



Augustana College

FYI 100-05

Introduction to the Liberal Arts

Thursdays @ 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Denkmann Hall 301

Professor Jeff Coussens
jeffcoussens@augustana.edu
(309) 794-7320

Brunner Theatre Center Room 222
Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
9:00 - 11:00 AM

Peer mentor: Clemencia Patino
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Course description

This course is designed to help you as you adjust to life as a (liberal arts) college student. We will meet once a week to discuss strategies for success in your FYI sequence, your other first-year courses, and your broader academic, post-academic and non-academic goals.

Course objectives

These goals relate to three of the nine college-wide learning outcomes that students develop during their time at Augustana. In this course, we will...

1. ...*gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual and cultural activity* by learning about the liberal arts curriculum at Augustana; students will become—and understand what it means to be—an engaged member of a community; students will learn to communicate effectively and professionally. This objective relates to the college-wide learning outcomes of **intellectual curiosity**;
2. ...*develop a clear understanding of, and commitment to, personal values* by exploring your strengths, weaknesses, and goals for the future. This objective relates to the college-wide learning outcomes of **ethical citizenship**; and
3. ...*learn how to find and use resources for answering questions and solving problems* on campus through active ownership of your college experience. This objective relates to the college-wide learning outcome of **creative thinking** and will allow you to solve many issues (mostly) independently that arise while you are on campus.

Throughout the term, we will work toward these broader goals by addressing specific practical matters, such as: strategies for improving time management skills, familiarity with campus resources and policies (Arches, liberal arts core requirements, progress report, etc.), conscientious development of good study techniques, and long-term academic and career planning.

Required texts

No required texts. (Note that this course is separate from FYI-101, so please consult its syllabus for texts that may be required.)

Evaluation

Attendance and participation (5)	10%	Learning perspectives presentation	15%
Homework (6)	60%	Final reflection	15%

Grading scale

A	93	C+	77
A-	90	C	73
		C-	70
B+	87	D	60
B	83	F	0
B-	80		

Listed for each letter grade is the minimum threshold.

Code of conduct

Learning of any kind is best achieved in a comfortable, open environment; such is accomplished by respecting each other and the instructor. This means listening while others are talking and never ridiculing another's viewpoint (understand, however, that challenging and questioning are not forms of ridicule). Profanity, obscenities and other actions or speech deemed inappropriate for the classroom will not be tolerated. The student will be asked to leave class for the day if such instances occur and will be counted as absent (unexcused).

Course requirements

All out of class written work must conform to the following guidelines for full credit:

1. Name, date and title
2. 12-point Times New Roman font
3. Double-spaced
4. 1-inch margins
5. Multiple pages must be stapled

Participation

Consult Moodle for complete details with respect to the calculation of participation. Participation includes coming to class prepared (having read what is required, completed the assigned activities, studied the material, etc.), volunteering to speak, asking for help when needed, and maintaining a positive and supportive attitude towards your classmates.

Homework

There are six assignments designed to help you in your other courses, as well as your career as a student at a liberal arts college in general. Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided on Moodle. The rubric for these assignments is holistic, and grading will be determined as follows (out of 10 points):

- 9, 10: exceeds expectations
- 8: meets expectations
- 7: adequate work
- 6: needs improvement
- 5: unacceptable quality
- ≤ 4: failure to complete assignment

Attendance and make up policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Missing two classes (28%) is grounds for failing the course. If you have an anticipated and/or excused absence (college-affiliated event, class requirement, religious observance, medical/family emergency) please let me know as soon as possible prior to the absence so that we may arrange for you to make up the work. For an absence to be considered excused, you must notify me either before the absence or within 24 hours after the missed class; you have maximally two (2) class days after you return to provide me with appropriate documentation of the absence if you wish to have it excused and five (5) business days within which to make up the corresponding assignment. If you know that you are going to be absent on a day when homework is due, you must turn in the homework before the absence. Keeping yourself up to date with the material is your responsibility.

Three class periods will be held in Wallenberg hall. Attendance will be taken on those dates as well.

Unexcused late work will not be accepted; no exceptions. Please hand in assignments early or leave them with a classmate if you have an expected absence.

Note that these policies fall within Augustana's attendance guidelines.

Tardiness

This class begins promptly at the designated time; you are expected to arrive punctually. Two (2) late arrivals constitute one (1) unexcused absence. Time lost on in-class work due to tardiness will not be recoverable.

