

## **QU First-Year 2022 Seminar Course Guide**

### **WHAT IS FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)?**

A Quinnipiac University education is directed towards forming a mindset of life-time learning, establishing an inclusive, excellence-driven community, nurturing local and global communities, and fostering lifelong connections and success. The first-year seminar (FYS) initiates such an education as the starting point of the University Curriculum. Each student enrolls in a FYS constructed to help examine a complex problem, an enduring question, or new ideas from multiple perspectives. This seminar is designed to accomplish three essential goals that help prepare students for 21st-century careers and citizenship. First, it introduces students to the concept of inquiry as a process that utilizes multiple approaches and perspectives to investigate problems, questions, or ideas systematically. Students learn that the process of inquiry includes the collection, analysis, and evaluation of various types of evidence. Second, the seminar enables students to practice inquiry through an investigation of a problem, question, or idea that faculty select from their areas of expertise. Finally, students begin to develop problem-solving skills that they will deepen throughout their undergraduate experience in the University Curriculum.

### **WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM (UC)?**

The University Curriculum (UC) consists of 46 academic credits (or 15 courses) that during your four years of undergraduate study will take you beyond your major or school within QU to explore the different disciplines or fields of study within the university. The First-Year Seminar introduces students to the interdisciplinary nature of the UC.

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT THE UC OR FYS IS INTERDISCIPLINARY?**

Like the UC, the First-Year Seminar (FYS) is interdisciplinary. That means that although your FYS may focus on, for example, the topic of digital media, it will challenge you to think about that topic from several different disciplinary perspectives. How is digital media different from other historical forms of media? How has digital media changed social practices like buying a used car, publishing an obituary, or going on a date? How has digital media transformed the print and television news industries? How does digital media reinforce and echo our own beliefs and stereotypes? To understand digital media in all its complexity, you need to have some understanding of history, business, sociology, journalism, and psychology. During the next four years, the UC will help you develop and sharpen those tools in your cognitive toolbox. FYS is the starting point of that interdisciplinary education.

### **WHAT SHOULD I REGISTER FOR AS AN INCOMING STUDENT?**

The UC identifies required courses that every QU student will take, regardless of which school or college you have enrolled in. The UC for first-year students is called Foundations of Inquiry and consists of four courses: first-year seminar (FYS\*101), first-year writing (EN 101 and 102), and one of several Math courses (determined by placement tests). We have designed FYS specifically for incoming students: all FYS course content is appropriate for students transitioning from high school to college, each FYS section will be composed only of first-year students experiencing that same transition, and the class size is limited to 19 students, so that students and their FYS faculty member get to know each other and develop community.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY FAVORITE FYS SECTION IS LISTED AS “CLOSED”?**

FYS sections may be closed due to two reasons. First, some FYS sections are dedicated to specific Living Learning Communities. If you are really interested in such an FYS, we recommend that you consider

joining its LLC. Second, in order to provide each student with a small-class seminar, we limit the class size of FYS sections to 19 students. Unfortunately, that means that not every student will be able to enroll in the student's first choice of FYS. Nonetheless, students can register for classes up through the first week of classes. Often enrollments in a specific section will fluctuate during that period and seats may open up. Thus, we recommend that you check back in on your registration throughout the summer and through the first week of classes.

### HOW DO I USE THIS COURSE GUIDE?

This course guide is composed of short course titles, section meeting times, peer catalyst listings by section, course descriptions, and FYS faculty IDs. **Course titles** give you a general sense of the question, problem, or idea that a section of FYS will examine. **Section meeting time** help you identify which sections of a FYS will fit into your fall semester schedule and identify which sections of FYS are paired with a Living Learning Community (LLC). **Peer catalyst listings** identify the QU student who will facilitate your social and intellectual transition to QU (along with their graduate class and major(s)). **Course descriptions** give you a more general sense of what each FYS will explore and study. **Faculty IDs** tell you a little information about the professional, scholarly, and departmental expertise of your professors.

### WHO IS MY PEER CATALYST (PC)?

Peer Catalysts (PCs), like their chemical namesakes, help to ease the transition from one state to another, namely from being a high school student to being a QU undergraduate student. PCs are usually undergraduates (in their junior or senior years of study) who have taken FYS previously and will work alongside you and your FYS faculty member to support students' development of lifelong learning skills, achievement in FYS, and utilization of opportunities on campus. They know well their majors and different schools and can give you practical advice about both. Their work consists of taking part in class meetings (e.g. facilitating discussion, "translating" professor-speak into student actions, helping to establish a classroom community) and meeting with students out of class (e.g. holding "get-together" time for informal conversation often related to class, providing mentoring from a more experienced student).

### BE BOLD, BOBCAT!

This course guide describes dozens of courses that you can take to commence your QU education. All sections of First-Year Seminar are designed specifically for incoming students: they presuppose no previous course studies or collegiate academic coursework. Whether the subject of the section is brand new or already familiar to you, this course will be a good fit for you. We invite you to look through the course guide carefully and to challenge yourself to explore something in a FYS that is truly new and curious to you. Any questions? Please email [fys@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:fys@quinnipiac.edu).

## **First-Year Seminar course descriptions**

### **AMERICAN DREAM: DESTINY OR FATE?**

Kim Healy

FYS\*101\*18: MWF 11:00-11:50

FYS\*101\*24: MWF 12:00-12:50

FYS\*101\*31: MWF 1:00-1:50

From a young age we as Americans are oriented in the direction of achieving success in our lives. Our families, schools, government, and the media all play a role in guiding us toward this goal. But for many, this dream is out of reach. Is it a result of hard work, our birthright, luck, or a combination of factors? Is “The Dream” achievable today, and if so, for whom? We will travel through significant time periods in the 20th century, starting with the Great Depression and culminating in the “society of the coronavirus.” Students will analyze readings authored by individuals from different time periods, geographical location, and social class background.

