

A FIELD GUIDE TO: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE





**"WHAT IS IT YOU PLAN TO DO
WITH YOUR ONE WILD AND
PRECIOUS LIFE?"
-MARY OLIVER**

THE YEAR AHEAD

Use your voice. Choose the choice. Make our house your home.



This guide is meant to help you think about which sections you want to take as part of your First Year Experience (FYE). At Regis, we design your FYE courses with three hopes in mind. We want you to:

Use your voice.

Speak up, speak out, converse, sing: your beautiful voice is a powerful thing. The ability to take our experiences, reflect on them, and then transmit our thoughts to other people is an essential part of what makes us all human. We're here to help you learn how to trust your own voice, and to turn it into a powerful tool to change the world.

Choose the choice.

As a Jesuit Institution, we believe in the power of discernment. Discernment is the ability to listen to what is going on inside of us, to sift through the noise, and pay special attention to what really makes our hearts sing. That's how we learn to consciously connect to what is calling us in the world. After we've made a big choice—like coming to college—it is important to have many opportunities to choose a choice again and anew.

Make our house your home.

First and foremost, we are a community of communities. Belonging to a community is essential to our humanity. We are not born for ourselves alone. We live our lives for and with others, and we learn for and with others. Now and forever, you have a home at Regis, even if it's our job to help you think about the places you go and the communities you'll join in the future. All we ask is that you take the hospitality and care you find here, and share it with others.

So, as you are looking at the descriptions of FYE 200 and 250, we encourage you to imagine yourself entering a broader conversation about things that matter to you.

As you look through the course outcomes and descriptions below, find a section that speaks to you more than others. We invite you to reflect on why you feel called there. This process of discernment will be the first of many decisions that will help you to choose the choice to come to Regis.

WRITING & SPEAKING IN OUR COMMON HOME

FYE 200 (for students with no college-level writing credit)

During the fall semester, most first-year students will take FYE 200.

FYE 200 cultivates critical thinking through reading, writing, speaking, and listening as personal and social practices. This course equips you to join a community of learners in the Jesuit tradition of experience, reflection, and action. This course also introduces you to your advisor and a small community of fellow students – a cohort – that you'll stay with throughout the year. In other words, the same people will be in both your Fall and Spring FYE courses. The sections are small and meet for 75-minute sessions twice a week.

Over the course of the semester, you will:

Develop experience in writing and critical thinking:

- Read, annotate, and analyze a variety of textual sources
- Practice generating ideas and generating constructive feedback on one's own writing and the writing of others
- Select and engage appropriate evidence that responds to a guiding question or problem
- Determine audience and purpose and adapt structure, paragraphing, voice, tone, mechanics, syntax, and style accordingly
- Articulate a unique and authorial voice by adapting your experiences, opinions, feelings, and language to various writing assignments
- Engage in a variety of writing styles (e.g. personal, analytical, and argumentative)

Develop experience in speaking and collaborating

- Listen to, interpret, and respond appropriately to a variety of dialogic experiences
- Practice generating ideas and generating constructive feedback in dialogic communication
- Select appropriate evidence that responds to a guiding question or problem
- Determine audience and purpose and adapt voice, tone, syntax, and style accordingly
- Articulate a unique and authorial voice by adapting your experiences, opinions, feelings, and language to various presentational and interpersonal communication contexts
- Participate in small-group and class discussions and informal presentations

INQUIRY & RESEARCH IN OUR COMMON HOME

FYE 250 (for students with one college-level writing course)

During the spring semester, most first-year year students will take FYE 250.

FYE 250 builds on college-level reading, writing, speaking, and listening as personal and social practices through sustained inquiry and research for the common good. This course equips you to participate fully in a community of learners who are engaged in building a more just and humane world.

Over the course of the semester, you will:

Deepen experience in writing and critical thinking through research writing

- Read, annotate, and analyze a variety of textual sources around a topic of inquiry
- Develop strategies for revising, editing, and proofreading for extensive, in-depth writing projects
- Select and evaluate appropriate sources and evidence that responds to a guiding question or problem
- Determine audience and purpose and adapt structure, paragraphing, voice, tone, mechanics, syntax, and style accordingly
- Using appropriate evidence, as well as experiences, opinions, and feelings, to develop a unique and authorial voice in response to a guiding question or problem
- Complete a full-length research project (15-20 pages of writing)

Deepen experience speaking and collaborating

- Deepen ability to listen to, interpret, and respond appropriately to a variety of dialogic experiences around a topic of inquiry
- Practice generating ideas and generating constructive feedback on your own and others' speaking around a topic of inquiry
- Generate and address counterarguments in response to a guiding question or problem
- Determine audience and purpose and adapt voice, tone, syntax, and style accordingly
- Deepen ability to articulate a unique and authorial voice by adapting your experiences, opinions, feelings, and language to various presentational and interpersonal communication contexts
- Adopt strategies for preparation and performance across several formal speaking situations (presentations, discussion participation, and/or group-work collaboration) for extensive, in-depth, and/or collaborative projects

MAGIS LABS I & II

FYE 201 & 251 (for all first-year and transfer students)

All first-year and transfer students will take Magis Labs I & II.

