



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

Your!

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

WELCOME TO SUNY OLD WESTBURY

WHAT IS THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM?

The mission of the First-Year Experience Program (FYE) is to provide first-year students a supportive environment, rigorous curriculum and enriching educational experiences that foster their personal growth and active engagement in Old Westbury's richly diverse learning community.

Our goal is to promote academic success, college persistence and classroom and community engagement, by helping first-year students to become intentional learners and develop the intellectual, civic and study skills required to tackle the challenges of college learning and campus living in a multi-cultural environment -- critical thinking, problem-solving, time-management, teamwork, financial literacy and self-reflection. The FYE provides advising, mentoring, workshops, speakers, trips and an innovative year-long curriculum that includes a common First-Year Seminar, FY1000 The Ethics of Engagement: Educating Leaders for a Just World and CL2000 Civic Engagement, a course-embedded community-based learning and action experience for all first-year students. Both fall and spring seminars are linked to General Education courses in Learning Communities.

A **Learning Community** is two "linked" courses that share common academic goals, satisfy general education requirements, foster interdisciplinary instruction and share the same cohort of students.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Read this information package and the course descriptions.
- Reply to the student orientation survey you received via your Old Westbury (OW) email.
- Further details regarding your first year and your course schedule will be discussed at your New Student Orientation (NSO) session.
- Please email FirstYear@oldwestbury.edu if you have any questions.

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM (REQUIRED FALL SEMESTER)

FY1000 Ethics of Engagement 4 cr. This course introduces students to academic and campus life at Old Westbury, emphasizing the themes of self-discovery, the meaning of a liberal education, the relationship of the individual to society and the nature of values and of personal and social responsibility. By situating the major intellectual and emotional challenges students confront in their first year of college within the framework of ethics, the course encourages students to evaluate their ideas and assumptions, and the impact of their decisions on themselves, their community and the world. Organized around a series of ever-widening concentric circles, the course moves from a discussion of the role of ethics in individual life, to ethics in personal relationships, to ethics in the Old Westbury community and culminates in the quest for social justice and sustainability in the American and global context. In the process, students are challenged to consider multiple perspectives and to reflect upon their identities, values and aspirations within the larger common good. The course fosters critical thinking and the effective articulation of ideas by introducing students to the close reading of texts and the writing of substantive analytical essays that are the basis of most college learning. Students will also be expected to write weekly reflective journals and to produce a final project. FY1000 is “linked” to a General Education course in a Learning Community.

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM (REQUIRED SPRING SEMESTER)

CL2000 Community, Action, Learning and Leadership 2cr. Integrates community-based learning and action into the first-year curriculum, challenging students to confront the big questions facing the world today by participating in and reflecting upon civic engagement activities. By engaging students both personally and intellectually at the very beginning of their academic journey in structured service-learning activities and reflective projects, this course introduces students to Old Westbury’s social justice mission and encourages their college and community involvement. The goal of this class is to encourage active learning, to promote intercultural understanding, and to build academic, interpersonal, organizational and leadership skills. Students will participate in a 40-50 hour service-learning placement, based upon particular seminar and linked course content and objectives. Students may be expected to attend mandatory workshops and campus events. CL2000 is linked to a general education class in a Learning Community.

FIRST-YEAR LINKED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HON= Accepted Honors College Students Only

AS1152 Themes in U.S. History 4 cr. The course is an introduction to major issues in the history of the United States, from colonial times to the twentieth century. Topics may include: the origins of slavery and racism; industrialization and the growth of cities and suburbs; the growth of the American empire; movements for social change.

AS1512 Introduction to Women's Studies 4 cr. Explores the development of women's lives, from childhood through adolescence to maturity. Focuses on the family, school, sexuality, and career options, and how these experiences and choices are affected by race, class, religion, ethnic origin, and gender. Readings include fiction, autobiography, history, and social science.

