

# First Year Honors Seminars

The **first year seminar** (FYS) focuses on a specific topic in a wide range of areas. In HON 100, First Year Honors Seminar, emphasis will be on academic skills such as critical reading and writing and active discussion while stimulating intellectual curiosity and inquiry-based learning. The content of the seminar will vary with professor. This is the first in a series of University Honors programs, which are more rigorous and challenging than the typical first year seminar. Additionally, the faculty member who teaches this seminar will serve as your initial academic advisor during the fall semester and will help you explore the opportunities of a University of Mount Union education, including scheduling for classes until you've declared a major.

These courses are full four credit hour courses that will last throughout the entire fall semester and have the same academic rigor and expectations as any other college course. Please carefully consider this as you share your preference for your First Year Seminar below. To aid you in making this decision, please read the descriptions of the seminar courses to help you choose your top five FYS choices.

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## **01. *Gender in Disney***

From sleeping beauty to disguised soldier, from evil stepmother to doting daughter, from charming prince to scheming uncle, Disney films offer a wide array of gender performances. The various characters in Disney have been both shaped by cultural norms and exerted influence in reinforcing certain expectations of how men and women should look and act. In this seminar, we will analyze the portrayal of gender in select animated Disney films and consider how these portrayals represent issues around gender in their cultural context.

## **02. *Martyrs or Fools? Heroes of Faith-Based Social Justice***

This course investigates the lives and work of individuals who, based on religious values and commitments, have worked for social justice and change in their particular contexts. Through the use of both primary and secondary resources, students will consider some of the "greats" in this area: Mohandas Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Archbishop Oscar Romero, William Wilburforce, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and others. The course will also pay some attention to the work of more local individuals who likely will never be famous for their efforts but who nonetheless have dedicated their lives to the work of social justice and change. The course will include a service learning option and a site visit to an appropriate venue(s).

## **03. *Future Shock***

What will our future look like? What should we do when our love of liberty conflicts with our desire for safety and happiness? Dystopian fiction imagines what our world might become if certain real-life trends and value conflicts continue toward their logical extremes. The "negative utopias" it presents shock us in order to provoke critical thinking about the logic and morality that underpins our lives. Seminar assignments range from analyzing literature and film to doing your own creative writing. The course covers novels such as Brave New World, A Clockwork Orange, and The Handmaid's Tale and films such as A Clockwork Orange and The Children of Men.