

# ***BGSU 1910: FIRST YEAR SEMINAR***

## ***Brief Overview***

The *BGSU 1910 First Year Seminar* program offers first time, first year students the opportunity to explore an academic topic of interest. Offered in a variety of intriguing topics by faculty in their area of scholarship or academic expertise, BGSU 1910 seminars are limited to 20 students each. Goals include **engaging** students in the intellectual life of the university and the relevance of the seminar topic, **connecting** students with a faculty member and peers in their class, and **involving** students in appropriate co-curricular opportunities on-campus and in the community. Best practices will include experiential activities and projects, including those that introduce students to community engagement learning outcomes. Faculty and students are required to meet for a 2-hour first class session on Friday of Opening Weekend.

## **BGSU 1910 Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Seminars**

- How are seminar topics chosen?
  - Instructors who are interested in teaching a BGSU 1910 seminar are to submit their seminar proposal to the Office of Undergraduate Education no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. The BGSU 1910 committee reviews and approves seminar proposals based on stated proposal criteria. For proposal criteria, please review the Proposal Outline found on the BGSU 1910 website.
- How many credit hours is a BGSU 1910?
  - BGSU 1910 seminars are one-credit hour courses that do not count towards a student's degree requirements
- Are all first-year, first-time students required to take a BGSU 1910?
  - All first-year, first-time students who do NOT have a first course in their major are required to take a section of BGSU 1910.
- What is the method of instruction for a BGSU 1910?
  - All sections of BGSU 1910 are taught in a face-to-face classroom environment. Instructors are required to utilize experiential and active learning pedagogy.
- What is the maximum capacity of a BGSU 1910 seminar?
  - All sections of BGSU 1910 are capped 20 students
- Is BGSU 1910 offered in the Spring?
  - No, currently BGSU 1910 is only offered in the Fall semester.
- How are BGSU 1910 seminars graded?
  - All BGSU 1910 seminars utilize a grading scale outlined by each instructor. No pass, fail, or auditing.
- What is expected for students who are taking a BGSU 1910?
  - Students are expected to attend several campus or community events to become familiar with campus and community resources.
- Can instructors choose their own learning outcomes?
  - Yes, in addition to the BGSU 1910 program learning outcomes, instructors can set their own learning outcomes for the course.
- What kind of assessment is expected for a BGSU 1910 seminar?
  - Instructors are expected to participate in progress reporting and to provide assignments that assess the BGSU 1910 program and course learning outcomes.
- Are instructors required to use Canvas for their section of BGSU 1910?
  - Yes, instructors are expected to use Canvas for their BGSU 1910. (I.e. assignments, quizzes, contacting students, discussion boards, etc.)

- Do sections of BGSU 1910 have a final exam?
  - Instructors are required to hold either a culminating experience or final exam for their course. Instructors can choose to hold their culminating experiences during class time or during final exam week. Instructors teaching a BGSU 1910 in the 7-week format are encouraged to hold their culminating experience soon after the completion of week seven.

### **Opening Weekend and Labor Day Weekend:**

- What is the requirement for Opening Weekend?
  - All BGSU 1910 instructors are required to meet with their class on the Friday of Opening Weekend from 3:00-5:00PM. This 2-hour block of time serves as the “First Class” for students. Instructors are encouraged to plan an experiential learning activity for the first class session to be held either on or off campus. The Office of the Provost provides funding for approved activities.
- What is the requirement for Labor Day Weekend?
  - There is no requirement to plan an event during Labor Day Weekend, but additional funds are provided for any approved Labor Day Weekend activity. Data has shown that students who stay on campus over Labor Day weekend are more likely to retain; therefore, planning a class trip or activity during this time is encouraged.

### **Funding**

- How do I request funding?
  - Instructors must complete a BGSU 1910 funding request form (found on the BGSU 1910 website) and submit to Kelsey Meyer ([klmeyer@bgsu.edu](mailto:klmeyer@bgsu.edu)) no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for funding.
- For what can I request funding?
  - Instructors can request funding for events, class projects, guest speakers, materials, transportation, and off campus experiential learning opportunities.
  - Funding can be requested to be used for Opening Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, or throughout the semester.

### **BGSU 1910 Faculty**

- Who is approved to teach a BGSU 1910?
  - BGSU 1910 seminars are taught by strong faculty who have a scholarly research program, academic expertise or equivalent; typically, full time tenure track, non-tenure track, or faculty administrators.
- Are faculty members required to teach a BGSU 1910?
  - No, faculty participation is voluntary.
- What is the faculty compensation for teaching a BGSU 1910?
  - Typically, faculty will be teaching the seminar in addition to their standard workload and will receive supplemental compensation for one credit hour at the standard overload rate.
- What support is available to BGSU 1910 faculty?
  - Workshops, consultations, and instructional design support is available to instructors through the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Center for Faculty Excellence.
- How are BGSU 1910 faculty assessed?
  - Students in each section of BGSU 1910 complete evaluations at the end of each course. Evaluations are reported in a aggregate, but individual assessments by section are available upon request of the instructor.