AS2122 American People II 4 cr. History of the American people, from 1877 to present. Topics include: Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution and the growth of the corporation, the creation of the working class, World Wars and American expansion, Progressivism, the Depression and the New Deal, the rise of industrial unionism, the Cold War, and Civil Rights Movement. Novels and films supplement more traditional texts.

AS2020BLI New Media 4 cr. Professional journalists are competing with a new type of amateur reporter: citizen journalists. Equipped with digital cameras and the recorders these reporters cover their own communities posting multi-media content online. This source is an introduction to projects. This course is an introduction to citizen journalism, Students collaborate in the creation of community based new media.

AS2252 U.S. Social Movements 4 cr. This course explores the causal conditions, nature, and impact of progressive social movements in America. Varying sets of activist biographies and social movement histories related either by period or theme will be selected for study. Possible topics include the abolition, temperance, feminist, peace, labor, civil rights, reproductive rights, and environmental movements.

AS2262 HON African American History I 4 cr. A comparative history of the African American experience, the origins in Africa, the slave trade, plantation slavery and the Civil War. Offered every year. This course examines the experiences of African Americans in the development of America from the Trans-Atlantic slave trade through the Civil War. Topics include plantation slavery, politics, economics, cultural production, gender, and intellectual pursuits. Emphasis on major movements and figures as well as ordinary individuals.

BS2400 HON Basic Biology I 3 cr. and BS2401 HON Basic Biology Lab I 1 cr. Freshman biology lecture course sequence covering basic instruction in the current concepts of biological organization and function. The topics considered include: introduction to the chemistry of life, cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, cellular and organismic cellular and organismic reproduction, comparative anatomy and the physiology of selected organ systems with emphasis on humans. Laboratory course sequence designed to illustrate concepts taught in the BS2400-2410 lecture course sequence. Emphasis on

application of the scientific method, and the development of data analytical, quantitative reasoning, and scientific writing communication skills

CP2120 HON Principles of Chemistry I 3 cr. and CP2121 HON Principles of Chemistry Lab I 1 cr.

Introduction to the origins and principles of modern chemistry. Discussion of atomic and molecular structure, stoichiometry, periodicity, bonding and states of matter. Principles are illustrated through demonstrations and study of descriptive chemistry. Laboratory course designed to illustrate concepts of principles of Chemistry I. Emphasis on basic chemical concepts, quantitative laboratory skills, descriptive chemistry, and accurate reporting of results. Three laboratory hours per week.

CR1500 Introduction to Criminology 4 cr. This course will provide students with an introduction to the social scientific study of crime. Students will explore quantitative and qualitative evidence concerning various types of crime (e.g. murder, robbery, rape, domestic violence, child abuse, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, organized crime, international crime, and white collar crime). Also, they will explore crime statistics concerning the demographic dimensions of crime (i.e. age, race, sex, and class). Students will be provided with a brief introduction to biological, psychological, and sociological explanations of crime, and learn to compare social science and media representations of crime and criminals. Finally, students will learn to assess conservative, liberal and radical explanations of historical crime trends, and to examine the impact of the criminal justice system (i.e. police, courts, corrections) on rates of crime.

ED2000 Contemporary Issues in the Lives of Children and Families 4 cr. In this course students will explore a variety of current issues that influence the lives of children and families in the United States. This will be done from an interdisciplinary perspective that examines the impact of culture, ethnicity, gender, history, values, religion, and economics upon the lives of children and families.

HI1010 World Religions West 4 cr. This course provides an introduction to the three major religions that share a common belief in the God of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will look at the history, beliefs, and practices of each religion separately, but also at the ways they have interacted. These interactions—sometimes peaceful and creative; sometimes violent—have been a major shaping force in Western civilization, from the development and transmission of Greek philosophy through the Crusades, the Holocaust and the ongoing definition of “Western values.” Study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam leads to a deepened understanding of principles of theology and ethics, as well as current issues in religious and community life.