Kim Healy teaches in QU’s department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology.

### **BECOMING A G.O.A.T.: SPORT LEADERSHIP APPLIED**

Casey Stark

FYS\*101\*01: MWF 8:00-8:50 (FYS for Get in the Game LLC)

How do you really become a G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time)? There are G.O.A.T.s in every area of sport, every level of sport, and throughout history. There are ongoing debates about who truly is THE G.O.A.T.: Michael or LeBron, Brady or Mahomes, Serena or Billie Jean King? But how does sport leadership apply to the development of a G.O.A.T.? We’ll explore what leadership lessons we can learn from G.O.A.T.s in sport to apply to our life as collegiate students, members of our communities, and teams (athletic, personal, or professional).

Casey Stark is QU’s Assistant Athletic Director.

### **BLACK IN HIGHER ED...SO HOW’S THAT GOING?**

Claude Mayo

FYS\*101H\*55: Tu/Th 8:00-9:15 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Aja Pedroza, QU 2023, Major: Criminal Justice)

FYS\*101\*88: Tu/Th 3:30-4:45 (FYS for Social Justice & Advocacy LLC)

Has the Black student ever had an easy path to and/or through college? The short answer is *NO*, and this course will utilize legal statutes and judicial caselaw, research-based academic scholarship, and popular media depictions of Black student life on campus to examine some of the most significant reasons why. Students will move towards understanding what has constructed obstacles in access, challenged efforts towards inclusion, and actively influenced the honest experiences of Black students in higher education over time. Additionally, students will engage their critical thinking, presentation, and writing skills to synthesize and extrapolate upon this information in a variety of class discussions, interpersonal debates, and group work.

Claude Mayo is QU’s Director of Academic Integrity and Pre-Law Adviser.

**CAN WHAT WE EAT SAVE THE WORLD?**

Seán P. Duffy

FYS\*101H\*94: Tu/Th 5:00-6:15 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Brian Hayes, QU 2024, Major: Biology 3+1)

Climate change defines our times. We all need to find ways to slow the release of carbon into the atmosphere and to adjust to a less predictable life, subject to increasing disruptions such as Covid-19. What role does our food system play in this constellation of challenges? How can the way we grow and consume food slow the onset of climate change and create more resilient societies? These questions underlie our exploration this semester.

Seán Duffy is Professor of Political Science at QU and Executive Director of the Albert Schweitzer Institute.

**DISNEY MOVIES: REFLECTING OR SHAPING SOCIETY?**

Carolyn Mostel Weiser

FYS\*101\*93: Tu/Th 5:00-6:15 (FYS for Youth-Serving Careers LLC; PC: Morgan Murry, QU 2023, Major: Marketing 3+1)

Princesses, ogres, teenage wizards--the characters we've known since childhood. From early on, many of us have watched youth-oriented films, and we keep on doing so, the subliminal messages we absorbed contributing to our understanding of society. Where do screenwriters find their inspiration? How do children's and YA movies reflect literary archetypes; conversely, how do screenwriters shape new patterns for society? This course examines themes in today's youth-oriented films in order to understand how these recurring images shape our world view. Students will analyze film excerpts, as well as poetry and short stories illustrating archetypes of the literary canon as we answer the question: How does youth film act as a mirror to society as it is and a window to what society could become?

Carolyn Mostel Weiser holds degrees in English literature, performing arts, and educational leadership, and is an English teacher by occupation.

**DO I HAVE A CHOICE?**

Tom Pepper

FYS\*101\*02: MWF 8:00-8:50

FYS\*101\*06: MWF 9:00-9:50

FYS\*101H\*12: MWF 10:00-10:50 (Honors Program FYS)

We will explore the problem of free will, whether we have the kind of free will we generally think we do, and how that might affect our ability to make an impact in the world. We will first consider claims that we have no free will from the disciplines of Literature, Philosophy and Psychology; we will then consider some ways in which we might be able to escape the grim fate of determinism. Students will attempt to locate some event, contemporary or historical, in which some individual or group seems to have acted in ways that wouldn't be expected from their determining conditions. Given the dismal future predicted for us today, do we have any capacity to shape our world?

Tom Pepper is an English teacher who writes about aesthetics and theories of mind.

### **DO WE NEED MORE THAN GOOD INTENTIONS?**

Amy Bellman Davis

FYS\*101\*84: Tu/Th 3:30-4:45 (FYS for Interprofessional Healthcare LLC; PC: Jill Iglesias, QU 2024, Major: Health Science Studies)

As global citizens, we want to improve access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunity for individuals and communities around the world. How can we work together to create sustainable solutions? This first-year seminar will consider pitfalls and best practices in development using multiple lenses: global health, laws and regulations, journalism and storytelling, environmental impact, education, and business. We will use case studies to explore our assumptions, our motivations, and our methods, and we will think critically about how we measure outcomes and define success.

Amy Bellman Davis is the Program Coordinator for Faculty Led Courses Abroad at QU and formerly served as the executive director of a global health non-profit.

### **DOES LEADERSHIP REALLY MATTER?**

Justin Lowe

FYS\*101\*49: MW 5:00-6:15 (FYS for Youth-Serving Careers LLC; PC: Christina Stoeffler, QU 2024, Major: Theater/English)

Whenever there are actions aimed at inspiring a community, leaders are the ones who are safeguarding their success. Believing that effective community development requires building relationships among people, this seminar will guide students on a non-linear path toward applied leadership development. The objective of this FYS is to promote collaboration, critical thinking, and effectual problem solving. Students will learn about the importance of leadership in the formulation of community and examine social psychology elements of identity, peer influence, group behavior, prejudice and stereotypes, cognition, and authority. Students will utilize a variety of learning mediums to debate and discuss matters of humanity such as morality, power, education, religion, race and equity, obedience, ethics, free will, and even magic and mentalism.

