

FIRST-YEAR WRITING

417 Barnard Hall
212-854-2116

Department Manager: Julissa Acosta
Department Assistant: Miriam Kumaradoss-Hohauser

Mission

First-Year Writing (FYW) courses invite students into the vibrant scholarly life of the college. Working in small, discussion-based seminar classes over the course of one semester, we read challenging literary texts and critical scholarship, helping students to develop fundamental skills in analysis and academic writing that allow them to take their place in vitally important scholarly conversations. Students may choose from a variety of special topics that focus on a particular literary tradition, theme, or phenomenon (see course descriptions for details).

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this one-semester course should be able to:

- closely analyze evidence to develop persuasive claims
- develop claims into sophisticated, consequential ideas
- communicate ideas clearly through well-organized, lucid writing
- develop skills in critical reading and academic writing that transfer to courses across the curriculum
- conduct interdisciplinary research to ground literary works in different contexts (historical, theoretical, etc.)
- document sources and incorporate scholarship into original analytical arguments
- avoid plagiarism and other academic violations of Barnard's Honor Code
- gain confidence in speaking as well as writing skills in a small seminar setting

2025-26 Faculty

Director

Wendy Schor-Haim (Senior Lecturer in English)

Associate Director

Cecelia Lie-Spahn (Lecturer in English; Director, First-Year Writing Workshop; Associate Director, First-Year Writing Workshop Program)

Senior Lecturers

Benjamin Breyer
Vrinda Condillac (Interim Associate Director, First-Year Writing Program)
Alexandra Watson (Associate Director, Writing Fellows Program)

Lecturers

Meredith Benjamin
Andrew Lynn
Penelope Meyers Usher
Duygu Oya Ula

Term Assistant Professor

Nathan Gorelick (Term Assistant Professor in English)

Term Lecturers

Quincy Jones
Francesca Ochoa

Michael Shelichach
Elizabeth Weybright

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Andrew Ragni

Adjunct Associates

Sam Davis

Adjunct Lecturers

Emily Austin

Every Barnard first-year student is required to take a First-Year Writing course during their first or second semester at Barnard.

Transfer students who did not pass a satisfactory course at their previous institution are not required to take First-Year Writing, but must take ENGL BC3103 THE ART OF THE ESSAY or ENGL BC3104 THE ART OF THE ESSAY or a 3-point literature course (not a creative writing course) from the Barnard English department offerings.

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First-Year Writing: Critical Conversations

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A "critical conversation" is a conversation about ideas. It is sophisticated and thoughtful rather than one-sided and simplistic; it's not about finding one right answer but rather about closely analyzing all of the evidence at hand and discovering something meaningful. By communicating what you discover clearly and cogently, you add to the broader scholarly conversation. When engaged in a critical conversation with other scholars, you consider their ideas in ways that help you develop your own thinking, rather than merely agreeing or disagreeing with what others have to say. The critical reading, discussion, and academic writing skills we focus on in First-Year Writing provide a foundation that crosses disciplinary boundaries and will help you in all of your courses. Please go to <https://firstyear.barnard.edu/fyw/course-listings> for full course titles and descriptions.

FYWB BC1001 FIRST-YEAR WRITING AT BARNARD. 3.00 points.

