

First-Year Experience Courses at Hood

Welcome to Hood! Soon you will register for classes, including First Year Experience (FYE). First-Year Experience courses offer the perfect beginning point for a successful college career. These small classes allow you to work closely with your professor and peers to develop critical thinking, academic reading, and information literacy skills. Your FYE class will help you settle into life at Hood and introduce to campus resources.

As part of the Core Curriculum, first-year students will complete a yearlong FYE course sequence in one of the Hood value areas-- Hope, Opportunity, Obligation, or Democracy. The fall and spring courses are linked around a common theme, and you will take both courses in the sequence. (You must take the spring course linked to the fall course you select.)

Use the descriptions below to choose your top 2-3 course pairings, and we will help you register during summer advising.

Information on **Honors FYE** can be found on the last two pages.



Hope: *To believe that everyone can have a positive impact on the world and that education is instrumental in creating and sustaining hope*

Fall Course	Spring Course
<p>FYE 101.01: Taylor Swift: More Than Her Reputation <i>Ashley Gardner Athletics W/F 11:30-12:55</i></p> <p>This course will trace the history of visual culture as a means of social activism in the 20th and 21st centuries. It will examine a wide variety of images, including painting, photography, posters, street art and film, created by artists with the purpose of engendering social and political change.</p>	<p>FYE 102.01: Shake it Off: Satisfaction and Contentment <i>Shannon Kunderly Psychology W/F 11:30-12:55</i></p> <p>While pleasure and happiness aren't harmful goals, constantly chasing them can lead to unhealthy patterns. In contrast, satisfaction and contentment are more realistic and sustainable. This class explores evidence-based factors that support lasting well-being and how to achieve it without relying on magical thinking or constant thrill seeking.</p>
<p>FYE 101.02: Schools in the Spotlight: Students & Teachers in Popular Culture <i>Rebecca Grove Education T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>From the incompetent Mr. Rooney being out-witted by Ferris Bueller to the inspiring Mr. Keating and his dedicated students, pop culture presents us with many examples of teachers and students. We will take a critical look at teachers, students, and schools in popular media and analyze the messages and values they present regarding the value of education.</p>	<p>FYE 102.02: Communities, Culture, and Children's Books <i>Amy Kilpatrick Education T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>Children's literature is influential in shaping the beliefs and values of future generations. From biographies to historical fiction to realistic fiction and more, this course will evaluate how books that are created specifically for children and adolescent readers reflect themes relevant in today's society.</p>

Opportunity: *To fully use one's talents and skills to realize professional and personal achievement & to help create and realize opportunities for others.*

Fall Course	Spring Course
<p>FYE 101.03: Nomads, Pirates, and Outlaws Mallory Huard History T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>The histories of pirates and outlaws have been shrouded in myths and legends. In this course, we will explore the true histories of peoples who have lived outside of the boundaries of the law and respectability, as well as how they came to be towering, yet often misunderstood figures in our popular culture.</p>	<p>FYE 102.03: Heroes and Monsters Heather Mitchell-Buck English & Communication Arts T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>It may seem that heroes and monsters have very little in common; maybe we've been taught that they exist at opposite ends of a spectrum, with "good" at one end and "evil" at the other. However, in this course we'll explore a variety of media that show us the key characteristic that heroes and monsters share: both teach us what it means to be human.</p>
<p>FYE 101.04: Student Success: Attitude, Fortitude, and Gratitude Lisa Copenhaver Student Success T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>Do you have a victim or creator mindset? Do you manage your time or does it manage you? Students will learn how attitude, fortitude, and gratitude can help them in college and in life.</p>	<p>FYE 102.04: Successful Failures Steven Clark Chemistry & Physics T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>In this course, we will explore some of humanity's greatest accomplishments and the science that made them possible, as well as discuss some notable disasters and what we can learn about resilience, recovery, and the importance of global stewardship and personal integrity in science.</p>
<p>FYE 101.05: Perceptions of Disability in Media and Culture Tricia Strickland Education T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>Students will explore the portrayal of people with various types of disabilities in media and discuss how these portrayals influence perceptions within American culture. Students will hypothesize ways to challenge negative stereotypes of people with disabilities and develop an understanding and appreciation for diverse abilities within our communities.</p>	<p>FYE 102.05: Disability Visibility Beth Kiester Sociology & Social Work T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>Sociology is the study of human groups, organizations, and societies and the patterns of similarity and difference among them over time and across space. In this course, we will use our sociological imaginations to understand the way in which disability has been socially constructed, the role of ableism in shaping our understanding disability, and what it means to make the world more accessible and inclusive.</p>
<p>FYE 101.12: Exploring Frederick's Secrets and Stories Bre Harwood Career Center T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>Discover the charm of Frederick, Maryland, through its rich history, culture, and unique community. Whether you're new or a long-time resident, this course offers an immersive experience that goes beyond guidebooks and deepens your appreciation for the city.</p>	<p>FYE 102.12: The Hometown Effect Rebecca Grove Education T/R 11:25-12:50</p> <p>Whether you grew up in a bustling city, a quiet suburb, or a small town, your hometown helped shape how you see the world—and how the world sees you. In this course, we'll explore the idea of the hometown and examine the relationship between community, identity, and perspectives.</p>