Justin Lowe is High School Principal with twenty-two years of experience in the field of education and its administration.

### **DOES RELIGION MAKE CONFLICT BETTER OR WORSE?**

Matthew Rowley

FYS\*101H\*03: MWF 8:00-8:50 (Honors Program FYS)

FYS\*101\*07: MWF 9:00-9:50

Why do religious militants think their actions are right or righteous? What keeps me from acting like them? Why, in contrast, do some religious persons act on their beliefs in charitable, inspiring and deeply humane ways? Is secularism the solution to religious violence, or is it part of the problem? This seminar introduces students to the vexed issue of violence done in the name of God, looking at the topic through the lens of peace/conflict studies, religious studies and historical studies. The beliefs of various communities, religious and secular, will be explored, looking at how convictions inhibit and enable violence. Throughout the course, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the promises and perils of religion.

Matthew Rowley is an early modern historian who works at the intersection of theology, politics, violence, slavery, colonization, and the memory of injustice.

**DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP FOR DISRUPTIVE TIMES**

Matthew Kurz

FYS\*101\*92: Tu/Th 5:00-6:15 (FYS for Entrepreneurs & Innovators LLC; PC: Justin Reid, QU 2023, Major: History)

Recent crises and upheavals have clearly revealed both the strong points and failings of leaders in our local and national communities, as well as around the world. The characteristics, approaches, and styles of what distinguishes a “great leader” have been a continuous topic of discussion for thousands of years, and this course seeks to introduce students to a variety of historical and contemporary materials which relate to their own curiosities and aspirations. Learners will be challenged to critically examine their individual responsibilities as members living in a society, as well as explore several leadership approaches using historical and modern lenses. Students will leave this course with an increased understanding of, and ability to articulate their personal approaches to, leadership within a relevant collegiate context.

Matthew Kurz is Quinnipiac’s Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

**EXPLORING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES WITHOUT YELLING**

Jonathan Peltó

FYS\*101\*81: Tu/Th 2:00-3:15 (FYS for Political Enthusiasts LLC; PC: Sophia Harris, QU 2025, Major: Political Science)

When dealing with controversial issues in our polarized society, the most common approach is to yell loudly, and when in doubt, yell even louder. However, civil discourse is what makes democratic societies work. This FYS will help students develop the skills necessary to be active and engaged citizens by systematically investigating a series of current issues and then individually and collectively exploring and discussing opposing viewpoints. The focus will be on identifying fact-based arguments, researching competing views, debating different opinions, and learning how to create trust, encourage listening, and understand perspectives. Upon completion of the course, students will be more familiar with the tools necessary to engage in academic and policy research and how to communicate information and opinions in clear, concise, and effective ways.

Jonathan Peltó teaches in the Department of Political Science at QU.

**FOOD: SOLVING PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY**

Susan Reid

FYS\*101\*45: MWF 3:00-3:50 (FYS for Sustainability LLC)

FYS\*101\*46: MWF 4:00-4:50 (FYS for Natural Sciences LLC)

This course will offer an overview of the problems of food insecurity (hunger) and unsustainability both locally and internationally while exploring interdisciplinary, empowering solutions as well as ways that individuals can make a difference. Through guest speakers and possible field visits during class time, we will explore and critique how non-profit, governmental, international, and for-profit organizations provide hunger relief and promote sustainable food production. Among the questions we will consider are: Who are most affected by food insecurity in the US and why? What should be the role of government in providing hunger relief in your opinion? In what ways has food production become unsustainable? Why is it important to preserve farmland and buy locally? Your final projects will involve learning beyond the classroom, and you may design them to have a potentially lasting impact.

Susan Reid is a university educator and holds graduate degrees in social work and law.

### **HAS THE INTERNET DESTROYED WRITING?**

Gilad Seckler

FYS\*101\*83: Tu/Th 2:00-3:15

FYS\*101\*85: Tu/Th 3:30-4:45

Well no, actually, it hasn't: Great writing is alive and well on the internet, and we'll be reading many examples of it in this seminar. But while I have you, let me specify this clickbait-style question with a closely related line of inquiry: How has the internet altered the way people read, and can/should writers respond to these changes? To what extent is effective writing dictated by timeless principles of composition, and to what extent by the demands of its current medium or social context? Is the act of sustained faith and attention required by reading even possible in a media landscape dominated by Twitter and TikTok? In answering these questions, students will study writing from (at least) two angles—*craft* and *psychology*—and will gain first-hand experience writing blogs.

Gilad Seckler is a former high school teacher who helps run Yale's Gesell Program in Early Childhood.

### **HOW CAN DRUG ABUSE/ADDICTION BE PREVENTED?**

Pamela Mautte

FYS\*101\*04: MWF 8:00-8:50 (FYS for Interprofessional Healthcare LLC)

FYS\*101\*08: MWF 9:00-9:50 (FYS for Nursing LLC)

This course will examine the question how can drug abuse & addiction be prevented? Utilizing the public health discipline, we will explore areas impacted by alcohol and drug abuse, identify strategies for reducing community and health problems and through the economic lens better understand the costs associated with addiction. Using a sociological lens students will understand the impact addiction has on the Quinnipiac community and create prevention practices to create campus and community change.

Pamela Mautte is the Director of the Alliance for Prevention & Wellness, A Program of BHcare.