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Spring 2026: FYWB BC1001

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
FYWB 1001	001/00621	M W 8:40am - 9:55am 406 Barnard Hall	Benjamin Breyer	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	002/00622	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 237 Milbank Hall	Benjamin Breyer	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	003/00623	M W 1:10pm - 2:25pm 327 Milbank Hall	Vrinda Condillac	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	004/00624	T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 318 Milbank Hall	Alexandra Watson	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	005/00625	M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm 407 Barnard Hall	Duygu Ula	3.00	14/15
FYWB 1001	006/00626	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm 407 Barnard Hall	Duygu Ula	3.00	14/15
FYWB 1001	009/00632	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 406 Barnard Hall	Andrew Lynn	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	010/00633	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 405 Barnard Hall	Andrew Lynn	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	011/00634	M W 8:40am - 9:55am 404 Barnard Hall	Linn Mehta	3.00	12/15
FYWB 1001	012/00653	M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm 406 Barnard Hall	Michael Shelichach	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	013/00654	T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 227 Milbank Hall	Elizabeth Weybright	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	014/00655	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 405 Barnard Hall	Andrew Ragni	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	015/00656	M W 1:10pm - 2:25pm 403 Barnard Hall	Andrew Ragni	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	017/00660	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 223 Milbank Hall	Samuel Davis	3.00	9/15
FYWB 1001	018/00661	T Th 5:40pm - 6:55pm 406 Barnard Hall	Quincy Jones	3.00	13/15
FYWB 1001	019/00662	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 404 Barnard Hall	Emily Austin	3.00	13/15
FYWB 1001	021/00664	T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 405 Barnard Hall	Francesca Austin Ochoa	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	022/00665	T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm 406 Barnard Hall	Francesca Austin Ochoa	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	023/00667	T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 404 Barnard Hall	Elizabeth Weybright	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	024/00668	M W 6:10pm - 7:25pm 405 Barnard Hall	Michael Shelichach	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	025/00729	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 404 Barnard Hall	Madeleine Saraceni	3.00	15/15
FYWB 1001	026/00730	M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 406 Barnard Hall	Madeleine Saraceni	3.00	15/15

Fall 2026: FYWB BC1001

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
FYWB 1001	001/00001	M W 8:40am - 9:55am 101a Barnard Hall	Benjamin Breyer	3.00	1/15
FYWB 1001	002/00002	M W 10:10am - 11:25am 101a Barnard Hall	Benjamin Breyer	3.00	0/15
FYWB 1001	003/00004	T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 119 Milstein Center	Duygu Ula	3.00	0/15
FYWB 1001	004/00005	T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 119 Milstein Center	Duygu Ula	3.00	0/15
FYWB 1001	005/00006	T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 327 Milbank Hall	Nathan Gorelick	3.00	0/15
FYWB 1001	006/00007	T Th 5:40pm - 6:55pm 327 Milbank Hall	Nathan Gorelick	3.00	0/15
FYWB 1001	007/00008	T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm	Alexandra	3.00	0/15

First-Year Writing Workshop

First-Year Writing (FYW) Workshop is a four-credit course designed for students who feel they would benefit from extra preparation for the critical reading and writing that you will do at Barnard. FYW and FYW Workshop are equally rigorous – both courses have the same critical reading and writing goals, and both courses satisfy your First-Year Writing requirement. FYW Workshop, however, meets 3 days per week instead of 2; it is worth 4 credits instead of 3; and the class sizes are smaller. NOTE: FYW Workshop is only offered in the Fall (not in the Spring). Please go to <https://firstyear.barnard.edu/fyw/course-listings> for full course titles and descriptions.

[Read about students' experiences in FYW Workshop here.](#)

FYWB BC1002 FIRST-YEAR WRITING WORKSHOP. 4.00 points.

First-Year Writing (FYW) Workshop is a four-credit course designed for students who feel they would benefit from extra preparation for the critical reading and writing that you will do at Barnard. FYW and FYW Workshop are equally rigorous – both courses have the same critical reading and writing goals, and both courses satisfy your First-Year Writing requirement. FYW Workshop, however, meets 3 days per week instead of 2; it is worth 4 credits instead of 3; and the class sizes are smaller. FYW Workshop is only offered in the fall semester (not in the spring semester). Students who are interested in one of the limited number of spaces in FYW Workshop should select "First-Year Writing Workshop" on the First-Year Experience Course Request Form and fill out the accompanying FYW Workshop Questionnaire (the First-Year Dean's Office will email you the form in mid-June). The FYW Workshop Questionnaire is required in order to be considered for FYW Workshop. See courses here

Fall 2026: FYWB BC1002

Course Number	Section/Call Number	Times/Location	Instructor	Points	Enrollment
FYWB 1002	001/00003	M W F 2:40pm - 3:55pm 913 Milstein Center	Penelope Usher	4.00	1/12
FYWB 1002	002/00009	T Th F 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA	Cecelia Lie-Spahn	4.00	0/12
FYWB 1002	003/00011	T Th F 10:10am - 11:25am 203 Diana Center	Meredith Benjamin	4.00	0/12
FYWB 1002	004/00026	T Th F 1:10pm - 2:25pm 502 Diana Center	0. FACULTY	4.00	0/12