

## Creating a New First-Year Seminar

First-Year Seminar (FY-Seminar) classes introduce students to the intellectual life of the University. Students will make personal connections with distinguished faculty members who are active scholars and accomplished teachers. Students learn how scholars pose problems, discover truths, resolve controversies, and evaluate knowledge, while exploring specific questions or issues in depth. Most FY-Seminars are three-credit hour classes, though in rare cases, where this is a lab, they can be four credits.

### Requirements:

- Taught by full-time faculty members.
- Capped at 24 students and scheduled during a standard time slot meeting at least twice a week.
- Incorporate student-centered active learning strategies.
- Should fulfill at least one Focus Capacity requirement in the IDEAs in Action curriculum.
- Introductory-level courses structured for first-year students with no prior college experience, and with no prerequisites. FY-Seminars are not open to students who have already completed their first year at UNC-Chapel Hill.

### Learning outcomes:

- Connect with a faculty member early in the educational process.
- Learn intensively among a small cohort of students.
- Apply methods for how scholars pose problems, discover solutions, resolve controversies, and evaluate knowledge.
- Produce knowledge through self-directed inquiry and active learning.

### Are you beginning to think about a course?

- Submit a new FY-Seminar proposal by filling out the [Prospectus Form](#)
  - Fall deadline: February 15; Spring deadline: September 15
- Detailed information about [policies and procedures](#) for submitting a prospectus form, registration, scheduling, etc.
- Request funding to incorporate activities into your class
  - [Funding Manual](#)
  - [Enhancement Fund Application](#)
- For support in incorporating student-centered active learning strategies, contact the [Center for Faculty Excellence](#).
- The UNC Summer Institute on College Teaching is a five-day professional development experience in the first week of August that provides instructors with effective strategies for improving student learning. Register in the spring semester. For details, see <http://summer-institute.unc.edu/>.
- The Center for Faculty Excellence's [Course Design Institute](#) is a structured sequence of workshops, activities, and working sessions held over a three-day period (12 contact-hours overall) where a small cohort of instructors—generally between six and fourteen colleagues—use the “backward design” approach to develop their upcoming courses.

- To develop the syllabus for a new course, please consult [Syllabus Guidelines](#). This site provides syllabus template and the required policies to be inserted into your syllabus.

**More Resources:**

- See [FYS Website](#) for a list of current FYS courses.
- For additional questions about FYS, you can contact Associate Dean for First Year Curricula, Liling Hsiao ([hsiaoll@email.unc.edu](mailto:hsiaoll@email.unc.edu))
- For additional questions about FYS scheduling and registration, you can contact First-Year Curriculum Specialist, Ben Haven ([bhaven@email.unc.edu](mailto:bhaven@email.unc.edu))