

**FYS 100 First Year Seminars
Fall Term, 2006
Class Syllabus**

Class discussion room: Tuesdays in Folsom Hall 203. 10:50 – 11:40
Class computer lab room: Thursdays in Folsom Hall 101B. 10:50 – 11:40
Instructor: Dr. Ken Petress
Office location: South Hall basement
Office Hours: TR 1:30 to 2:30; and by appointment.
Office Phone: 207-768-9463
Instructor E-mail: petress@umpi.maine.edu
Instructor Website URL: <http://umpi.maine.edu/~petress/>

Course Rationale

Educational research and professional instructional experience show that many incoming university students lack an understanding of and/or experience in several basic areas required for smooth success in college during their first term. In fact, recent record keeping shows that the vast majority of students who were placed on probation or who were suspended from the university had received 'D' or 'F' grades in this course. Most of these poor showings were caused, in whole or in great part, by excessive absences or not taking the class seriously. Also, the majority of honor roll students got an 'A' or 'B' in this course. It is therefore obvious that this FYS class predicts, to some fair degree, success or failure in students' first term at the university.

Those areas where students need assistance, awareness, support, and confirmation include: self confidence, familiarity with the campus and the university's demands on them, time management, study skills, personal responsibility for college progress, and relationship building. This class offers students opportunities to sharpen skills and gain added awareness and experience in these areas. The class also provides a safe forum for asking questions and sharing experiences and ideas with peers.

Too frequently, some students deny that they need help in the areas discussed above; they claim they have it all under control and therefore pay too little attention to what transpires in class. It is amazing and frustrating when such students get seriously hurt when material they failed to tend to comes back to bite them.

Course Objectives:¹

1. To help you gain the **confidence** to be a successful college student. Success is measured by good grades being earned, good decisions being made, enjoyment of the college experience, and improvement of skills needed for future life's experiences.

¹ Much of the phrasing of these objectives come from a draft written by Dr. John DeFelice, Assistant Professor of History and Ms. Kim-Anne Perkins, Professor of Social Work both at UMPI.

2. To help you **learn** the skills you need to be successful in your college career. These include skills you can use at home, at school, or on the job.
3. To help you navigate around your classes, college life, and the great career ahead of you.

Text and Readings:

Textbook: Robert S. Feldman. (2003). **POWER Learning**, 2nd ed. McGraw Hill.

There will be some complementary readings stored on Dr. Ken Petress' personal website. These readings appear on the class calendar. The website URL appears above.

Graded Assignments:

1. Personal class session journals. Each student will write a personal journal entry for each class beyond the introductory session. A more specific description of and rules for this assignment are found on Dr. Petress' website. 33%
2. Individual contributions to class discussions. The measure here will be both quantitative and qualitative. It is not sufficient to just attend class without actively and meaningfully participating in idea exchange. 33%
3. Attendance in class is a must! Non attendance will, at a minimum, lower your course grade and, at a maximum, can result in failure. Failure will mean you have to take the class again!! 33%

Important Notes:

1. Any student who has a disability and wishes the university to provide reasonable accommodations should contact Ms. Myrna McGaffin, Director of Student Support Services. Her office is in South Hall 123; her phone # is 768-9613; her e-mail address is mcgaffin@umpi.maine.edu.

Ms. McGaffin can also help students who are unsure whether or not they might have a disability to find out if such is the case.

2. Any student who wants/needs contact with a professional counselor should contact Mr. John Harrington. His office is in South Hall 122; his phone # is 768-9589; his e-mail address is stump@umpi.maine.edu OR Ms. Joy Brakel; her office is in South Hall 100; her phone is 768-9601; her e-mail is brakelj@umpi.maine.edu.

3. Any student who needs medical attention or advice should contact Ms. Linda Mastro,

RN. Her office is in the health center in Emerson Annex; her telephone number is 768-9586; her e-mail address is mastrol@umpi.maine.edu.

4. Any student who receives Veterans' Benefits should contact Ms. Donna Underwood in the Registrar's Office in Preble Hall 16; her telephone number is: 769-9520.
5. **Plagiarism** is the claim of others' work/ideas as your own; it is equivalent to intellectual theft and is not accepted at the university. Plagiarism is one form of academic misconduct which includes, but is not limited to: not citing others' words or ideas on assignments or in speeches; doing another's' work or having your work done by others, buying internet papers and handing them in as your own, fabricating quotes, experiments, interviews, etc. Academic misconduct is serious and students charged with this offense can face sanctions including failed assignments, failed courses, being placed on probation, or dismissal from the university.