

Living/Learning Communities for First Year Students

Living/Learning Communities (LLC) for freshmen are tailored to students making the transition from high school to college and encourage quality interaction with faculty and staff while living in residential halls that are utilized exclusively for first-year students in LLCs.

As new undecided freshmen who will be part of Millersville's Living/Learning Community, you have the unique opportunity to select two of your fall semester courses based upon your interests. Each Learning Community (LC) will share two courses, University 179: First Seminar; and either English 110: English Composition *or* Communications 100: Fundamentals of Speech. The themes for five Learning Communities (LC) are provided here for your selection. Pick the themes that interest you the most and the two courses in the LC will serve as the basis for your final schedule of 5 3-credit courses. Just fill out the form and return it in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible to reserve your place in the courses you want!

The Dream of America (G1)	This course introduces students to various interpretations, conceptions, and manifestations of the concept, promise, failure, and myths associated with the dream of America. Students will read fiction, drama, and non-fiction prose depicting various American writers' perspectives of the dream and myths of America. By analyzing these readings, students will develop their own interpretations of the dream of America and its efficacy for a generation uncertain of its relevance in their lives.
Why We Hate (G3)	This seminar will investigate the darker side of human emotions and behavior by examining hatred: its causes, its manifestations in contemporary society and historically, and what can be done to lessen its incidence and impact. Two recent books, both with the title, <i>Why We Hate</i> , form the backbone of this seminar. One book, by Rush Dozier, presents a psychological and neurological perspective on the issue; the second, by Levin and Rabrenovic, a more cultural and sociological approach. Through critical reading and discussion, participants will gain a better understanding of the intra-psychic, interpersonal, and inter-group dimensions of hate. Students will investigate and report upon some of the many manifestations of hate through independent research supported by both this seminar and the linked course (ENGL 110). The last portion of the course will look at how we can respond to hate in our world and the conditions that breed it, both as individuals and as a society. A service-learning activity will be linked to this portion of the course.
"Why Don't They Speak English?" (G1)	Although the majority of immigrants to the US do not speak English when they come here, their children and grandchildren in many cases no longer speak a language other than English. How hard is it for immigrants to learn English and how hard is it for Americans to learn a second language? What does it take to be or to become bilingual? We will explore our own linguistic family history, learn about current immigrants to the US who speak other languages, and discuss language policy issues in the US and in other countries.
Facing Fear (G1)	Students in this seminar will explore – through literature, philosophy, social science, religious/wisdom traditions, and personal experience – the various faces and facets of fear as a near-ubiquitous human experience. "Facing fear" also suggests a personal challenge – to understand fear and to respond to it constructively, especially with regard to one's own education and growth.
Home and Homelessness (G3)	What is a "home?" What elements—both physical and psychological – make up the experience of home? How does one come to feel "at home" in a new place? In contrast...what are the social/emotional, economic and psychological consequences of being without a home? Who are the homeless? Why are people homeless? In this course we will attempt to answer these and other questions by studying the concepts and realities of "home" and "homelessness." The course will also offer a service learning opportunity as students investigate the problem of homelessness here in Lancaster.