These courses focus on advising and vocational discernment, as well as college skill-building and an attunement to social justice from an environmental perspective. You will move together as a cohort from FYE 201 to FYE 251, though the instructor might be different. These courses meet for 75-minute sessions once a week on Fridays. Some of those Fridays will be spent in community with your entire first-year class.

Over the course of the semester, you will:

Practice Discernment, self-reflection, and regard for community

- Connect self-awareness about their growth as learners with the question, “How ought we to live?”
- Reflect on the significance of arguments for one’s life and with regard for the larger communities to which we belong

Locate self within an Integral Ecology

- Establish relationality and interdependence in diverse fields or ways of knowing (scientific, cultural, economic, etc.).
- Cultivate an ability to locate oneself within a network of relationships, structures, and systems and to discern the implications of this social/cultural location for one’s vocation and identity

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 1: Social Justice & Community Action (RU: 01, 02, 13)

EnRoute: Community, Voice, Justice

Dr. Sarah Puett

FYE 200 RU01

This seminar explores the connections between academic life at Regis and life in and beyond the city of Denver, weaving in classroom work with weekly service at a Denver program or agency seeking to build community and to promote justice. Our coursework emphasizes qualitative and anecdotal research developed from your participation with a designated community partner. The diverse research and discussion skills you will develop—combined with writing focused on matters of social responsibility and advocacy—will empower you to connect the relationships you build with justice and the common good. By integrating university life with service in the community to which we belong, En/Route offers an alternate pathway through the first-year experience and an invitation into the Jesuit mission of Regis University. This alternate pathway includes your enrollment in a one-credit course, PC 231A: Service and Community-Based Learning.

Note: This section requires weekly participation in community-based learning in the city of Denver, which we work together to set up.

Storytelling for Social Justice

Dr. Alison Castel

FYE 200 RU02

How do social justice and telling stories work together? This semester we will listen to and tell stories, critically examining the ethical considerations around how people speak and are spoken about across a number of genres. We will consider questions such as, in what way can stories be dangerous? How can stories be transformative? As we think, read, and write together, we will critically examine diverse perspectives of global voices who tell their stories to inspire social change, to make claims for justice, and to take moral stands. We will analyze how stories operate in the world; how they inspire social justice, position dominance, marginalization, (in)justice, (im)morality, inclusion and exclusion. In the process we will also come to understand our own voices and locations in the global production of narratives.

Communication for Social Change

Dr. Camilo Perez Quintero

FYE 200 RU13

In the First Year Experience courses, students will focus on developing their writing and speaking skills. This course, in particular, will emphasize the role of communication as a catalyst for social change. Students will explore theories and practices of advocacy, community engagement, and participatory media, examining how effective communication strategies can empower communities and address social injustices.

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 2: Identity & Movement (RU: 03, 08, 09)

Travel & Migration (RU03)

Dr. Erin Nourse

FYE 200 RU03

This course explores stories of travel and migration -- the voluntary, and sometimes involuntary, movement of peoples, animals, and things across our planet. What inspires migration? How does travel, and writing about travel, transform us?

Queer Rhetorics

Dr. Geoffrey Bateman

FYE 200 RU08

What's queer? What's rhetoric? In this course you will explore answers to these questions and learn more about the various ways that LGBTQIA+ writers, artists, public figures, and everyday people use language—and other medium—persuasively to address a range of issues we currently face in our world in relation to sexuality and gender. As you do so, you'll develop your skills as a writer and communicator, entering into critical conversations on topics like coming out, queer history, representation, intersectional activism, and contemporary queer politics. You'll hone your writing skills through narrative, analytical, and persuasive writing, and produce your own podcast.

Echoes of the Diaspora: Writing Migration Through Music & Storytelling

Dr. Wladimir Y. Márquez Jiménez

FYE 200 RU09

Through the diasporic media of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and México, we will examine how music, social media, short films, and other forms of video creation—such as TikTok and Instagram sketches—resist dominant narratives that seek to define Latinx identity. Through close readings, discussions, and creative projects, students will engage with storytelling and music as tools of defiance, examining how the playful echoes of the diaspora reshape our understanding of joy, loss, and belonging.

