

FYE Description:

Every First-Year Experience (FYE) course at Lenoir-Rhyne University is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation for incoming students, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and connections necessary for a successful college journey and beyond. Structured around seven primary themes, FYE focuses on developing essential academic skills, such as critical thinking and time management, through the theme of Academic Excellence. Professional Development teaches students how to navigate campus life and professional environments confidently, while Community Engagement fosters personal growth and peer connections through various activities and service projects. The Global Citizenship theme introduces students to global issues framed by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Problem-Based Learning encourages collaboration and innovative problem-solving through hands-on projects. The Campus Read program includes a shared reading experience, featuring Mary Roach's *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*, culminating in a talk by the author. Finally, Vocation and Purpose supports students in discovering their talents and passions, guiding them to create meaningful and purposeful lives. Together, these themes ensure students are well-prepared academically, professionally, and personally for their future endeavors.

FYE Section Descriptions:

FYE 100 section 03: Proud to Be First-Generation

T/TR 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM; Rhyne Building, 259

Teena Brooks and Kayce Yapundich

We all come to college with strengths and weaknesses. A first-generation college student is defined at LR as a student whose parents/guardians/caretakers did not complete a 4-year degree. First-generation students are uniquely positioned to allow for a tremendous amount of success. On the other hand, this unique positioning also poses some particular challenges. In order to empower students to maximize their potential as a whole person, we continue to seek ways to help individuals develop their unique strengths. The goal is to help first-generation students be as prepared as possible to take on their college careers as we focus on the five FYE Course themes: Academic Excellence, Professional Development, Community Engagement, Global Citizenship, and Problem-Based Learning as they uniquely pertain to them as first-gen students.

FYE 100 section 04: Leadership through Athletic Experience

T/TR 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM; Rhyne Building, 260

Carla Fowler and Casey Stafford

This FYE section is designed to empower students to critically reflect on past or present athletic experiences, as well as future interest in the sports industry as a foundation for leadership development across various areas of self. Recognizing the multifaceted and dynamic nature of leadership, this course will explore how to leverage athletic and leadership experiences to excel academically, foster professional growth, engage with community, promote a global citizenship mindset, and approach real-world challenges through problem-based learning.

FYE 100 section 07: Ways of Being in the World: An Introduction to Indigenous Philosophies of Turtle Island,
MWF 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM; Rhyne Building, 259
Michael Deckard

The section will provide a framework for thinking philosophically about indigeneity. There is a big difference between Western thought and Indigenous thought concerning such seemingly simple things like time, goals, or note-taking. All that this course can do is to show how many of us have been educated is not the only way or even the best way to learn, think, and know things. Perhaps the biggest difference is that Indigenous Philosophies do not necessarily require books at all, but rather hands-on experience in the world. While we will use a book for this class, we will discuss themes like oral traditions vs. written traditions, how turtle island came to be, and ethics from multiple Indigenous perspectives. In this holistic approach, "Ways of Being in the World" emerges not just as a thematic exploration but as a blueprint for students to navigate the complexities of university life, fostering a sense of belonging, purpose, and empowerment.

FYE 100 section 08: Exploring Race and Gender
T/TR 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM; Rhyne Building, 259
Edgar Foster

This FYE section will explore the social relationship between gender, race, and texts. It will examine race and gender by consulting important texts about both categories. The approach to these issues will be practical and theoretical.

FYE 100 section 09: Play to Learn: Conquering College
T/TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM; Rhyne Building, 161
Shweta Kailani

This course offers a unique blend of playing the board game "Pandemic" with key developmental themes, enhancing students' academic and life skills through engaging and

practical activities. Each week, students explore a specific theme, with the gameplay of "Pandemic" serving as a practical and reflective tool. This course not only provides an engaging learning experience but also equips students with essential skills for their academic journey and beyond, using the engaging framework of "Pandemic" to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world application.

FYE 100 section 10: Culture of Wellbeing

T/TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM; Rhyne Building, 259

Kellie Medley

The "Culture of Well-being" within Lenoir-Rhyne University's first-year experience curriculum is an understanding of mental health mindfulness that extends beyond the basic needs of mental and emotional wellness. It's an exploration of historic events that helped cultivate the development of mental health in America. The core class topics are dissected through historical video and literature which add real-life examples of these concepts to student learning. As students discuss the "Me Too Movement", the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, the "Black Lives Matter Movement", 9/11, Pearl Harbor, 2024 Presidential Election, Presidential Assassinations, COVID-19 pandemic, etc., they discover similarities to academic skills such as reflective writing, synthesis of literature, note-taking and sensibility to life and academia. The purpose of this class is to expose students to historical moments in history that have induced mental health crisis and overload. The goal of this class is to provide a foundation for students to learn how to cope with life altering events in a way that fosters hope for a better tomorrow, promotes the willingness to adapt in uncomfortable situations, and assists with the overwhelming sense of belonging as a first-year student. The journey to well-being is one that can be unique to culture, specific to personality and hard to recognize. The nature of the historic events discussed in this class are all rooted in the overall well-being of America. In discussing each event students will take a journey through eight co-dependent dimensions: emotional, physical, occupational, social, spiritual, intellectual, environmental, and financial. Students will gain an understanding that if any of these dimensions are neglected over time, it will adversely affect their well-being.

