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Developing a Topic-Centered FY Seminar with a Renewed Focus on Information Literacy

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Developing a topic-centered FY Seminar with a Renewed Focus on Information Literacy

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Background

- ▶ Georgia Southern University
 - Largest and most comprehensive university in South Georgia
 - Current enrollment: ~19,400 students
 - First-year student enrollment (2009): ~3,400

GSU First Year Experience Task Force

- ▶ Formed Fall 2006
- ▶ **Task Force Membership:**
 - 1 Faculty member from each college on campus
 - 1 Representative from the Henderson Library
 - 1 Representative from a local public high school

GSU First Year Experience Task Force

▶ Charge:

- Review results from self-study reports such as Foundations of Excellence Student Survey and NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement)
- Review/research successful practices at other higher ed. institutions

GSU First Year Experience Task Force

- ▶ **Identified need for improvement in the following areas:**
 - More effectively communicating academic expectations incoming first year students
 - Providing a context for more meaningful interactions with professors during the first year
 - Providing a context for emphasizing the development of information literacy skills

Final Report: Recommended Changes Included:

▶ Expectations:

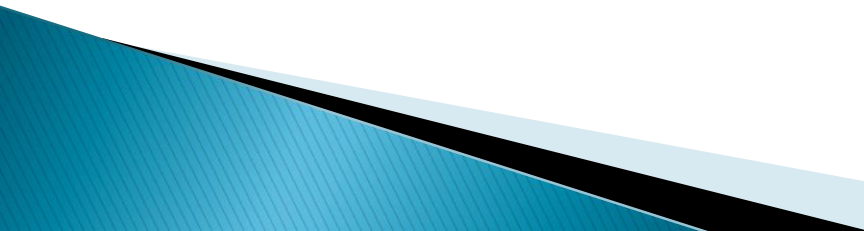
- Conversations with Professors
- Create expectations brochure for entering students
- Defer Greek Rush for First Year students

▶ Curriculum:

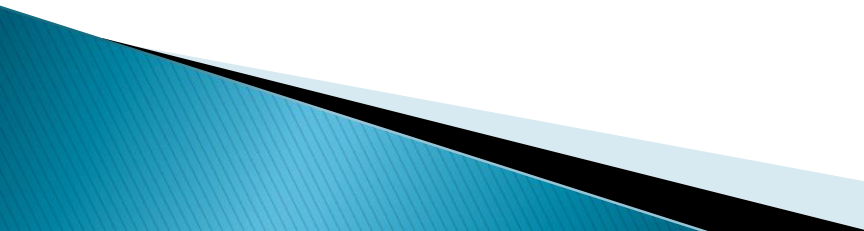
- Transform GSU 1210 (1 hour University orientation) course into a 2 hour, academic topic-centered First Year Seminar with lab

FYE Seminars: Student Learning Outcomes

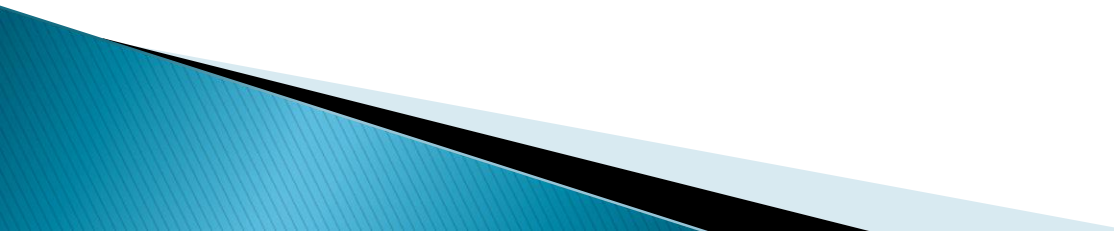
Within the context of the disciplinary framework of the FYS, students will be able to

- ▶ Critically evaluate print and electronic information for its currency, relevancy, authority, accuracy and purpose.
 - ▶ Apply documentation guidelines for all print and electronic information used in assignments.
 - ▶ Articulate what constitutes plagiarism and avoid representing the work of others as their own.
- 

Pilot Year: 2007

- ▶ 6 sections plus 7 Honors sections
 - ▶ Examples of topics/course themes:
 - ▶ *March of the Penguins: Exploring animal communication*
 - ▶ *Finding Happiness in a Consumption-oriented Society*
 - ▶ Implemented online learning modules for IL learning outcomes
 - ▶ Provided face-to-face instruction w/ Honors Sections
 - Introduction to print and electronic resources
 - Evaluating and Citing Sources
 - The Annotated Bibliography
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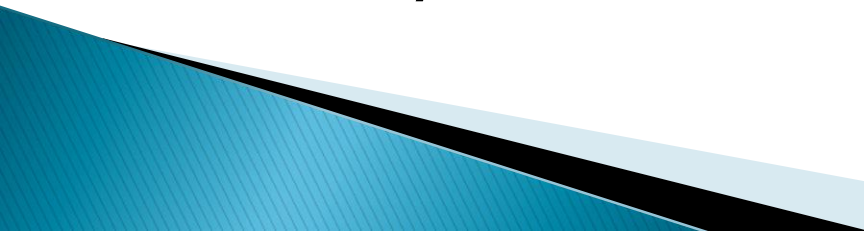
Full Implementation: Fall 2008

