

## First Year Seminar

The purpose of the First Year Seminar is to ease your transition to Marietta College as a residential liberal arts institution and to the world of learning in general. Implicit in this statement is the recognition that Marietta College is more than an academic institution and that learning involves more than "book learning". Thus, the first year's transition also involves residential, co-curricular, and extra-curricular life. These are covered in two classes; the First Year Seminar and the College Life and Leadership Lab. The former concentrates on academic issues while the latter deals more with residential, extra-curricular and co-curricular issue; although both classes will occasionally cross over into the other's territory.

This academic component of this section of the class uses the study of space exploration as a model of how to succeed at various classroom tasks - note taking, critical reading, discussion, quiz and test-taking, paper writing, giving presentations, etc. At the same time, the subject matter itself - Space Exploration - will be a valuable resource for helping you learn about yourself and how you explore new worlds - i.e. college. In addition, the history of American space exploration is a window into the life experiences and values of several generations of Americans - the "greatest generation" the "baby boomers" and even "generation X". What does it have to say about your generation and the world you are moving into? This section of FYSE uses two books, *The Right Stuff* by Tom Wolfe and *Space* by James Michener.

### Goals of Course

- 1. Transition to College:** Beginning college involves students in a major transition. FYSE 101 provides a means of examining transitions and developing strategies to cope with those transitions. In doing so, it defines the values of Marietta College as an academic and residential institution so that you have a clearer sense of to what you must adjust.
- 2. Values Clarification and Theme Study:** Selected reading assignments create a foundation for a semester-long examination of your own values and those of others. This foundation is built on by reading two books. You will also interview family members and others in an attempt to discover a little about the forces that have shaped your life so far.
- 3. Group Building:** This takes the form of special exercises. The purpose is trifold: the development of important teamwork skills, the development of the individual, and the development of relationships. In other words, the course intends to create a "belonging-place" for new students.
- 4. Improvement of Communication Skills:** In order to achieve the communication mission of a liberal arts college, you are required to complete several exercises that are designed to enhance your awareness of the need for specific observation, reflection, and precise recording of detail. In addition, there will be library assignments and group panel formal presentations.
- 6. Improvement of Study Skills:** Special attention will be given to improvement of skills in note-taking and listening, textbook-reading, test-taking and time management. In general, this course hopes to help you become an active learner.

### Expectations and Assumptions

- 1. Perfect attendance.** If you must be absent, you must let me know by voice or email before you actually miss class. Since much of the seminar is interactive, it is not possible to make up some activities that you miss. This could affect your grade.
- 2. Willingness to participate in class and small group work.** Interaction and involvement are crucial for us to achieve our goals.
- 3. Preparation for class.** You must complete assignments on time, and come to class prepared for the day's activities.

**4. Mature, polite behavior.** In class discussions and presentations you must be polite and attentive at all times. If you disagree with another, I expect you to express your disagreement with the ideas expressed, not the person expressing them. This behavior is to carry over to outside events as well.

**5. Participation in group activities.** When assignments are made to groups requiring that the group meets outside of class, it is expected that you will do your fair share, including making yourself available for meetings, even if it means adjusting non-critical portions of your schedule to do so.

### **Work to Be Done**

**Reading:**

1. *The Right Stuff* by Tom Wolfe
2. *Space* by James Michener
3. Assorted assigned readings and readings in conjunction with the assignments below.

**Writing:**

1. An annotated bibliography of one of the subjects of *The Right Stuff*.
2. A 750-1,250 word project on the role of a specific person in space exploration.
3. A 750-1,250 word project based on an interview with a member of "The Greatest Generation"
4. A 750-1,250 word project comparing *The Right Stuff* and *Space*.
5. A 1,500 word project on the future of exploration in your lifetime.

**Other:**

1. A 5-minute, individual PowerPoint presentation on the person you studied for writing assignment #2.
2. A group presentation on a space exploration program (Mercury, Hubble, Space Station, etc.)
3. Some additional assignments will be generated by the discussions we have in class.

### **Grading:**

1. <i>The Right Stuff</i> Bibliography	100 points
2. Specific Person Project	100 points
3. Generation Project	100 points
4. Comparison Project	100 points
5. Future Project	200 points
Individual Presentation	100 points
Panel Presentation	200 points
Class Participation	100 points
Other assignments	0-50 points (bonus)

**Total:** Approximately 1,000 points

900-1000 points = A, 800-900 = B, etc. +/- grades at the discretion of the instructor; in most cases anyone with 30 – 70% of the points within a given letter grade will receive the nominal grade; those with more will get a + and those with fewer points will get a minus.

