

All students at Saint Michael's College must enroll in a First-Year Seminar during their first or second semester. Although there is a range of topics, the seminars are more alike than different. All of the seminars are writing-intensive, requiring frequent engagement of critical reading and thinking. The class size of about 15 students encourages discussion and requires active learning.

Students intending to participate in the Honors Program are not required to take an Honors First-Year Seminar, but it is advisable.

## FIRST YEAR SEMINARS - FALL 2018

### FS-111 The Examined Life

In this course we will examine our lives by writing about them, using "lenses" from various fields (literature, history, philosophy, or psychology, for instance) to see ourselves from different angles. We will write personal narratives/memoirs of our own, using what we have learned to further explore the writing process and examine our own lives. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-111 The Examined Life (Honors)

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### FS-113 Tries: Creative Writing Seminar

This is a course in creative writing. An essay (from the French essayer, to try) is a try, an attempt to articulate a world. We will read models in a variety of genres and then write our own tries, in a workshop format. No previous experience in creative writing is required. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-118 Performance, Art & Social Justice

This course examines how various forms of artistic performance and visual art are uniquely equipped to engage us in dialogue about divisive issues and lead us toward action to fight social injustice. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-123 On Memory

What is memory? Why do we remember? What role does memory play in constructions of self and society? Can we exist without memory? This course will explore such questions on memory, which have been posed and debated since antiquity. Our study will be interdisciplinary, considering these problems through the lenses of psychology, sociology, neuroscience, and history. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-126 Sports Stories

This course focuses on sports-centered stories, novels, nonfiction books, and films and explore what these works teach us about honesty, fairness, endurance, faith, solidarity, disappointment, pain, and other essential facts of life. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-127 Storytelling

This course will explore storytelling as a literary art, as a cultural and familial practice, and as a form of historical documentation. We will consider how stories shape perceptions (of nature, of nation, of community, of family, of self), and vice versa. Examples will include diverse modes of engaging others, preserving traditions, defining traditions, and communicating within and across cultures and subcultures through narrative. Students will also examine the integrations of storytelling practice in and across virtually all academic and professional fields. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-139 Resistance and Empowerment**

This seminar will explore the theme of resistance and empowerment in significant works of writing and films to better understand how words and images can be used as artistic, social, and political tools to give voice to those who are otherwise forgotten, ignored, discriminated against, or excluded. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-140 Place and Placelessness**

This seminar examines conceptions and experiences of place. We live in a world of distinct, memorable and meaning-infused places. By exploring spaces and places which seem to resonate with meaning, we will probe how the essence of the meaning of place can be imposed and maintained (or resisted and denied?), and how we define ourselves and others through and within places. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-140 Place and Placelessness (Honors)**

This seminar examines conceptions and experiences of place. We live in a world of distinct, memorable and meaning-infused places. By exploring spaces and places which seem to resonate with meaning, we will probe how the essence of the meaning of place can be imposed and maintained (or resisted and denied?), and how we define ourselves and others through and within places. **Core: First-Year Seminar. Honors Program students only.**

### **FS-153 Peace and Justice**

This course is designed as an introduction to the subject of social justice through the study of social justice issues in the context of the lives of individuals who envision(ed) a more just society and endeavor(ed) to live by that vision. We will study issues such as nonviolence, racism, and social and economic inequality, and individuals such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Paul Farmer. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-153 Peace and Justice (Honors)**

This course is designed as an introduction to the subject of social justice through the study of social justice issues in the context of the lives of individuals who envision(ed) a more just society and endeavor(ed) to live by that vision. We will study issues such as nonviolence, racism, and social and economic inequality, and individuals such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Paul Farmer. **Core: First-Year Seminar. Honors Program students only.**

### **FS-154 Race, Gender, & Ethnicity in Media**

Our society is fundamentally affected by our understanding of race, gender and ethnicity. In this class we will explore how these categories are constructed and function in society and the ways they are shaped by the media. Media portrayals profoundly influence our perspective on the world. We will seek to understand the impact of these media depictions. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-156 Memoirs of Race, Gender, & Sexuality**

This course examines critical autobiographies from around the world that explore structural racism, misogyny, and homophobia, and that offer individual stories of self-discovery and resistance. Grounded in comparative reflections on identity in text and film, the course builds knowledge from the experience of what it means to be different and to act politically. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-158 Society, Identity, & Race**

This course examines race, power dynamics in society, the creation of identity, and the nature of racial injustice. We will explore the formation of racial identity and the power of radical critique in response to powerful external forces and the inherent human drive to shape and determine one's own self. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-161 Technology & Ethics in Society**

The interplay of technology, sociology, and ethics will be considered in this seminar course. We will consider both recent and historical impacts of technological innovation on the American landscape as well as the broader and more recent influence of globalization. Course participants will study current research and trends in computing and consider their impact on our society and the world. We will consider the ethical, sociological and economic dilemmas created by the introduction of new technologies. **Core: First-Year Seminar.**

### **FS-182 The Social Construction of Humanness**

This course will introduce students to the questions: What makes us human? To what extent do variations in characteristics (e.g., sex, gender, dis/ability, stature, body morphology, and race) impact our perceptions of humanness? To what extent is being human biologically determined, socially constructed, or an emergent property of both? Have notions of what it means to be human been fixed or have they varied throughout history?

***Concurrent enrollment in BI-106: The Cellular and Developmental Biology of Being Human. Core: First-Year Seminar.***