



Discovery + Connection

FYE + SYE

Meaningful Belonging + Leadership

COURSE INFORMATION

FYE 100 S35

Tuesday, 11:50am-12:40pm

Knowlton, Rm. 106

FYE INSTRUCTOR

Name: Katie Adkins, MAEd

Director, Choose Ohio First STEM Scholars Program

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Office Hours: ***By Appointment*** ([schedule through link](#))

PEER LEADER

Name: Ajia Cook

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Connect on GroupMe

Mission Statement

Our First Year Experience students will engage in a welcoming community that values academic curiosity and success; meaningful campus connections and a sense of belonging; holistic well-being; personal exploration; and leadership development.

Course Description

The First Year Experience is designed to assist students through their process of transitioning into university life at Baldwin Wallace (BW). At BW, your academic and co-curricular experiences will set the foundation for life-long learning. During this time, you will become an engaged student striving for personal and professional excellence. This class will help you do that.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course:

- Students will learn interpersonal skills to engage with and connect to their peers.
- Students will gain skills for academic success.
- Students will explore a sense of belonging & commitment to the community.

Grading: 100 Points Total

- Attendance and Participation: **40 points**
- Meet 1:1 with FYE Course Instructor: **10 points**
- Meet 1:1 with Peer Leader: **10 points**
 - *Each student will meet with their Peer Leader outside of class **at least once** during the semester*
- End of Semester Reflection: **20 points**
 - *(Part 1 – 5 points & Part 2 – 15 Points)*
- Student Planning/Academic Advising Reflection: **10 points**
- Getting Connected with BW and Beyond: **10 points**

Assignments

Getting Connected with BW and Beyond (10 Points)

A college experience has many elements. There are important academic pursuits, but there are also engaging co-curricular opportunities. You are not individually experiencing college, but you are doing so as part of a larger community! This 'assignment' requires you to explore BW, Berea, and the local area and allows you to try various co-curricular opportunities that BW and the community has to offer.

You will participate and/or go to 5 different activities early in the semester. We will discuss ideas in class. You will submit a selfie and brief reflection on CANVAS. Be prepared to share in class what you experienced and learned.

Of the 5 events please include:

- **1 academic experience**
 - o a non-class lecture, academic club, CASA service, attending office hours with prof., etc.
- **1 co-curricular experience**
 - o student organization, athletic event, performance, etc.
- **1 in a study group and/or in your favorite study location on campus**

EXTRA CREDIT:

+ 1 extra point for attending with someone else

+ 1 extra point if you attend with someone from our FYE Class

The other person/people must be included in your photo evidence!

Student Planning and Academic Advising Reflection (10 Points)

In class, you will learn how to create a **first-year student resume**. This is a helpful document to craft in your first year that can be reviewed with your academic advisor, used to apply for student leadership positions or scholarships, as well as apply for on-campus or internship positions. Support is available from the FYE instructor to review your resume.

In addition, in class, you will learn more about the **Student Planning Tool** to schedule your spring semester classes, as well as, prepare for your advising appointment with your assigned academic advisor. **You will complete a worksheet to prepare for your appointment with your academic advisor. Following advising and registration, you will submit this worksheet in CANVAS.**

End of Semester Reflection: Parts 1 & 2 (20 Points)

Part 1: FYE PhotoVoice Project is a participatory research method in which individuals capture and submit images and text to reflect one's experience. Each first-year student will **select an image** they have taken that best shows how they have CONNECTED in their first semester at Baldwin Wallace. A brief description of the image and how it represents connection will be submitted.

Additional information and guidelines will be discussed in class and posted in CANVAS. There will also be an opportunity to submit the image and text for possible display at OVATION in April 2025.

Part 2: Information will be shared on this assignment a few weeks into the semester and instructions will be found in CANVAS.

Attendance & Participation (40 Points)

Because we only meet once a week, your attendance and participation during class time is essential. You are expected to come to class with readiness and willingness to **engage with your peers**. Class participation is an important component of the learning process. Students should complete pre-work and assignments and have thought/reflected on them before class.

Missing more than 1 class will result in a meeting with the instructor and excessive absences will result in missed participation points and impact your overall course grade. **After 1 missed class, an unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction in your final grade.**

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor & peer leader of an absence via email, to get any updates about the course schedule and/or get assignment materials. Communication is key – please communicate with any expected or unexpected absences to find out what was missed and to make up for the absence.