### **Course Schedule:**

I want this class to be built around you - I want it to cover things of interest to you. Therefore, there is not a complete schedule determined at this time. We will spend the first few weeks in group building activities; included in these will be some exercises to determine priorities for discussions later in the semester. As the semester progresses, we will turn from group-building and introductory material to discussions of our central theme and topics of interest to you.

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Dave McShaffrey

Bartlett/Selby/Rickey 242

Phone: Office - 376-4743 Home - 374-8687

email – [mcscaffd@marietta.edu](mailto:mcscaffd@marietta.edu)

home page: <http://mcnet.marietta.edu/~mcscaffd/>

My schedule and other information – including information about this course – can be accessed from my web page.

Note: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible to discuss their individual needs for accommodation. Please see me during the first week of classes or within a week of having such a disability diagnosed and documented. ***If you suspect that you may have a learning disability of any type, please go to the Academic Resource Center (ARC, Andrews Hall, Third floor, 376-4700). The ARC can work with you to help document any disabilities and determine what accommodations might help you succeed at Marietta College.***

Marietta College has numerous programs for academic support, including the ARC, the Writing Center, tutors, counseling, etc. We want you to succeed here. If you have any academic problems, particularly in the first few weeks of class, please see me so that we can get you whatever help you need BEFORE it affects your grade.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of work done by others as your own. This can come in a variety of forms, including:

1. Copying another student's work.
2. Copying from a source without quotes or attribution.
3. Paraphrasing from a source without attribution.
4. Including photos or other images made by someone else without attribution.

Plagiarism is one of many forms of academic dishonesty – Academic dishonesty is not allowed at Marietta College and will be dealt with appropriately. Sanctions may include a lowered grade (including a 0) for an assignment, failing the course, or even expulsion from the college. See page 127 of the 2003-2004 catalog.

**Overall Schedule**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Activity</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
1	<b>August 26</b>	Introduction – 2001: A Space Odyssey	
2			
3	<b>August 28</b>	2001: A Space Odyssey	Write a 1-2 page autobiography.
4	<b>Sept. 2</b>	Discussion: Exploration	
5			
6	<b>Sept. 4</b>	Library Skills	
7	<b>Sept. 9</b>	<i>Star Trek</i> , Captain Cousteau and the Baby Boomers (note taking exercise)	
8			
9	<b>Sept. 11</b>	<i>The Right Stuff</i>	<b>Assignment 1 Due</b> (bibliography of one of the subjects of <i>The Right Stuff</i> ).
10	<b>Sept. 16</b>	<i>The Right Stuff</i>	
11			
12	<b>Sept. 18</b>	Discussion: <i>The Right Stuff</i>	Have <i>The Right Stuff</i> read.
13	<b>Sept. 23</b>	Writing Workshop	Assignment 1 returned.
14			
15	<b>Sept. 25</b>	Brainstorm – Greatest Generation Questions	
16	<b>Sept. 30</b>	<i>Apollo 13</i>	<b>Assignment 2 Due</b> (the role of a specific person in space exploration)
17			
18	<b>Oct. 2</b>	<i>Apollo 13</i>	
19	<b>Oct. 7</b>	Fall Break – No Class	Assignment 2 returned, begin rewrite.
20			
21	<b>Oct. 9</b>	Discussion: <i>Space</i>	Have <i>Space</i> read.
22	<b>Oct. 14</b>	Video	<b>Assignment 2 rewrite due.</b>
23		<b>Advising Appointments</b>	
24	<b>Oct. 16</b>	Video	
25	<b>Oct. 21</b>	Individual Presentations	<b>Assignment 3 Due</b> (interview with a member of “The Greatest Generation”) All presentations must be ready by this date.
26			
27	<b>Oct. 23</b>	Individual Presentations	

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Question/Assignment</b>	
28	<b>Oct. 28</b>	Individual Presentations	
29			
30	<b>Oct. 30</b>	Individual Presentations	<b>Assignment 4 Due</b> (paper comparing <i>The Right Stuff</i> and <i>Space</i> )
31	<b>Nov. 4</b>	Video	
32		Advising Appointments	
33	<b>Nov. 6</b>	Video	
34	<b>Nov. 11</b>		
35			
36	<b>Nov. 13</b>	Writing Workshop	Have Draft of Final Paper Ready
37	<b>Nov. 18</b>	Group 1 Presentation	
38			
39	<b>Nov. 20</b>	Group 2 Presentation	
40	<b>Nov. 25</b>	Group 3 Presentation	
		<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
	<b>Dec. 4</b>		<b>Note: Final Paper Due!</b>
	<b>Dec. 6</b>		