HI1020 World Religions East 4 cr. It is often said that what is needed in modern life is more “spirituality”—a balance of inward and outward awareness that is often associated with eastern religions. But what do these traditions really mean for people who practice them? This course provides an introduction to the major belief systems and practices of eastern and southern Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shintoism. We will look at the evolution of each of these religions, considering the ways they have inspired individuals and shaped civilizations through cosmology, ritual, literature and art. We will also look at the ways that these traditions influence societies, including our own that are far from the religions’ places of origin.

MA2050 Quantitative Decision Making 4 cr. This course was designed for general education, and is intended to improve the quantitative skills that you need in real life, regardless of major. MA2050 provides essential skills the factor math into everyday life. Quantitative methods can be used for calculating restaurant tips, understanding interest rates and what the world population means. Applications to real-life problems are explored, as well as decision tools for individuals and society. Music, the arts and their relationship to math will be explored as well as understanding how math helps the mind to reason. Topics include advertising, numbers in the news, personal behavior, health and medicine, and the environment.

MD1000 Music of Global Cultures I 4 cr. An introductory course focused on understanding and exploring the meaning and art of traditional and popular music and global cultures. This course presents music from diverse cultures examining historical perspectives and their impact on society. Students will be introduced to basic rhythms, melodies and harmonies. Cultures on focus include introduction to the music of Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Course will include review of videos, films and recordings, and may include one field trip outside of regular class time to attend a live concert.

MD2350 Acting 4 cr. The course will introduce acting as an intellectual and emotional process, giving each its due while at the same time respecting Theatre as Show Biz. We start with the premise that the foundation of acting comes from the spontaneous interaction of the actor with him or herself, other actors, the audience, and the script. Therefore, we will work with improvisation, games and then apply them to the script to enhance the script's thematic intentions. We will examine scenes to understand their structure and the meaning and then build layers of emotion into them from the actor's experience and the rehearsal experience. The course will culminate in a performance.

ML1110 Spanish 2 4 cr. Communication skills in standard Spanish are stressed with particular emphasis placed on speaking and aural comprehension. Not appropriate for students with a background in spoken Spanish

ML2550 HON Intro to Hispanic Culture 4 cr. Taught in English. Broadly speaking "Hispanism" encompasses the study of the presence and the influence Hispanic cultures have had both among their national homelands and within the global community. More specifically, in recent years, scholars have sought a means of instituting Hispanism within the Academy in the United States in hopes of discovering the effect that such models as colonialism, national formation and modernity have had on Hispanic identities in the postcolonial discourse. In this course, intended for all students interested in Hispanic cultures, students will examine the effect these social models have had on the everyday life and values of various sectors of society including workers, women and indigenous communities, and how these values are reflected through language, literature, film, food, and popular media.

PE2430 Principles of Macroeconomics 4 cr. An introduction to conventional macroeconomic theory, including the determination of national income, government taxing and spending policy, money and banking, unemployment, and inflation.

PE2650 Introduction to U.S. Politics 4 cr. This introduction to power and politics in the U.S. explores the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; public opinion, interest groups, social

movements, and voting; the institutions of Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court; and the making of current policies. Emphasis is placed on issues of power, democracy, and political and social change.

PY2010 Introduction to Psychology 4 cr. A prerequisite to all other psychology courses. Based on methods and data of scientific psychology, this course investigates basic principles of behavior. The socio-cultural context in which humans develop is emphasized throughout. Areas of psychology to be covered include neurophysiology, cognition, learning, developmental, social, personality, and abnormal.

PY2340 Community Psychology 4 cr. This course focuses on the application of community psychology action research practices and community psychology constructs to the development and provision of resources and services necessary to well-functioning communities capable of meeting the basic, medical, mental health, safety and welfare needs of all of its members. The impact of structural inequalities, political and social organization, social class, culture, ethnicity, race, gender and ability are central concerns of the course. Students are required to visit/research local and regional community based resources and agencies, develop a written protocol for a prevention or promotion program which could be realized based on the principles studied in the course. Relevant Community Psychology concepts are assessed through a series of written exercises and activities.