Extra credit

This course offers *no* personal extra credit (at the end of the term or otherwise). Please do not email me at the last minute asking for opportunities to raise your grade. The grade at the end of the course is indicative of the grade *earned* based on effort throughout the duration of the term. Any effort that you would place in extra credit at the end of the semester should be expended on your assigned work.

Email

Email is the best way to contact me. However, I would expect as much respect in an electronic correspondence as you should in return. This implies a proper greeting, a proper closing, professional use of language ("u," "thx," etc., are not acceptable), advanced notice if the issue requires such, understanding if the response is not immediate (especially during the weekends; email is not an instant messenger) and following general etiquette guidelines.

You are required by the college to send email to me from your @augustana.edu account; I will, in turn, do the same. Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.

I will not respond to emails the night before a significant graded assignment is due, as I am available during office hours and via email, and all important dates are included on the syllabus from the first day of the semester. As a rule, please check your email nightly for possible announcements.

Grades

Grades will be maintained on Moodle; please check them regularly and keep any papers returned to safeguard against typos and other errors. I do my best to keep grades as up-to-date as possible; however, please understand that it normally takes me between one and two weeks to grade items. You should expect timely feedback on assignments as much as I should expect your absolute best effort on those assignments.

Miscellanea

Cell phones, iPods and other personal electronic devices (including laptops) may not be used during class unless specifically requested by the instructor. Please silence or turn them off (i.e., not on vibrate) prior to class. Any student caught using (this includes texting) such devices during class will be asked to put them away; consider this first instance a warning. Additional and/or frequent episodes may lead to the student being asked to leave class every time it occurs, resulting in unexcused absences for those days. For emergencies in which the use of a cell phone during class is required (known family emergency, expecting a reasonably important call), please see me before class begins.

Do not leave class for extended periods of time. Excluding emergencies or previously discussed issues, constantly exiting during the middle of class will result in unexcused absences.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

All students are required to abide by the principles of academic integrity that are articulated in the Honor Code of Augustana College. Every member of the Augustana community has the obligation to report violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Council. To view the Honor Code, including links to definitions of and statements on infractions, the Honor Pledge and composition of the Honor Council, and reporting forms, visit <https://www.augustana.edu/academics/honor-code>.

Access and accommodations

Augustana College is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me.

If you have a disability or think you may have a disability, please set up a meeting with a support staff member from the Office of Disability Services (ODS). You can also submit a confidential request for accommodations through the Office of Disability Services by submitting the Accommodations Request Form: <https://augustana.formstack.com/forms/accommodations>.

If you have already been approved for accommodations through the Office of Disability Services, connect with me about how I can help support your learning needs.

You can find more information about accommodations, including contact information, by visiting the Office of Disability Services website:

<https://www.augustana.edu/student-life/residential-life/disability-services>.

Institutional statement on basic needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing enough food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students (Dr. Wes Brooks, deanofstudentsoffice@augustana.edu) for support.

Institutional policies against discrimination and harassment

Augustana College and its employees are committed to “provid[ing] an environment free from discrimination based upon race, color, religion, national origin, service in the uniformed service (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities operated by the College.” (*Faculty Handbook*, §10.3, p. 100)

Name and pronoun preference

Please inform the instructor at your earliest convenience if you prefer a name and/or pronoun reference that differs from the legal information provided.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Before class	In class
1 Introductions		Familiarize yourself with Moodle . Look for FYI 100 under “My Courses.”	Introductions to each other and the course

Week	Date	Before class	In class
2 How can I make, improve and follow a plan?		Read: The Now Habit excerpts Read: Mindset excerpts Complete Syllabus Review and Reverse Calendar assignment	Due: Syllabus Review and reverse calendar Goals and plans

Week	Date	Before class	In class
3 How can I stay on track to graduate?			Advising Presentation in Wallenberg Hall; sit with your classmates

Week	Date	Before class	In class
4 What does this campus offer outside of class?		Familiarize yourself with campus buildings/offices, student groups, extracurricular activities Prepare Campus resources pres.	Due: Campus resources Mini-presentations

Week	Date	Before class	In class
5			Explore with CORE Part I in Wallenberg Hall; sit with your classmates

Week	Date	Before class	In class
6 How should I think about successes and failures?		Read: <i>What if the Secret to Success is Failure?</i> Prepare for discussion by bringing to class an example of one success and one failure from this year	Due: Successes and Failures

Week	Date	Before class	In class
7			Explore with CORE Part II in Wallenberg Hall; sit with your classmates