### **HOW DOES MUSIC REFLECT SOCIETY?**

Richard Kamins

FYS\*101\*71: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 (PC: Grace Doyle, QU 2024, Major: Film, TV, and Media Arts)

FYS\*101H\*78: Tu/Th 2:00-3:15 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Kathleen Spedalle, QU 2025, Major: Psychology/MSW)

Music and other art forms serve as a barometer to the country's moods. This class reflects on and explores how musicians respond to and reflect on life-changing events, exploring the African American Migration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, The Great Depression, World War II, Vietnam, and today. Utilizing texts from the Social Sciences and the Humanities plus guest lecturers, students will explore what their/ our music means and how these meanings proliferate worldwide.

Richard Kamins teaches in QU's First-Year Seminar program, writes on music, and is a radio show producer.

## **HOW GEN Z WILL RULE THE WORLD**

John Goepfrich

FYS\*101\*56: Tu/Th 8:00-9:15 (FYS for E-Sports Arena LLC; PC: Grace Port Vliet, QU 20253, Major: Business Analytics and Management 3+1)

Success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will favor those people who are innovative, creative, and collaborative in a world that pushes information overload. This first-year seminar, taught by members of the Learning Commons, places special emphasis on practicing these three qualities that Gen Z students bring to the college experience. Course activities will include identifying and discussing real-world problems from multiple perspectives, while learning more about individual thinking and reasoning processes in various contexts.

John Goepfrich is the Director of Academic Development and Outreach in the Learning Commons.

## **HOW TO BE A CRITIC**

Jonathan Yukich

FYS\*101H\*50: MW 5:00-6:15 (Honors Program FYS)

Everyone may be a critic, but what's it take to be a *good* critic? In exploring this question, students will write reviews, profiles, and features on a series of arts events, performances, works, and artists. Students will consider similarities and distinctions between a number of art forms – theater, dance, film, television, music, literature, and the visual arts – as they develop a specialized understanding of how to assess, analyze, and formulate responses to artistic experiences and expressions.

Jonathan Yukich is a theater director, playwright, and is currently the Co-Coordinator of the Theater Program at the University of New Haven.

## **I KNOW THEREFORE I DO**

Iván Tirado-Cordero

FYS\*101\*09: MWF 9:00-9:50 (PC: Carli Sanger, QU 2024, Major: Film/TV/Media Arts 3+1)

FYS\*101\*13: MWF 10:00-10:50 (PC: Tierney Topulos, QU 2024, Major: Psychology)

Self-perception determines how we behave. What we know determines what we do. How do we come to know what we know? Why do we behave a certain way? How do I determine that what I know is reliable? In this section of First-Year Seminar, students will apply an interdisciplinary approach to inquiry to identify how people acquire conceptions, values, biases and affections that influence behavior as individuals, in social groups, in government, in businesses and in organizations.

Iván Tirado-Cordero is an instructional designer, artist, and stand-up comedian.

## **IDENTITY AND SELF-AWARENESS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

William Nelson

FYS\*101\*41: MWF 3:00-3:50

FYS\*101\*47: MWF 4:00-4:50 (PC: Colin MacDonald, QU 2025, Major: Nursing)

The rock group “The Who” released a song titled “Who are you?” This became the theme song for the “CSI” TV crime show. The song asks a very good question. Who are you in the digital age? How has the internet, media, and digital technology influenced your identity, what you believe, and where your place is in today's digital society? Let's explore!

William Nelson teaches in QU's School of Communications and Art Department.



**IMAGE CONSCIOUS? MAKING MEANING THROUGH VISUAL IMAGERY**

Katya Vetrov

FYS\*101H\*10: MWF 9:00-9:50 (Honors Program FYS)

FYS\*101\*14: MWF 10:00-10:50 (PC: Kristin Macy, QU 2023, Major: Marketing)

FYS\*101\*19: MWF 11:00-11:50 (PC: Reema Kumrah, QU 2024, Major: PT)

What allows us to make assumptions about people based on the way they speak or dress? How can we understand the deeper meaning of a fairy tale or an episode of *The Office*? What is the significance of chicken pot pie and why is it not served at upscale eateries? This seminar introduces semiotics, the study of signs and the meaning-bearing systems they form; systems that include not only human language and literature but also painting, sculpture, film, music, and popular culture including advertising, social media, and television, to name just a few. The diversity of semiotic systems provides many possibilities for thinking and writing critically about the world we live in.

Katya Vetrov teaches in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Quinnipiac University and works as an artist in New Haven.

**I'M MINDFUL, NOW WHAT?**

Amy Tate

FYS\*101H\*60: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Kyasha Ambroise, QU 2024, Major: Psychology)

FYS\*101\*66: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 (FYS for LiveWell LLC; PC: Grace Hyland, QU 2024, Major: Interdisciplinary Studies 3+1)

What does it mean to be mindful? Where do mindfulness practices originate and what power do they confer to individuals within a society? Who gets to be mindful and who doesn't? This course delves into a set of practices meant to cultivate self-awareness, alleviate the impact of the stress response, and move our attention to the present moment. Students develop a personal daily practice of sitting meditation, gentle yoga, and awareness of the present moment. In addition, we examine the origins of the exercises in contemporary religious and spiritual contexts, and interrogate the impact of isolating these practices from their cultural frameworks. Course materials include a mix of academic articles, original texts in translation, and pop-culture writings, films, and podcasts on mindfulness.

Amy Tate has been teaching yoga and meditation and studying the body in contemplative and movement practices for over 20 years.

**INTRODUCTION TO BLACKNESS IN THE MEDIA**

Michael Lyle

FYS\*101\*25: MWF 12:00-12:50 (PC: Tanjia DeCausey, QU 2025, Major: Nursing)

In this age of media oversaturation, interrogating and understanding how we consume media and representations is more important than ever. This course examines mainstream and alternative systems (such as Afrofuturism and Black Twitter) of African American representation, from the 1800s to today. It will investigate the ways in which notions of Blackness are constructed, represented, recreated, and appropriated every day—from film and television, to advertisements, news outlets, and internet and social media. Students will learn to interrogate, analyze, and ultimately think critically about the images, words, and discourses they consume every day.