SY1500 Introductory Sociology 4 cr. Introduces basic concepts and perspectives in sociology. Such major social institutions as the family, education, politics, law, media, and religion are examined, together with such social processes as socialization, social change, social control, and social stratification. In addition, the course surveys some of the research methods and social theories in sociology. Designed as a general interest and general education course.

VA2000 Introduction to Arts 4 cr. Studio course designed to introduce first-year students to exercises that challenge their assumptions of the creative process. This course will begin to provide students with the basic visual and verbal vocabulary to proceed to the next level in the Visual Arts curriculum. The exercises will be completed using both, the fundamentals of basic art techniques such as drawing, painting, modeling and fabricating, and references from contemporary art currents.

VA2010 Introduction to Creative Thinking 4 cr. A must for students considering careers in advertising, publishing, communications or any other discipline regarding creative visual solutions. Students solve exercises designed to challenge the way we perceive reality through conditioning and stereotypes. A variety of skills are developed at the beginner's level. The objective is to develop in the students the skills to make creative visual statements avoiding conventional thinking. Required for Art majors.

“SAMPLE” FIRST YEAR PLAN OF STUDY

FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

<u>Sample Schedule for Fall Semester</u>			<u>Sample Schedule for Spring Semester</u>		
Course#	Course Name		Course#	Course Name	
*FY1000	Ethics of Engagement	4 cr.	*CL2000	Community Learning	2 cr.
*000000	Linked General Education	4 cr.	*000000	Linked General Education	4 cr.
EL1000	English Comp. I	4 cr.	EL2XXXX	English Comp. II	4 cr.
MAXXXX	Math Selection	4 cr.	MAXXXX	Math Selection	4 cr.
			XX0000	Elective Selection	4 cr.
Total Credits:		16 cr.	Total Credits:		18 cr.

* These classes are “linked” together in a Learning Community. Students have over 25 Linked General Education courses to choose from (see list on pages 4-7).

Please note: All students, regardless of major, must complete Liberal Education Curriculum (LEC) that includes a Diversity course, Math and Writing Proficiencies, and all the General Education domains which parallels to SUNY General Education.

CONTACTS

The First-Year Experience Program is in the Student Union building.

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The Academic Advisors are in the New Academic Building (NAB).

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CONTACTS

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) advisors are in the Campus Center.

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FAQ'S

1. How do I register for my first-semester schedule?

You will be registered for your courses prior to New Student Orientation (NSO). During your New Student Orientation (NSO) you will meet with an advisor to verify your schedule.

2. Who is my advisor?

You will meet with an advisor at NSO who will assist in verifying your schedule. During your first year you may seek advising from anyone in the First Year Office, the Academic Advising Center or EOP.

3. How many credits/courses will I be taking my first-semester?

You will usually take 4 classes your first semester, which are 4 credits each, totaling 16 credits.

4. What is Common Hour?

Common Hour is at 2:40 pm - 3:40 pm, Monday through Thursday. There are no classes scheduled for this time period. The college uses this time for programming by clubs and departments.

5. Will I be able to receive AP credit?

Yes. You must score a 3, 4, or 5 to receive AP credit. An Official Score Report must be sent to the Registrar directly from College Board.

6. Is it possible to receive credit by examination for IB scores?

Yes. The grade must be a C or better and you must transfer the scores to Old Westbury. Please see Transfer Services for assistance.

7. When will I receive my Fall 2018 schedule?

You will be able to print out your Fall 2018 schedule after you complete your NSO. It will be posted to your SUNY OW Connect portal. Instructions will be given out during NSO.

8. Can I change my schedule once I receive it?

Yes. Your schedule will be verified during your NSO. For additional changes after NSO, you must contact an advisor in the First Year Office, the Academic Advising Center or EOP to make any changes.

FAQ'S CONT.

9. What if I want to declare a major that is different from the major I listed on my Old Westbury application?

Instructions to change your major or explore other majors will be given out during NSO.

10. If I have any questions, who can I contact?

Please contact the First Year Office by email: FirstYear@oldwestbury.edu