Late Penalties

Late assignments **will not be accepted** unless prior approval has been granted.

Course Policies: Technology and Communication

CANVAS: This course will utilize CANVAS for detailed assignment information, general notifications, email communication and a calendar of events. Thus, you should regularly check the site for updates.

E-mail: You are expected to check and use your BW email regularly. This is the primary method of communication from your FYE instructor, Peer Leader, and the University.

Electronic Devices: Bring your laptops or tablets to class each day to participate in activities. Please keep devices stored away until required. If you need to use your phone (for an emergency) please be respectful to the class and take it outside. **Earphones/AirPods must be removed /stored during class.**

Grading Scale:

A+: 98-100%	A: 94-97%	A-: 90-93%	B+: 88-89%
B: 84-87%	B-: 80-83%	C+: 78-79%	C: 74-77%
C-: 70-73%	D+: 68-69%	D: 64-67%	D-: 60-63%

Failure: 59% and below

University Policies

Go to CANVAS for a direct link to all applicable policies, including Academic Integrity, Disabilities Services, Sexual Misconduct reporting & instructional response to COVID-19.

Proposed Course Calendar

Below is a tentative schedule for topics and due dates. This **may shift and change** depending on the needs of the class. I will do my best to notify you of any changes; mostly those are communicated DURING class.

Week	Topic	Notable Dates	Assignments
Friday, August 2	Week of Welcome: FYE Kick Off		
Week 1 Aug 30	Building a FYE Class Community	Convocation Celebration August 29, 11:00 Strosacker Union & Grand Walkway Involvement Fair August 29, 5:00-7:00 PM Grand Walkway	Begin Connecting to BW assignment Submit “10 Things You Should Know About Me” to CANVAS by Wednesday, Sept. 4
Week 2 Sept 6	Successfully Transitioning to College Syllabi Day!	Monday No Classes and University Closed for LABOR DAY	Bring (physically or electronically all your course syllabi to class) + Pens/Markers (color coding) Schedule your check in with FYE Peer Leader: Ajia Connecting to BW Activity #1 Due
Week 3 Sept 13	Supporting YOU in your Academic Success: led by CASA MEET IN CASA: Top Floor of Ritter Library		
Week 4 Sept 20	Exploring Leadership & True Colors Leadership Styles & Study Skills		Connecting to BW Activity #2 Due
Week 5 Sept 27	Exploring Identity Introduction to Resumes	Study Abroad Fair September 24, 11:00-12:30 Union Bold & Gold Weekend: Celebration of the BW Family September 27 - 28	
Week 6 Oct 4	Introducing Dialogue Across Difference Begin Discussing Student Planning Tool & Academic Policies		Connecting to BW Activity #3 Due Schedule your check in with FYE Instructor: Katie
Week 7 Oct 11	Mid-Semester Check-In Brief engagement with Ritter Library MEET IN RITTER LIBRARY		

Week 8 Oct 18	Creating your Academic Plan: led by Academic Advising and Registration MEET IN SANDSTONE 3 UNION		Last Week to Meet with FYE Peer Leader: Ajia Connecting to BW Activity #4 Due
Week 9 Oct 25	NO CLASS	Monday/Tuesday No Classes for FALL BREAK	
Week 10 Nov 1	Follow-Up from Creating your Academic Plan Session		Getting Ready for Course Registration Due Connecting to BW Activity #5 Due
Week 11 Nov 8	Preparing for Finals & PathwayU		
Week 12 Nov 15	Exploring Values and Life Worth Living		
Week 13 Nov 22	Exploring Values and Life Worth Living		
Week 14 Nov 29	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	W/TH/F No Classes and University Closed for THANKSGIVING	End of Semester Reflection: Part 1 Due
Week 15 Dec 6	Dialogue Across Difference	Late Night Breakfast for all students December 4, 8:00-11:00 PM Union Dining Hall	End of Semester Reflection: Part 2 Due Last Week to Meet with FYE Instructor: Katie
Finals Week MONDAY Dec 9	Finals Week: Wrapping up our Semester Together Final Projects & Survey	Look at Exam Schedule for all Finals in other courses: https://www.bw.edu/assets/registration-records/2024-25-final-exam-schedule.pdf	