Michael Lyle teaches in QU's School of Communications and is a radio host and anchor on WSHU 91.1 FM.

### **IS WORLD PEACE POSSIBLE?**

Wayne Lavender

FYS\*101H\*37: MWF 2:00-2:50 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Grace Mongeau, QU 2025, Major: Advertising)

This seminar will explore the dynamic relationship between war and peace and consider the enduring question: "Is world peace possible?" An interdisciplinary approach will be used including literary, religious (Jewish, Christian, Islam, Buddhism, and Hindu), economic, political, media and history to study this wicked question. We will review pacifism, just war theory, and realpolitik, and explore the concept of redemptive violence. We will also evaluate case studies from Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Mozambique.

Wayne Lavender teaches in QU's Department of Philosophy and Political Science.

### **KEEPING MONEY LOCAL: SMALL BUSINESS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Matthew Tortora

FYS\*101\*11: MWF 9:00-9:50 (FYS for Entrepreneurs & Innovators LLC)

FYS\*101\*15: MWF 10:00-10:50

Small businesses bring growth and innovation to their local communities. As we move through the first-year seminar course, students will engage within small business, in particular the Hamden community. We will look at how small businesses affect the town's growth, innovation, income levels, home prices, schools, diversity within the city, road conditions, and transportation and we will explore how businesses have had to adapt and innovate to stand out in a competitive market, we will also explore the active role we have in unifying business and our communities.

Matthew Tortora is a QU alumnus, adjunct faculty member, and small business owner.

### **MEMORY AND MEANING**

Kathleen DelMonico

FYS\*101\*61: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (PC: Tressa Pantalena, QU 2025, Major: Psychology)

FYS\*101\*77: Tu/Th 12:30-1:45 (PC: Kyle Frappier, QU 2024, Major: Criminal Justice)

How do we represent memory in our personal and collective lives? In this FYS we will participate in conversations about the nature and role of memory from multidisciplinary perspectives. What does memory mean? How does memory help us express ourselves, make sense of our lives and give direction for our actions? What are the powers and limits of human memory? In what ways do memories take shape? Why do we preserve some and remove others? We will study and respond to examples from literary, atistic, historic and media genres, as well as from the sciences to deepen our understanding and respect for the meaning of memories. We will also create our own memory projects.

Kathleen DelMonico taught English at Sacred Heart University and continues to do research in education and social policy.

**MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING: HOW DOES MEDIUM SHAPE MESSAGE?**

Aaraf Afzal

FYS\*101\*21: MWF 11:00-11:50

FYS\*101H\*28: MWF 12:00-12:50 (Honors Program FYS)

How do writers choose a medium to tell their stories? How does the purpose of storytelling differ across fiction and nonfiction, and how might craft and language differ as a result? Act One! We will begin by talking about the shapes of stories, as outlined by Aristotle and challenged, critiqued, and remixed over the years since. Act Two! We will study works spanning across multiple disciplines (from short fiction to scientific writing to journalism and beyond) and multiple mediums (including prose, comics, documentaries, YouTube video essays, films, and games). How do these mediums adapt to the specific needs of their audiences and contextualize their messages accordingly? Act Three! As students examine different mediums, they will also be asked to present them through different essayistic forms, culminating in an oral presentation or video essay. In these adventures, we will lean heavily on dialog and in-class exercises—and challenge ourselves to inquire into the various relationships between form and content.

Aaraf Afzal is an interdisciplinary writer, novelist, and video editor, with an MFA in Creative Writing.

**SHOULD I KNOW WHAT I DO NOT?**

Thomas Ellett

FYS\*101\*51: MW 5:00-6:15 (FYS for Creative Minds LLC; PC: Haley Kuchinsky, QU 2025, Major: Athletic Training)

You never know what you do not know. Is it important? People tend to surround themselves with people who think similarly to them. How do we open our minds to begin a journey that has us start to explore the unknown? This course will ask students to journey with their peers into the unknown, through actively engaging in different ideology, religion, politics, sports, entertainment, music, arts, and any other area you do not know about, but are inspired to learn more.

Thomas Ellett is QU's Chief Experience Officer who has a background in theater and in educational policy.

**STORIES OF TRANSITION: DO THEY REFLECT YOUR EXPERIENCES AND CAN THEY GUIDE YOU?**

Brooks C. Appelbaum

FYS\*101\*44: MWF 3:00-3:50

In this interdisciplinary and discussion-based course, you will explore together the complex transition from teenagers to college age adults. As a way to investigate your own expectations, experiences, and hopes, you will watch films; listen to music; read short memoir pieces; delve into how you present yourselves (and don't present yourselves) on social media; and use introspective writing and speaking to form a deeper understanding of this stage of life.

Brooks Appelbaum teaches in QU's First-Year Writing Program and the Theater Department.

**STRANGERS, NEIGHBORS, AND THE BORDERS OF BELONGING**

Matthew O'Malley

FYS\*101\*48: MWF 4:00-4:50 (FYS for Unity LLC)

FYS\*101\*52: MW 5:00-6:15

Together we will explore stories, concepts, histories, and representations of belonging (to a place or a community), of otherness and difference, and the antagonisms between these two crucial social categories. Who is a desirable neighbor? Why? And who is not? How and why does an “us” form in relation to a “them”? How do such forces and struggles materialize in actual human spaces—neighborhoods, cities, states, borders, frontiers? Home, family, citizen, nation: outside of these familiar spaces we find strangers, the marginalized, scapegoats—in short, *outsiders*. Exploring these geographies of belonging and non-belonging, we will learn something about how these spaces come into being and are maintained. Finally, we will make this inquiry concrete by considering the historic spatializations of race in American cities.