(Opportunity courses continued from previous page)

FYE 101.13: Photography through Lyrics

Bonnie Kern | Art & Archaeology | W/F 11:30-12:55

This course provides an exploration of the relationship between song lyrics and visual imagery. Students will analyze song lyrics through written research and create photographs that visually interpret their meaning. Through a combination of research, writing, and photography, students will develop a cohesive body of work that reflects their understanding of music and visual storytelling. The course fosters critical discussions on how different perspectives, philosophies, and visual interpretations shape our experience of music and lyrics.

FYE 102.13: The Philosophy of Music

Noel Verzosa | Music | T/R 11:25-12:50

How does music provoke emotional responses? Can music express anything besides emotion? Is it better to hear music as a representation of its time or to remove it from its context? What sort of thing is a musical work? Are two different performances of a Beethoven's Fifth Symphony "the same work"? In this class we will survey philosophers, artists, and writers who attempted to explain why music appeals to us, what its relationship to the other arts is, and what the musical experience says about human nature.

FYE 101.14: The Passion Project

Christine Marconi | Student Affairs | W/F 11:30-12:55

So you've made it to college, but have you discovered your true passion along the way? Designed to help you discover what you are passionate about – and how to use this power for good – this course will guide you through the 6 P's of a Passion Project. During this course and through the development of your Passion Project, you will improve upon your creativity, planning, presentation, technology, and time management skills.

FYE 102.14 Claim Your Purpose

Lisa Littlefield | Career Center | W/F 11:30-12:55

You're just starting your college career, but do you often wonder what you'll do with your degree? What type of job will you have? How can you discover and build on your interests and strengths to choose the right path? Through assessments and reflection exercises, students explore values, interests, skills, and abilities; they examine various majors and career options and finish this class with a clearer understanding of work as a meaningful and fulfilling experience.



Obligation: *To fulfill personal and professional responsibilities with integrity and to be a responsible steward and servant to the betterment of others and this world*

Fall Course	Spring Course
<p>FYE 101. 06: Climate Change I <i>Eric Annis Biology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>Climate change is an existential threat to human civilization and one of the most politically charged environmental issues of our time. This course will examine the scientific basis of the causes and consequences of climate change. It will provide a knowledge base to support the linked second semester course which focuses climate change solutions, adaptation and environmental justice.</p>	<p>FYE 102.06: Climate Change II <i>Yanting Guo Biology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>This course explores solutions to climate change and related environmental justice issues at global, national, and local levels. Students will examine technological, policy, and social strategies to reduce emissions and build resilience, with a focus on equity for vulnerable communities. A service-learning component provides hands-on experience through data collection and collaboration with local partners.</p>
<p>FYE 101. 07: Wealth and Society <i>Chuck Mann Business T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>This course will explore social issues related to wealth, income, and the valuing of work and talent. By asking questions such as Who are the top one percent? How much salary is too much? Why is there a wage gap between men and women?, we will examine how money (or lack thereof) shapes lives and culture.</p>	<p>FYE 102.07: Numbers that Matter <i>Rachel Barber Math T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>“Numbers that Matter” challenges students to use math as a tool for understanding the world around them, from public policy to everyday decision making. With an emphasis on our obligation to think critically and interpret data responsibly, the course builds skills for informed citizenship.</p>
<p>FYE 101.08: Wicked Problems: Business Skills for Sustainable Impact <i>Hope Witmer Business T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>"Wicked Problems" are problems that seem difficult or impossible to solve, involve complex social and environmental issues, and often arise from conflicting interests. In this course we will explore how 'wicked problems' shape environmental science, stewardship, and sustainability and how despite the 'wicked' nature of these problems, compromise and agreement is often achieved.</p>	<p>FYE 102.08: Wicked Problems: Environmental Sustainability Challenges and Perspectives <i>Sean Sharp Biology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>This course continues the exploration of “wicked problems.” We will examine how “wicked problems” shape environmental science, stewardship, and sustainability and how despite the 'wicked' nature of these problems, compromise and agreement is often achieved.</p>



Democracy: *To embrace diversity, foster freedom of thought and expression, and to promote engaged citizenship both in self and others*

