriors, 1-1:50pm, TTh (N10, 92300)

Water is the most vital resource for the existence of life as we know it, and clean, potable water is becoming more and more scarce due to over population, pollution, and climate change, among other things, especially in under developed countries. Even in a developed country like America, we have situations like what happened in Flint, MI with lead and in Hinkley, CA with hexavalent chromium. The availability of clean water is influenced by wealth, politics and science. In this course, we cover some of the chemistry of water, what pollutants can be found in "drinking water," how they get there and how they affect humans, politics surrounding water, and what scientists and citizens are doing to help remediate the situation (the water warriors). It is an excellent opportunity to delve into wealth disparity, climate change, politics and science all under one umbrella.

Information Literacy, 9:30-10:20am, TTh (N11, 92562)

The Special Topic that will be the main focus of this IDL 190 is Information Literacy. Students will gain an understanding of how and where to find quality information via web resources and scholarly databases. Students will also gain an understanding of the research process, including different information formats, topic development, search strategies, evaluating resources, citing sources, and academic integrity. The class will also cover media literacy, primarily in regards to Fake News and misinformation on the web.

Mapping Your Success, 11-11:50am, TTh (N12, 92563)

Knowledge of one's own inborn or developed personality is helpful in decoding things we do naturally well, and things where we seem to struggle against our nature. In this course we reveal to ourselves what we tend to do or perceive naturally, to illuminate areas we know we need to work on for success at university and in our larger lived life. Students will take a free online Meyers-Briggs type personality test and report their results, and then discuss and extrapolate our finding on our challenges in our life, in and out of university. It is valuable to take a personality test to discover our own tendencies, as it is very common for employers and human resource directors to require a personality test to help placement of employees, and to ensure success in the workplace.

The Student Leadership Challenge, 1-1:50pm, TTh (N13, 92567)

Develop your leadership skills! Students will explore the Five Practices for Exemplary Leaders (Kouzes & Posner) and participate in the Student Leadership Challenge. Students will evaluate their own leadership skills, identify opportunities to participate in student leadership at Northern, consider and evaluate student success resources, and create a group leadership project utilizing the Objectives and Key Results (OKR) framework.

Motivation and Identity Development, 10-10:50am, MW (N14, 92575)

This course introduces students to theories and measurement of motivation and identity as they apply to college and their lives. Students will apply these educational psychology concepts to their own experiences through current events, self-reflection, and applied research. Students are encouraged to deeply consider their individual interests in relation to theories as they are presented in class.