Matthew O'Malley is a social theorist and scholar of American Studies, currently at Yale University.

**THE AMERICAN ZEITGEIST: WHO ARE WE AND HOW DO WE KNOW?**

Melissa Bader

FYS\*101\*86: Tu/Th 3:30-4:45 (PC: Riley Birchall, QU 2025, Major: Psychology/MSW)

The zeitgeist is defined as: "the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time." This course will seek to study who we are now and how this is reflected in our media, pop culture, and contemporary literature. Students will explore the media and literature of different genres to examine the question: If we are what we consume, who are we? We will examine current pop culture literature and other media to draw conclusions about the current human condition. What stimulates us? What makes us curious? Units of study will include examination of America's obsession with true crime, the “Golden Age” of documentary, and both collaborative and independent genre study: Who is telling our stories and what are they?

Melissa Bader teaches in the First-Year Writing Program at QU and is the English department chairperson at Farmington High School.

**TILL DEATH DO US PART? HOW LAW/POLICY INFLUENCE FAMILIES**

Jodie Oshana

FYS\*101\*69: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 (FYS for Law & Legal Systems LLC; PC: Arianna Newth, QU 2024, Major: International Business 3+1)

FYS\*101H\*72: Tu/Th 12:30-1:45 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Robert Schroeder, QU 2024, Major: Psychology)

This specific FYS will examine the ways in which laws and policies impact families. After introducing students to QU and each other, we will spend the first part of the course examining what constitutes “family,” what family policy is, and how both of these have changed over time. In the second part of the course, we will consider what social science is and how social science impacts laws/policies. In the third part of the course, we will examine specific family policies, including marriage policy and family leave policy. Lastly, we will consider family policy through analysis of specific movies/films.

Jodie Oshana teaches in QU's Law School.

**WHAT AM I DOING HERE? LIFE ON THE THRESHOLD**

Susan F. Bass

FYS\*101\*87: 3:30-4:45 (PC: Emelin Gustafsson, QU 2024, Major: HR Management 3+1)

What does it mean to live on the threshold or in a liminal space? How do people reconcile competing beliefs and ideas that cause them to enter that space? How does one evolve or retain an identity within the liminal space? The liminal space can be exhilarating, terrifying, dull, or intriguing. By focusing on real and imagined people on the brink, this course will focus on our purpose and motivations in that strange space where we may spend a great deal of our lives.

Susan Bass teaches in the School of Education.

**WHAT DOES SPIKE LEE'S AMERICA LOOK—AND ACT—LIKE?**

Raymond Foery

FYS\*101H\*53: MW 5:00-6:15 (Honors Program FYS)

How does America look to an African American filmmaker whose entire career has focused on the Black community? What does it mean, to use the title of Lee's most controversial film, to "do the right thing" in a complex and racially charged society? What are the challenges facing communities formed by different ethnic groups? By examining in some detail a number of films by award-winning director Spike Lee, we shall attempt to address some of these questions. Students will write individual critiques of the films and will complete a research project based on Lee's career and on its intersection with the racially charged atmosphere that has, at least so far, characterized the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Raymond Foery is an emeritus professor of Film, Television, and Media Studies.

**WHAT IS A HERO?**

Noah Goldsher

FYS\*101\*73: Tu/Th 12:30-1:45 (FYS for Nuestra Casa LLC; PC: Saffron Przyborowski, QU 2025, Major: Behavioral Neuroscience)

FYS\*101\*89: Tu/Th 3:30-4:45 (PC: Caroline Fishbein, QU 2025, Major: Health Science Studies)

In difficult times, human societies often elevate individuals to the mantle of "hero." Heroes inspire us, evoke our awe, and lead the way for those looking to be led. This class will encourage you (the students) to examine the archetypal origins of the hero in myth and literature, complete biographical research on unsung historical figures, and seek out your own heroes in the local community who meet your learned standards for heroism. Most importantly, you will be challenged to identify and discuss the relationship between societies and their heroes. What does a society say about itself when it celebrates certain individuals as heroes? What do those heroes have to say for themselves?

Noah Goldsher is a Professor of English and Creative Writing, and a published novelist/short-story writer.

**WHAT MAKES US HAPPY?**

Joanna Gentsch

FYS\*101H\*79: Tu/Th 2:00-3:15 (Honors Program FYS)

The world's greatest thinkers have wrestled with this eternal question. What can we learn from the reflections of philosophers, historians, poets, and psychologists? Is happiness a state, an experience, or a practice? Why do some people struggle while others flourish? On our shared journey, we will examine

what we know from these diverse fields while also critically analyzing the growing body of research on the science of happiness. We will also explore contemporary challenges to subjective well-being.

Joanna Kain Gentsch is a developmental psychologist who studies the concept of belonging.

### **WHAT IS HUMAN NATURE?**

Sarah Reedy

FYS\*101\*80: Tu/Th 2:00-3:15 (FYS for Multicultural LLC; PC: Emily Haeusgen, QU 2024, Major: Nursing)

Are humans driven by instincts or cultural rules? Why do we look different from each other and why does racism exist? Why do we get sick and why are some more affected than others? This First-Year Seminar will explore these questions, among others, to consider what it means to be “human.” Together, we’ll delve into our evolution, follow human migrations around the globe, and examine the vast biocultural diversity we see today.

Sarah Reedy teaches in QU’s Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology.