Fall Course	Spring Course
<p>FYE 101.09: Global Rites of Passage <i>Jenni Ross Art & Archaeology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>Cultures and religions around the world celebrate points in a person's life when they undergo a change in status. This course will look at the way societies recognize birth, adulthood, marriage, and death using rituals. The Spring linked course considers some of these same moments, but from an internal, psychological point of view.</p>	<p>FYE 102.09: Human Lifespan <i>Sangeeta Gupta Psychology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>What does it mean to grow up, and how does college fit into the bigger picture of life? In this course, we'll explore human development from infancy to old age, examining how each stage—from toddlerhood to college life and beyond—shapes who we are. We'll look at how psychological and cultural factors influence our growth and how key milestones in life impact our identity and experiences.</p>
<p>FYE 101.10: Democracy and Disinformation <i>Paige Eager Provost and Political Science W/F 11:30-12:55</i></p> <p>Democracy is not easy. It is messy. And it is made even messier by disinformation. How can you be part of the solution? How can you contribute to depolarization as well as spotting and educating other about disinformation and myths we tell ourselves about American democracy?</p>	<p>FYE 102.10: The Art of Skepticism <i>Alan Goldenbach English & Communication Arts T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>In the digital-media age, we are vulnerable to misinformation both because of its quantity and the ease with which it can be spread. How do we know what to believe? The skill used to distinguish information is called skepticism, and developing it is the focus of this course.</p>
<p>FYE 101.11: American Culture in 10 Albums <i>Noel Verzosa Music T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>Music has always served as a mirror for historical or cultural moments. In this class we will survey ten albums released between 1950 and the present, and see how music was a reflection, and in some cases a catalyst, for some of the most important moments in American culture of the last seventy years.</p>	<p>FYE 102.11: American Culture II: The Storytellers <i>Amy Gottfried English T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>Our written stories, like our music, have both echoed and helped to create American culture of the past seventy years, right up to the present moment. Using the model of “American Culture in 10 Albums,” we'll spend the semester listening to our storytellers, particularly noting how their narratives dovetail the personal with the cultural, era by era.</p>



For Students in the Honors Program

Students enrolled in the Honors program should select from the following First-Year Experience courses. The fall and spring courses are linked and students will take both courses in the sequence.

Hope: <i>To believe that everyone can have a positive impact on the world and that education is instrumental in creating and sustaining hope</i>	
Fall course	Spring course
<p>FYE 101H.01: Local Lore and Legends <i>Lisa Marcus Global Languages & Cultures T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>This course will highlight how chemistry can help us to understand, monitor, protect and improve the environment that we live in. All deep-rooted environmental problems such as the use of fossil fuels, water and air pollution, and impacts of climate change will be discussed.</p>	<p>FYE 102H.01: Spaces and Places: Frederick's Built Environment <i>Kimberly Morse-Jones Art & Archaeology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>This course is designed to strengthen students' sense of place by introducing them to the built environment of the city of Frederick, including Hood College. Particular emphasis will be placed on the social function of our local built environment, that is, architecture, landscape, urban planning, etc., and how it affects the way we live, work and play.</p>
<p>FYE 101H.02: Critical Analysis of Magical Thinking <i>Shannon Kunderly Psychology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>Are tunnels of light, ghostly visits, or alien abductions signs of the supernatural—or just brain chemistry at work? This course explores magical thinking: the belief in irrational or supernatural links between thoughts, actions, and events. Common across cultures, such thinking appears in superstitions, rituals, and mystical experiences. We'll examine why these beliefs arise and whether science can explain them.</p>	<p>FYE 102H.02: Cultivating Satisfaction and Contentment <i>Shannon Kunderly Psychology T/R 11:25-12:50</i></p> <p>While pleasure and happiness aren't harmful goals, constantly chasing them can lead to unhealthy patterns. In contrast, satisfaction and contentment—states of fulfillment and ease—are more realistic and sustainable. This class explores evidence-based factors that support lasting well-being and how to achieve it without relying on magical thinking or constant thrill seeking.</p>

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FYE 101H.03: Tackling Environmental Problems with Chemistry

Ashish Chakradhar | Chemistry & Physics | T/R 11:25-12:50

This course will highlight how chemistry can help us to understand, monitor, protect and improve the environment that we live in. All deep-rooted environmental problems such as the use of fossil fuels, water and air pollution, and impacts of climate change will be discussed.

FYE 102H.03: Tackling Environmental Justice Issues with the Humanities

Scott Pinkowski | Global Languages & Cultures | T/R 11:25-12:50

In an era where the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect the most vulnerable communities worldwide, advocating for environmental justice has become more crucial than ever. This course introduces students to environmental justice, exploring the intersection of environmental policy, social equity, and community action. Through an exploration of case studies from the U.S. and around the world, students will study the historical roots of environmental injustice.

FYE 101H.04: Visual Art and Activism in the United States

Kimberly Morse-Jones | Art & Archaeology | T/R 11:25-12:50

This course will trace the history of visual culture as a means of social activism in the 20th and 21st centuries. It will examine a wide variety of images, including painting, photography, posters, street art and film, created by artists with the purpose of engendering social and political change.

FYE 102H.04: Social Movements and Activism in 20th-Century U.S. History

Mallory Huard | History | T/R 11:25-12:50

This course explores the history of social movements and activism throughout 20th century U.S. history, including Women's Rights and Feminist Movements, Anti-War Activism, Civil Rights and Black Power, LGBTQ Rights, Indigenous Sovereignty, Conservatism, Environmentalism and more.

