

Syllabus
“Perceptions of the self, society and the natural world”
Baldwin Scholars First-Year Seminar: SOC 90.01S, Spring 2007

Instructors: Ann Brown, M.D., Martha Reeves Ph.D., Donna Lisker, Ph.D.
(Donna Lisker serves as lead instructor)

Course Description: The Baldwin Scholars seminar is a unique course. The faculty committee that designed it had several aims: they wanted to expose first-year students to a wide variety of academic disciplines; they sought to create potential mentoring relationships between female faculty and first-year students; and they wanted to build specific competencies in the students such as public speaking and critical thinking.

The Baldwin first-year seminar (Soc 90S) is therefore highly collaborative. Three female faculty teach it each year: a scientist, a social scientist, and a humanities scholar. Each of the faculty has the freedom to teach her unit as she wishes. She chooses the subject, the readings, and the assignments, and she does all the grading in her unit. In a sense, this course consists of three month-long mini-courses run one after the next. We do not seek to establish cohesion between the three units, though you will find many connections.

As a result, the Baldwin first-year seminar changes every year depending on who teaches it. You will not have the same experience as the Baldwin Scholars ahead of you. The common denominator is that all of you will study science, social science and humanities for a month each, and all of you (ideally) will be taken out of your comfort zone at some point during the semester. Within each unit, the professor teaching it is in charge and you should refer all questions and concerns to her. You will be graded in each of the three units and those grades will be averaged at the end, weighted equally.

Remember that the class is a *seminar*. That means that your active participation is expected. It's a small class and we will all know one another well. Think of it as a safe space to try out your ideas. We will work together to create a stimulating and respectful classroom environment.

Each professor will give you a detailed syllabus for her unit, and will decide her own grading breakdown. Here is the calendar we will follow. All class meetings are MW 1:15-2:30 in the Baldwin seminar room. Allow travel time to East Campus and be sure to arrive promptly. You are welcome to bring lunch with you as long as you clean up after yourself. There may be some out-of-class activities as well but we will discuss those as they arise. There is no final examination, though each unit has its own project.

Jan 10 – Feb 12	Women in Health (Ann Brown)
Feb 14 – March 21	Women in Business (Martha Reeves)
March 26 – April 25	Women's Autobiography (Donna Lisker)