

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY  
KUTZTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION

Course Prefix and Number Level: FYS 100  
Department: General Education Committee

I. Course Description

First-Year Seminar is a required class that is designed to help students to make a meaningful transition from high school to college. This course teaches students the necessary skills to successfully navigate their college life. This course also introduces students to the kind of academic work expected at the college level. Students work closely with their professors and peers to explore a particular topic and develop skills that are essential for success at the university.

The course is designed to be taken very early in the student's course of study, ideally in the student's first semester at KU. The course is required for students who have earned or have transferred in fewer than 15 credits (excluding dual enrollment credits/courses) from an accredited college or university. Students with 15-29 completed college credits are recommended to take FYS, and students with 30 or more completed college credits are not allowed to take FYS class.

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Prerequisites: The class is open to freshman students only (who completed less than 30 credits).

II. Course Rationale:

The First-Year Seminar acclimates students to a new community of learning and helps them develop the skills needed to succeed at Kutztown University. In line with the spirit of a seminar class, through the interactive and engaging learning process in and outside of the classroom, this course aims to foster a sense of belonging, promote engagement in the curricular and co-curricular life of the university, encourage self-responsibility, and articulate to students the benefits of a higher education and the expectations and values of the University. The course also seeks to help students develop and apply essential study skills, enhance critical thinking and communication, and explore interests, abilities, and values.

Additionally, as part of students' first-year experience, they will be introduced to campus resources offered by different student service offices at Kutztown University.

### III. Course Objectives:

In addition to identification and application of key concepts of course topics, students will:

- A. Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate and use reference sources and materials necessary for success in a higher education experience. [Gen Ed SLO 5]
- B. Identify a goal and evaluate the process of setting and achieving that goal. [Gen Ed SLO 7]
- C. Practice essential academic skills, including college-level writing, speaking, problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, documentation, and using the university's learning management system.
- D. Identify, analyze, and evaluate ethical issues, with attention to students' own values and those of diverse perspectives
- E. Identify student support services on campus in relation to students' own learning and study preferences to maximize students' success.

### IV. Assessment:

The course assessment will be a subset of projects, short papers, presentations, quizzes, homework, group assignments, participation, and exams (primarily in short answer and/or essay format).

At a minimum, each course will have the following student assessments:

- Attendance and participation
- One or more writing assignments that require setting and achieving a goal and reflecting on that process
- One or more assignments that require students utilize KU library resources
- One or more assignments that require attending a campus event or utilizing a campus resource and reflecting on that experience
- One or more assignments that require reflection or research related to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- A final project or exam

### V. Course Outline:

In addition to subject matter content chosen by the instructor, the following topics will be covered in this class, and student service offices may provide relevant presentations.

Transitioning to College: Tips and Strategies for Success

Academic Success Resources on Campus

Possible areas:

Student Success and Academic Excellence Center

Office of Undergraduate Research

Writing Center  
Disability Services Office

Campus Instructional Technologies

Possible areas:

Email, MyKU, D2L, Book store (Textbook Acquisition)

Campus Library and Information Literacy

Academic Planning such as:

Meeting your advisor

Advisement and course registration

Major requirements

Scheduling advisement meeting

Career Investigation and Planning

Multi-Cultural Understanding and Interpersonal Interactions

Code of Conduct and University Policies

Financial Literacy

Campus Involvement and Connections

VI. Instructional Resources may include but are not limited to:

- LMS (D2L) modules from student service offices that are related to course content
- Articles, Ted Talks, handouts, or other resources regarding college success
- Selected modules from <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-collegesuccess-2/>
- <https://jedfoundation.org/set-to-go/the-transition-for-students/>
- Subject specific learning materials provided by the instructor