FYE 100 section 11: Scientific Observation of Beauty

T/TR 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM; Minges Science, 107

Dale Burnside

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and when the beholder is a scientist with instrumentation, the number of "Oh Wow!" moments increase exponentially. From atomic microscopes to broad spectrum telescopes, every level of organization in the universe is being viewed. The beauty that has been and is being found is beyond human expectation. This course will delve into the beauty of nature and the tools and techniques that are being used by scientists to observe it. All

the sciences will be included: biology, chemistry, physics, geology, astronomy, mathematics. There is beauty all around us in literature, art, architecture, music, theater, dance, athletics etc. The student will be allowed to choose a form of beauty and study it from a scientific point of view. The instructor's choice will be the beauty in the Bible and use scripture to demonstrate that beauty.

FYE 100 section 15: History of US Celebrity
MWF 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM; Rhyne Building, 259
Matthew Blaylock

The section theme, US Celebrity, will provide a framework for success as each weekly celebrity's life will align with and provide insight about that week's class topic. Students will not only learn about the lives of many US celebrities but also how they gained their own success and how this can be applied in their own lives at LR and beyond.

FYE Transfers 100 section 16: History of US Celebrity
MWF 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM; Rhyne Building, 259
Matthew Blaylock

The section theme, US Celebrity, will provide a framework for success as each weekly celebrity's life will align with and provide insight about that week's class topic. Students will not only learn about the lives of many US celebrities but also how they gained their own success and how this can be applied in their own lives at LR and beyond. Note that FYE 100.16 is a section for transfer students.

FYE 100 section 17: History of US Celebrity
T/TR 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM; Rhyne Building, 161
Matthew Blaylock

The section theme, US Celebrity, will provide a framework for success as each weekly celebrity's life will align with and provide insight about that week's class topic. Students will not only learn about the lives of many US celebrities but also how they gained their own success and how this can be applied in their own lives at LR and beyond.

FYE 100 section 18: The World: Food, Music, Stories, and Histories in Africa and Latin America
MWF 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM; Rhyne Building, 260
Paul Custer

This course will explore the culture of peoples in Cape Town, Kinshasa, Nairobi, Mexico City, Bogota, and San Juan through vlogs, blogs, music and cooking videos, etc. The goal is to open students' curiosity about the human world, in its richness and complexity, alongside issues of sustainability.

FYE 100 section 30: RIBN

Monday 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM; Zoom

Margaret Shreidah

This section is for students who are part of the Hickory Collaborative RIBN program planning to major in Nursing. This course is designed to help students explore all that higher education has to offer, discover their own strengths, learn to be a good thinker, and develop the understanding and motivation needed to be a successful college student. Topics include making the transition to college and developing academic and life skills. The goal of this course is to help students create greater success in college and in life. This is achieved by helping students explore who they are, understand where they come from, and decide where they are going. Students will examine theories and practices associated with success to answer the question "What makes one successful?", and in turn, apply these principles to create greater academic, professional, and personal success. The most important part of this course, however, is the opportunity students will have when it comes to learning about themselves- learning who they are as college students and human beings, and learning what it takes for them to keep themselves balanced and on track for success. Note that FYE 100.70 is a section for students accepted to the RIBN program.

FYE HONORS 100 section 01: Individuals & Community: Ancient and Modern Strategies for Success

MWF 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM; Rhyne Building, 161

Jefford Vahlbusch

As an FYE course for students entering the new Fritz Honors College at LR, this FYE section will vigorously support students' pursuit of the course's essential goals and outcomes—think: how to succeed in college—while also helping students develop and practice some of the knowledge, skills, and values pursued in the Fritz Honors College community. We will use the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Mary Roach's wonderful *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* (our campus read this year), Sharon Ferrett's *Peak Performance*, and fascinating selections from Homer's *Iliad* to explore our place and our roles in the world, and how understanding community can help us thrive. Note that FYE 100.01 is a section for students accepted to the Fritz Honors College.

FYE HONORS 100 section 02: Conversations Unleashed

MWF 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM; Rhyne Building, 259

Cade Hamilton

This class seeks to offer students tools to tackle the hard topics. In a social environment where many people feel unprepared and/or unwilling to talk about the issues that require collective reflection and problem solving, we will center these conversational topics primarily around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals while also navigating towards the kinds of topics that students will need to be prepared for to successfully tackle higher education. We will try and offer students the opportunity to see that they have insightful and important contributions, interpersonally and globally. Choosing to ignore a hard conversation does not make it go away! Note that FYE 100.02 is a section for students accepted to the Fritz Honors College.

FYE HONORS 100 section 12: Wild About Animals

MWF 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM; Minges Science, 214

Carly York

“Wild About Animals” within Lenoir-Rhyne University’s first-year experience curriculum will explore the biodiversity of the Animal Kingdom. The first-year experience courses are designed to provide students with the tools for academic and personal success in college. This course is specifically designed to support students entering the Fritz Honor College by practicing the skills and values emphasized by the college mission. In addition to core class topics, this course will explore different animals around the world, from the deepest oceans to the deserts, focusing on the value of biodiversity and conservation. Note that FYE 100.12 is a section for students accepted to the Fritz Honors College.

FYE HONORS 100 section 13: Building Community through Gardening

T/TR 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM; Minges Science, 214

Scott Schaefer

This course will support the mission of the Fritz Honors College at Lenoir-Rhyne by enhancing Critical Thinking; prepare students to succeed in college and beyond, and building a sense of community and belonging through gardening. This course will introduce students to plant growth, agricultural applications, and human nutrition, as we focus on the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Goals. We will also explore acculturation topics and college life at Lenoir-Rhyne. Let’s grow our minds and some vegetables! Note that FYE 100.13 is a section for students accepted to the Fritz Honors College.