### **WHAT IS MEDIA’S RESPONSIBILITY IN SHAPING SOCIETAL NORMS?**

Michele P. Papa

FYS\*101\*74 : Tu/Th 12:30-1:45 (PC: Samantha Schlottman, QU 2024, Major: OT)

Media bombards us. Whether it’s reading the news, watching TV, or scrolling our phones, it has our attention. But is there more to it than we think? Is it responsible for our self-worth? Might it determine our value on a social hierarchy? As members of an academic community, you’ll engage with a variety of works and with each other in ongoing, dynamic conversations designed to enrich and expand your understanding of how we are influenced by what we see and hear. You’ll think critically and analyze academically as demonstrated in your writing and presenting skills. You’ll identify Artistic Proofs (ethos, pathos, and logos) utilized by the media to examine their influence historically and presently on media consumers.

Michele Papa is teacher with experience educating students from the elementary level through college.

### **WHAT IS THE ART OF PHILANTHROPY?**

Andrew Bernstein

FYS\*101\*26: MWF 12:00-12:50 (PC: Nicole Syme, QU 2025, Major: Behavioral Neuroscience)

FYS\*101\*59: Tu/Th 8:00-9:15 (PC: Kaylee Gates, QU 2025, Major: Nursing)

This section of First-Year Seminar will examine the question “What is the art of philanthropy?” With Covid-19 and the current pandemic, the art of philanthropy continues to play a crucial role in today’s ever-changing society. We will look at philanthropy from many different perspectives throughout this seminar. The course will examine this topic through multiple lenses. How would an artist, a scientist, psychologist, or accountant look and react to the subject of philanthropy?

Andrew Bernstein is a QU alumnus and Director of QU’s Annual Giving.

### **WHAT IS SUCCESS?**

Joe Gaffney

FYS\*101\*16: MWF 10:00-10:50 (PC: Kalleen Rose Ozanic, QU 2023, Majors: Journalism/Political Science)

FYS\*101\*27: MWF 12:00-12:50 (PC: Madison Badalamente, QU 2023, Major: Computer Science)

FYS\*101H\*38: MWF 2:00-2:50 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Jennifer Zirkel, QU 2025, Major: Interdisciplinary Studies)

Together we will explore, “Success”: its types, measurements, purpose & importance. Students will share their experience with and goals to achieve success. We will use various media to research, examine, and juxtapose elements of professional success to personal success. Students will then consider the impact of success on facets of their personal lives, which will help them develop a dynamic, lifelong strategy to achieve a work-life balance when pursuing success.

Joe Gaffney comes from a successful business career and teaches in QU’s English Department and School of Business.

### **WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF POLICING IN AMERICA?**

Herbert Sharp

FYS\*101\*20: MWF 11:00-11:50 (PC: Robert Markman, QU 2022, Major: Marketing 3+1)

With current events in mind, this First-Year Seminar will focus on the complicated relationship between the police and the communities they are sworn to “protect and serve.” To understand the need for organizational change, we will think critically about the relationship between “social justice” and “criminal justice.” Guest speakers, videos, and readings from media, sociology and criminal justice will assist students in defining the future of policing.

Herbert Sharp is a former Law Enforcement Executive and QU’s Assistant Chief of Public Safety.

### **WHAT IS THE MEANING OF FASHION?**

Katarzyna M. Sims

FYS\*101\*90: Tu/Th 5:00-6:15

The meanings attached to fashion and clothing are not fixed, but rather are constantly the object of social negotiation and are time-specific. How do we define fashion now and what was the meaning of fashion in Central Europe in the past? This First-Year Seminar will examine those questions through works of literature, social media, film and photography. Course readings will include authors such as Joanne Entwistle, Franz Kafka, and Sigmund Freud.

Katarzyna M. Sims teaches in QU’s Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures and is Instructional Design and eLearning Manager at Yale School of Medicine.

### **WHAT PRICE COURAGE?**

Frederick Raudat

FYS\*101\*40: MWF 2:00-2:50 (FYS for Nursing LLC; (PC: Tessa Fieramosca, QU 2022, Major: Biology)

FYS\*101\*42: MWF 3:00-3:50 (FYS for Occupational Therapy LLC)

What is the nature of courage? Aviatrix Amelia Earhart wrote “Courage is the price that Life exacts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things...” This seminar will focus on the notions of courage. A flip of what researchers call a “brain switch” triggers a complex brain mechanism that processes visual data and triggers us to run toward or retreat from danger. What is it that motivates some of us to make choices that put our very existences in the balance? In the first part of the course, we will focus on physical, emotional, and intellectual courage, and for second part of the course, we will examine moral, social, and spiritual courage.

Fred Raudat teaches in QU’s First-Year Writing Program as well as First-Year Seminar.

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO LIVE (AND DIE) IN A MEDIEVAL CITY?**

Christine Voth

FYS\*101H\*62: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Madison Sinoway, QU 2023, Major: Psychology)

FYS\*101\*70: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 (FYS for Natural Sciences LLC; PC: Olivia Ferreira, QU 2024, Major: OT)

The Plague of the mid-fourteenth century, known sometimes as the “black death” or the bubonic plague, caused upheaval on an epic scale, reducing the populations of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East by upwards of sixty percent. In this course, we will examine the question “How did the medieval world respond to a great pandemic?” Focusing on the Plague and its aftermath (c. 1350 to c. 1500), we will uncover the ways in which this pandemic impacted society, culture, religion, and science. From poetic and artistic works that reflect a pre-occupation with mortality to changes in medical and dietary routines, students will explore the crisis and the creativity that arose in the wake of the Great Mortality. Through examining one of the most prominent pandemics in history, students will have the opportunity to make comparisons and reflect upon their own experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Christine Voth is an historian and educator with a focus on medieval cultural exchanges, the production and use of manuscripts, and the advancements of medicine and science in the medieval world.

