

# Refreshing Your First-Year Seminar Course Curriculum

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NODA Region IV *Get Connected* Virtual Session

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# Overview

I. Introductions

II. What We Know about First-Year Seminars (FYS)

III. A Dialogue on Staying Refreshed in Our Curriculum

IV. Moving Forward

# Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in this *Get Connected* virtual session, participants will:

- Define a first-year seminar course.
- Describe at least 2 benefits of student participation in a first-year seminar course.
- Identify at least 1 new element to add to their course curriculum to refresh their first-year seminar course.

# Introductions

- Name
- Institution
- Experience in teaching FYS
- A little about your FYS program:
  - Mandatory/optional
  - Graded/pass-fail
  - Length of course (8, 10, 12, 16 weeks)
  - Anything else you want to add!
- Brett L. Bruner, Ed.D. – Fort Hays State University
  - FYS instructor for 10 years at 2 institutions
  - FYS departmental chair
- UNIV 101 @ FHSU
  - Mandatory for all FY students who have graduated high school within the past 12 months
  - Graded (A-D/U), 16 weeks
  - 40 sections: 23 open; 16 LC; 1 Honors
  - Textbook → OER

# Introductions

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# What We Know About FYS

- **FYS**: “a course intended to enhance the academic and/or social integration of first-year students by introducing them to:
  - A variety of specific topics, which vary by seminar type;
  - Essential skills for college success; and
  - Selected processes, the most common which is the creation of a peer support group”

(Barefoot, 1992, p. 49)

# What We Know About FYS

- Originally introduced in the 1880s
- Gained popularity from 1980s forward
- Common tool to support transition of students
- Barefoot's (1992) typology of FYS:
  - Extended orientation courses
  - Academic seminars with uniform content across all sections
  - Academic seminars with content that varies across sections
  - Preprofessional, discipline-linked, or major-specific courses
  - Focus on basic study skills



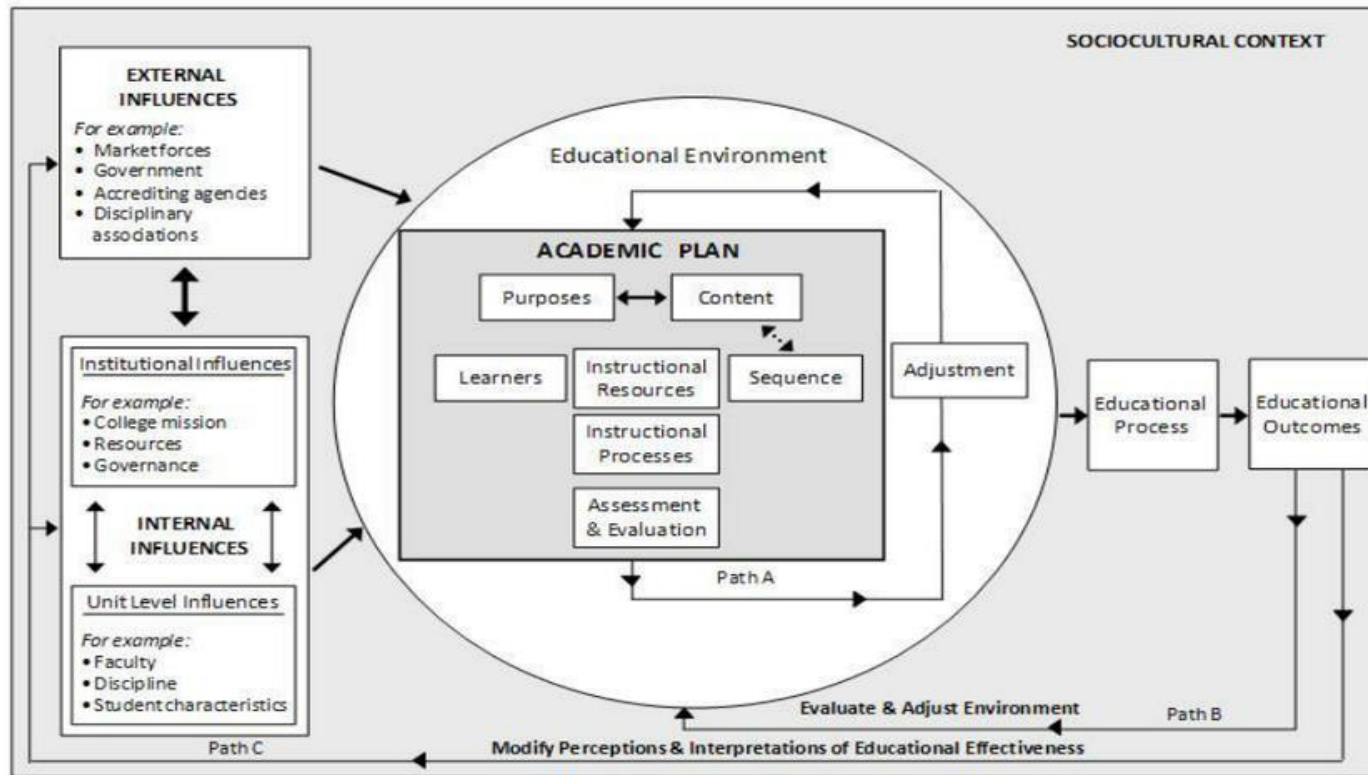
# What We Know About FYS

- Benefits of student participation (Greenfield, Keup, & Gardner, 2013):
  - Persistence to the second year
  - GPA
  - Satisfaction with faculty, peers, & institution
  - Use of campus services
  - Faculty interaction
  - Academic, interpersonal, & communication skills





# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum



(Lattuca & Stark, 2009)

# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum

- Think about your FYS program and its curriculum.
  - What are the strengths?
  - What are the challenges?
  - What innovative ideas will you have to share with your colleagues today?

# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum

- How do you set your FYS program up for success from Day 1 (and possibly Day 0)?
  - What connection does your FYS program have with your Fall Orientation Weekend/Welcome Week(s)?
  - How do you use Day 1 of FYS as a teaching & learning experience for students?

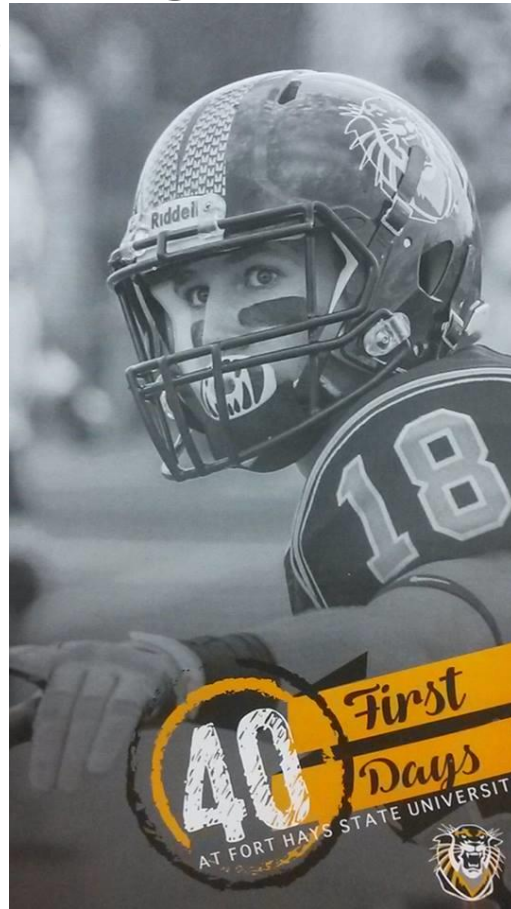

*tiger*  
**IMPACT**

# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum

- How do you discuss the following elements in your FYS program through assignments, activities, etc.?
  - Careers → exploration & development?
  - Money and/or time management?
  - Sex, drugs, alcohol, & healthy behaviors?
  - Technology?

# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum

- How do you integrate the co-curriculum with the FYS curriculum?

## TigerTracks

TigerEnroll

Welcome Jackie

[Success Plan](#)
[Worksheet](#)
[Enrollment Holds](#)
[Pre-Enroll/Schedule Changes](#)
[Advisor Approval](#)
[Enrollment/Payment](#)

College is a big deal. Four years of time; countless hours in class and studying; dollars spent on tuition, books, and housing. It is possible for all students to succeed at Fort Hays State University, particularly when you take advantage of the resources available to you. Get ahead by creating a plan to give yourself ACCESS to Success: Advising, Connections, Circle of Support, Education, and Sense of Self.

### ACCESS Success Plan

Remember to click on the Save Changes button to retain updates to the ACCESS Success Plan. [Save Changes](#)

#### Advising

Every FHSU student has been assigned an academic advisor (two if you are a double-major). An advisor is a faculty member or trained professional with whom you have the opportunity to meet and talk one-on-one about your academic program and your career/life goals - but you need to take the initiative. Your advisor will be assigned to you by September 1 (fall) or February 1 (spring). Learn your advisor's name and contact information. This can be found in TigerTracks (right hand corner at [www.fhsu.edu](http://www.fhsu.edu)), under Online Services. Your advisor(s) will inform you of his or her office hours for each semester.

##### My Advisor(s)

Your advisor will be assigned to you by September 1 (fall) or February 1 (spring). Learn your advisor's name and contact information. Your advisor(s) will inform you of his or her office hours for each semester.

Major	Advisor	Office Location	Phone	Email
Political Science	Mills, Shala	RH 356	(785) 628-4425	<a href="mailto:samills2@fhsu.edu">samills2@fhsu.edu</a>

#### Meeting Schedule

	Fall 2013	Spring 2013
Initial 3-Week Appointment ?	8/28/2013 4:00:00 PM	
Mid-term Meeting ?	10/14/2013 2:00:00 PM	
Pre-enrollment Discussion ?		

#### Connections

#### Circle of Support

#### Education

#### Sense of Self

# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum

- How do you embed summative assessment to help students make meaning of their learning experiences throughout the course?

## Understanding Your New Beginnings

High School is finished and your Fort Hays State University story begins –students look at this achievement as a feather in their cap and a stepping stone to greater glory.

For some students, college offers the chance to start over; for others, the chance to build on the successes of the past. But for all, it entails the realization that the benefits of childhood are coming to an end. It is now the time for the “responsibilities of adulthood.”

Take a few moments to thoughtfully consider the following question: What lies ahead – happiness, sadness, freedom, laughter, pain, peace, anger, good, evil, hope, fear, friends, enemies? Maybe what lies ahead of you is all of these.

No matter how you answer the question above, remember who you are and who/what you desire to represent.

*For this assignment, take time to thoughtfully consider your answers. You should have at least 1 paragraph for each of the 3 sections listed below (however, there's no maximum to the number of paragraphs you can have for each section). Papers should be 12 point font, 1 inch margins, typed, double-spaced.*

1. Describe three things that you are excited about leaving behind from your high school experience.
2. Describe three things that you are most looking forward to about starting at Fort Hays State University.
3. Describe three things you are somewhat fearful of about starting at Fort Hays State University.

Due: **Wednesday, Sept. 6** – start of class

# Staying Refreshed in Our FYS Curriculum

- How do you engage locally to keep your FYS refreshed?
  - With peers?
  - With faculty/instructor colleagues?
- What are your first-year students saying that you can add to the FYS course curriculum?



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