- ▶ Revised online IL modules
 - Based on faculty feedback
 - Video tutorials
 - Quizzes
 - ▶ Face to face IL instruction by library liaisons
 - ▶ Classroom faculty-led IL instruction
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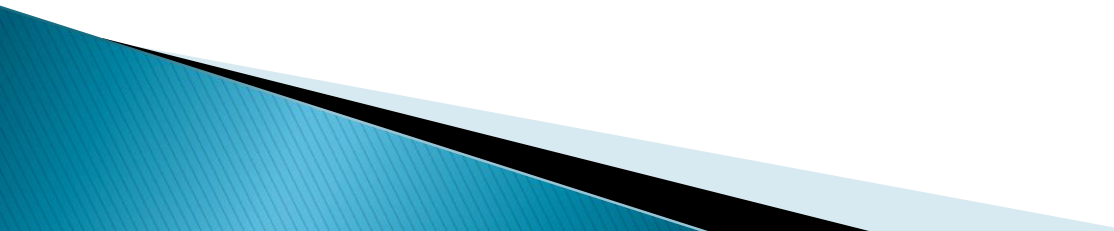
Faculty Feedback

- ▶ Revised online modules
 - ▶ Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Information Lit:
 - ▶ Developed additional FYE 1220 tutorial, “Using GALILEO and Google: Information Discovery” Summer 2009


Strengths of FYS

- ▶ Allows professors the opportunity to interact with first year students within the context of an academic theme-based course
 - ▶ Professors can teach a seminar on any appropriate topic that interests them
 - ▶ Information literacy modules are user friendly; professors can develop assignments that involve the application of information literacy skills within the context of the course
- 

Strengths of the FYS Continued

- ▶ Library staff have done an outstanding job of responding to feedback from professors and continually work to improve the modules
 - ▶ Financial administrative support encourages professors to teach a section of the course
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Challenges of the FYS

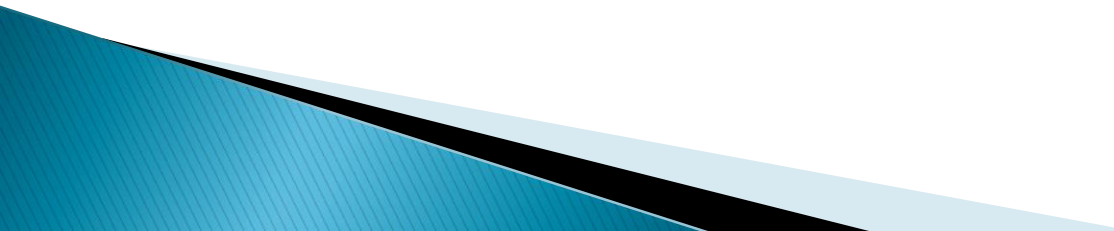
- ▶ Faculty “buy in” in terms of volunteering to use the modules in their courses
 - ▶ Room for further improvement in interactive nature of information literacy modules
 - ▶ Challenge to meet all the learning outcomes of the FYS within a 2 hour course
 - ▶ Assessment of learning outcomes as they are applied in other course work
- 

Fall 2009

Examples of FYE 1220 course

Art History Masterpieces: What Does Mona Lisa Have to Smile About Anyway?

Sometimes the art works you know the best seem the most difficult to understand, or even to appreciate. Since Leonardo's Mona Lisa isn't really the most beautiful painting or the most attractive woman in the world, why is she so famous, indeed instantly recognizable to nearly everyone? This course will examine works of art and architecture that are considered the world's hands-down masterpieces, ancient through contemporary – the Greek Parthenon, Michelangelo's David, Picasso's Demoiselles d'Avignon, Duchamp's Fountain, to name a few – in a quest to understand what made these works so famous in the first place and why they are still so important to us today.




Fall 2009

Examples of FYE 1220 course

Lessons from “The Office”

What leadership style is best? How do individuals behave in a larger organization? On the TV series “The Office”, typical workdays at the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company are depicted. This class will use clips from the show to illustrate real life business practices. We will evaluate characters’ actions, and discuss alternatives. Topics will include leadership styles, workplace diversity, training, discipline, stress on the job, etiquette, and recruiting new employees. We will gain an understanding of business practices through entertaining case studies.



Fall 2009

Examples of FYE 1220 course

Sweet Dreams: Exploring the Human Experience of Sleep and Dreams

Nearly one third of our life is spent in a state of sleep, yet most of us know little about this part of our lives. In this seminar, we will read and discuss ideas and research from philosophy, biology, psychology, and film & literature. Topics will include the sleep cycle, sleep disorders (with a trip to the East Georgia Medical Center sleep lab), approaches to dream analysis, and the use of dreams and nightmares in popular movies. Homework will include a sleep journal for the analysis of your own sleep and dreams.

Links and email addresses:

- ▶ Complete list of Fall 2009 FYS Themes
<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/fye/fye1220.htm>
 - ▶ Information Literacy Tutorials
http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/libref/henderson_infolit_tutorials.html
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