**WHERE DOES DIVERSITY BELONG IN GLOBAL WAR AND CONFLICT?**

Ellie Bargeon

FYS\*101\*57: Tu/Th 8:00-9:15 (PC: Vanessa Reineke, QU 2024, Major: Sociology and Economics, 3+1)

FYS\*101\*63: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (PC: Melina Maldonado, QU 2024, Major: Media Studies)

Uncle Sam says “I Want YOU for the U.S. Army”! But who exactly is this famous recruitment quote speaking to? Where is diversity’s place in militaries and war? After two decades of waging the Global War on Terror, how did sexual identity emerge as a major conversation in military circles? In what ways do the intersectional identities of those who wage war and those who endure it inform and influence both individual and societal conceptualizations of war and conflict? Students will grapple with complex interactions between militarization, identity and belonging, global power structures, and war. Drawing upon a foundation of sociological theory, feminist and queer theory, and international studies, the course will develop an interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary issues in diversity and conflict.

Ellie Bargeon is an Iraq War veteran who transitioned to a career in higher education and is passionate about researching contemporary military issues.

**WHO ARE THE NATIVE AMERICANS?**

Paul Pasquaretta

FYS\*101H\*30: MWF 1:00-1:50 (Honors Program FYS)

FYS\*101\*43: MWF 3:00-3:50

Descendants of the original peoples of this continent, Native Americans live in all 50 states and work in every profession. They are our classmates, neighbors, and relatives. Despite their ubiquitous presence, Native Americans are often misunderstood and their history misrepresented. In this course, we will explore the work on Native American writers, filmmakers, musicians and artists as we work to gain an understanding of indigenous values, political philosophies, and storytelling traditions.

Paul Pasquaretta is the author of *Gambling and Survival in Native North America* (Arizona University Press).



**WHO IS YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT HERO?**

Jodi Amatulli

FYS\*101\*75: Tu/Th 12:30-1:45 (FYS for Bobcat Media LLC; PC: Kristen D'Ariano, QU 2023, Major: PT/Psychology)

Who has made an impact on your life and made you think about your First Amendment freedoms to express yourself? Is it the controversial rapper Lil Nas X? Comedian and YouTube actress Lilly Singh? The iconic civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? Perhaps it's NBA superstar LeBron James? By examining your First Amendment freedoms—the cornerstones of our democracy—and identifying your hero, you will gain a better understanding of your rights and how to exercise them in ways that are meaningful to you. You will realize your power to let your voice be heard—just like your hero!

Jodi Amatulli is a former print and broadcast reporter who has taught in QU's School of Communications.

**WHY ARE HUMANS VIOLENT?**

Hillary Haldane

FYS\*101H\*76: Tu/Th 12:30-1:45 (Honors Program FYS; PC: Arianna Irizarry, QU 2023, Major: History)

Humans, as well as our evolutionary predecessors, have an astonishing capacity for violence, across time and space. In this class we will examine the evolutionary, archaeological, and contemporary expressions of violence. This course asks you to consider the yet unanswered question: why are humans violent? And why are some human societies more violent than others? More elusive--how do we end violence, is this desirable and even possible?

Hillary Haldane is a Professor of Anthropology at QU.

**WHY DO SPORTS MATTER?**

Steve Booth Marston

FYS\*101\*64: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (FYS for Get in the Game LLC; PC: Abigail Federico, QU 2025, Major: Health Science Studies)

FYS\*101\*82: Tu/Th 2:00-3:15 (PC: Jennifer Moglia, QU 2024, Major: Media Studies/Sports Journalism 3+1)

Sports may seem like mere “fun and games.” But a glance through television listings, social-media feeds, and even our own campus reveals that sports are everywhere, touching all aspects of society, and thus they deserve serious attention. In this course, students will address the ways in which we come to understand society (and our place within it) through engagement with sports. Starting with the emergence of “modern” sports at the turn of the twentieth century, then working their way to the present, students will explore such themes as capitalism, religion, nationalism, race/gender, and the “information age.” By the end of the semester, students will better understand why sports do, in fact, matter quite a lot.

Steve Marston is a teacher/writer in the field of American Studies who focuses on sports, culture, and politics.

**YOU'VE GOT THIS! LEARNING, LIVING, BALANCE, AND SOUL**

Vanessa Reale

FYS\*101\*58: Tu/Th 8:00-9:15 (PC: Olivia Moran, QU 2024, Major: Behavioral Neuroscience)

FYS\*101\*65: Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (FYS for Nursing LLC)

FYS\*101\*67: Tu/Th 11:00-12:15 (PC: Ty Pierson, QU 2024, Major: Engineering)

This holistic, interdisciplinary course will provide students with insight, knowledge, and strategies designed to inspire connected learning, healthy living, emotional intelligence, and gratitude. Students will be introduced to an array of innovative research and best practices from a variety of disciplines, including organizational, social, and environmental psychology, education, leadership, and health. Students will work independently and collaboratively on activities focused on integrating theory into opportunities for authentic learning and reflection. You've Got This is a game changer for anyone seeking to change their game!

Vanessa Reale is a former public-school administrator focused on creating healthy schools and workplace environments.

**WOULD YOU TAKE A KNEE? ATHLETES AS ACTIVISTS**

Kristen Casamento

FYS\*101\*91: Tu/Th 5:00-6:15 (FYS for Get in the Game LLC; PC: Tobore Emede, QU 2023, Major: Business Administration)

Can athletes be activists? With the murder of George Floyd, mental health issues on the rise, the current state laws/bills regarding trans athletes, and disparities in female sports and wages, it is an integral time to investigate athletes and their power for change in the form of activism. There is a constant debate on whether they should be activists. Some of the greatest activists were the ones that broke racial and gender barriers like Jackie Robinson and Billy Jean King. Can athletes break barriers beyond their sport? Can Michael Phelps speaking honestly about mental health, help destroy a stigma for seeking support? These are all the questions that will be investigated in this course.

Kristen Casamento, QU's Senior Assistant Athletic Director, was a member of the Division I softball program at Marist College and earned three conference championship rings.