Note: This section requires that you be fluent in Spanish (including reading and writing) as instruction will take place in Spanish.

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 3: Climate & Survival (RU: 10, 15, 17)

Surviving in a Sci-Fi Universe

Dr. Jim Siebert

FYE 200 RU10

Science fiction, while set in futuristic or speculative worlds, often reflects issues and challenges of our own time. In this course, we'll study iconic sci-fi authors and create our own stories that blend adventure with thought-provoking ideas about technology, society, and humanity's future. Through workshops and peer feedback, you'll hone your writing skills while navigating high-stakes scenarios in complex universes. Prepare to tackle the difficulties of the real world by writing your way through alien landscapes, dystopian societies, and cosmic challenges in science fiction.

Surviving Our Common Home: Staying Human in a Zombie Apocalypse

Dr. Bryan Hall

FYE 200 RU15

Armed only with Jesuit values, ethical theory, and the occasional chainsaw, you and your classmates will try to survive (and perhaps even thrive) in a world overrun by the undead! Will you maintain your moral character (if you ever had one) or will you exclusively pursue your own selfish aims in the absence of any external authority (military, police, etc.)? Students will engage in different forms of writing (analytical, argumentative, and fictional) that will drive the ways they collectively role-play through the zombie apocalypse. This course is not for the faint-of-heart. Enroll only if you dare!

Burned Yet? Climate's Crises

Dr. Frank McGill

FYE 200 RU17

The various facets of the climate crisis present complex challenges to all aspects of life. And while the effects of these related crises reach everyone, they also magnify society's inequities. In this course you will read and write about a range of climate-related issues, from food to energy to community, and we will study and practice ways of telling compelling stories about these challenges and about the people working to meet them.

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 4: Politics & Power (RU: 11, 18)

How Democracies Die

Dr. Ian Zuckerman

FYE 200 RU11

This class examines democratic backsliding, breakdown and collapse. The fall semester surveys how democracies die from a theoretical perspective, and explores case studies of democratic collapse historically and comparatively. The spring investigates what comes after democracies die: we'll look at examples of competitive authoritarianism, oligarchy, illiberal populism and fascism. Both semesters will include discussion of how democracies can fight back, and rebuild themselves after breakdown.

Care for the Whole Person: Disability Rights and the Fight for Inclusion

Dr. Jeanine Coleman

FYE 200 RU18

Do you love a person with a disability? Have you experienced disability yourself or within your family? What does inclusion mean to you? These are some of the questions and topics we will wrestle with in this course. The heart of this course is "Care of the Whole Person" which is a Jesuit value and based on the Latin phrase, cura personalis. By taking this course, you will experience an inclusive classroom environment with a diverse group of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities enrolled in the GLOBAL Inclusive Program. This course may be of interest to students in education, psychology, and peace & justice. Join us in our journey to meaningful inclusion. Space is limited.

Note: This section includes a diverse group of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities enrolled in the GLOBAL Inclusive Program.

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 5: Creativity & Expression (RU: 06, 12, 14)

A Field Guide to Creative Thinking

Dr. Mariana Pereria Vieira

FYE 200 RU06

What is creativity? Is it about being good at drawing or playing an instrument? Or is it something deeper that we can learn and practice? In this course, we'll explore creative thinking as a skill that can be nurtured and developed. Through literature, visual art, film, and music, we'll discover how creative minds work, how to strengthen our own creative muscles, and negotiate failures. We'll break down the myth of the "creative genius" and see how creativity comes from curiosity, practice, and play. Whether you're passionate about the arts, or you simply want to bring creative thinking into your life, this class is for you.

Growing Texts

Dr. Eric Baus

FYE 200 RU12

In this class, we will examine the life cycles of plants and fungi to develop varied strategies for flourishing in our own writing. Using metaphors drawn from botany, we will germinate, root, graft and clone various forms of academic and imaginative writing in order to explore new ways of telling stories and conducting research. The approach of this course is both experiential and experimental, frequently including practices such as meditative walking and sketching from nature in order to feed the writing process.

Word & Place

Dr. Jeff Ogle

FYE 200 RU14

This is a course about words and places, and, in particular, how words may be employed to constitute a specific place at a specific time. At the beginning of the course, we will consider the different kinds of things that words can do: they can represent, they can command or advise, and they can (to some extent) construct social reality. As the course continues, our aim will grow more historical. We will consider how the United States has been constructed in poetic form, especially in the poetry of Walt Whitman. We will also consider the relationship between words and democracy.

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 6: Cultural Studies & Media (RU: 05, 16)

Mexico in Film and Text

Dr. Heider Tun Tun

FYE 200 RU05

Throughout this course, we will analyze films that illuminate pressing issues such as representation, memory, identity, nationalism, and modernity in Mexico. These films serve as a gateway to understanding crucial historical moments, allowing us to explore how they shaped cultural narratives. By the end of the course, you will have the ability to connect key historical films to the social and historical contexts in which they were created. You will also learn to utilize films as primary sources, gaining insight into the distinct differences between Mexican films and those produced in the United States.

Mythologies of the West

Dr. Lauren Hirshberg

FYE 200 RU16

This course explores the history of the US West through its foundational mythologies, including the myth of the frontier and the legacies of conquest. To do so, we will examine mass popular culture, including Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, and film legacies of John Wayne, to uncover how stories of "Cowboys and Indians" historically emerged. This first half of a yearlong course largely focuses on ideas about land in the West and settler colonial and Native American histories. We ask: how have such mythologies of the West come to stand in for a broader imagination of American exceptionalism over time?

FYE 200 COURSES

Theme 7: Spirituality & Humanity (RU: 03, 07)

The Mountains are Calling Gretchen Weber FYE 200 RU03

The mountains have always held a sense of mystery and reverence especially for those who choose to climb them. In this class we will look at why people climb mountains and what our own motivation is to get to the top. Readings from popular mountaineers and naturalists like John Muir and Jon Krakauer have inspired many. Including Eddie Taylor who is a Regis Alumni and part of the first all-black team to summit Everest in 2022. Climbing promotes personal growth in leadership and perseverance, but unfortunately many climbers suffer from addiction and clinical depression. In addition to reading, writing, and learning about climbing, we will also have the opportunity to rope up, learn to belay, and climb as well as summit a 14er mountain. This class is for all skill levels especially for those with a spirit of learning and adventure.

A Culture of Encounter: Meeting Nature in Language & Community Dr. Julia Brumbaugh FYE 200 RU07

What is our human relationship with the living world? This seminar engages the whole person in community with questions about our belonging to each other and to the life of the world. Following the invitation of Pope Francis to explore these relationships with an eye to caring for our common home, we will explore writers, artists, mystics, and gardeners who open up the world.

FYE 250 COURSES

Note: Only for students who have completed one college-level writing course.

Towards Peace on Earth (RU01)

Dr. Russ Arnold

FYE 250 RU01

This course provides opportunity to investigate our interconnected universe through exploration of individual, interpersonal, intergroup, and interspecies work to build and sustain peace. Students may choose to pursue research about peace and nonviolence across the natural sciences (eg. Neuroscience, Biology, etc.), social sciences (eg. Psychology, Sociology, etc.), and humanities (eg. Religious studies, literature, art, etc.).

Dreams for our Comunidad/Community

Dr. Eve Passerini

FYE 250 RU02

How do we turn insight into action, research into solutions, and dreams for our communities into reality? This course empowers you to investigate urgent social and environmental problems—and help solve them. You'll learn to ask powerful questions, gather and interpret facts, and engage in hands-on, community-based research. Centering the voices of those most impacted, you'll explore creative ways to share your research—through storytelling, art, podcasts, policy proposals, etc. By semester's end, you'll not only understand your community's challenges more deeply, but you'll also have the tools and confidence to shape the future you imagine.

The Object of my Obsession

Dr. J'Lyn Chapman

FYE 250 RU03

Students will contemplate, research, and write about 1-3 objects to consider the ways people and things are interdependent; the political, cultural, and economic systems out of which objects are produced; sustainability and resources; and ethical consumption. Students are encouraged to research ordinary objects, objects that are typically meant to be used by humans in some way (e.g. a bar of soap, pair of jeans, fork). Through contemplative practices, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary research, students will cultivate a greater sense of belonging to the world, not as consumers of goods and information, but as beings who cohabitate the world with diverse things.

FYE 250 COURSES

The Idea of a University
Drs. Amy Schreier and Lara Narcisi
FYE 250H RU01 & RU02

As the foundational offering in our honors curriculum, this course opens a dialogue about what constitutes a university education. Through engaging with course readings and class discussions, we invite you to envision a place—your place—in the vast and ever-changing academy of knowledge known as the university. Throughout this semester, we will ask important questions including: What is a university and what ought it to be? What is my place in the university? What should be our highest priorities in the university? If conversation and collaboration are central to academic inquiry, what does this imply about learning and truth? What might it mean to call a university education “higher learning”?

Note: This section requires acceptance into the Honors program.

Check back soon! More sections of FYE 250 to be added.