ENTRY YEAR EXPERIENCE AT USM

USM now offers a new learning opportunity for entering students, the Entry Year Experience course. All entering students with fewer than 24 credit hours complete an Entry Year Experience course in their first semester at USM.

Entry Year Experience (EYE) courses are theme-based and employ a variety of perspectives to explore a significant question about human culture and the natural world. EYE courses aid students in their transition to college in an academically rigorous context emphasizing critical reading, thinking, and writing.

EYE courses are taught by faculty who enjoy teaching first-year college students, who are committed to their students’ college success, and who have enthusiasm for the issues and questions their EYE courses consider.

Meet some of our EYE faculty!
**Professor Jane Kuenz, EYE 103: Shopping: American Consumerism:** “My research and teaching are in 19th and 20th century American literature and culture, including popular culture. I’m currently working on a book on Las Vegas and contemporary culture, which is a kind of sequel to an earlier project on Walt Disney World. Team teaching EYE 103 Shopping: American Consumerism with colleagues in Economics and Philosophy has been personally and professionally enriching for me and really gives students a vivid illustration of how specialists in different disciplines draw on their expertise when approaching a subject but also how we adapt our theories and methodologies in relation to the others. I think students leave with more questions than answers, which is a good thing, and with an understanding that knowledge is more than the sum of its parts.”

![Professor Jane Kuenz](image)

**Professor Francesca Vassallo, EYE 105: Life is a Matrix** Francesca teaches courses in comparative politics, political science methods and a variety of European politics themes. Her research projects and publications focus on political behavior, European comparative politics and the European Union. In EYE105: Life is a Matrix, Professor Vassallo enjoys guiding students to the discovery of the relevance of numbers and quantitative information in daily life. As an EYE teacher she likes to expose students to multiple sources of divergent opinions, encouraging them to collect data and make scientific assessments of the information available, while working towards forming their own opinion about the issue. “The best teaching moment in the EYE course is when students realize that knowledge is not a static concept.”

![Professor Francesca Vassallo](image)
Dr. Susan Campbell, EYE 108: Culture, Identity, and Education

Dr. Campbell is Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at USM. Her research and administrative expertise includes college student academic success, persistence, and retention. “What I like most about teaching EYE 108 is the opportunity for engagement with students. It is amazing to witness students develop the competence and confidence to explore areas they’ve never explored before, and to think beyond themselves.”

Professor Kate Wininger, EYE 109: Gender, Representation and Resistance

Kathleen J. Wininger is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine. She is the author of Nietzsche's Reclamation of Philosophy (Rodopi, 1997) and the editor with Robert Baker, of the 3rd edition of Philosophy and Sex (Prometheus, 1998) and of the 4th edition of Philosophy and Sex due out in 2008. Dr. Wininger has published articles on sexuality, moral theory, African philosophy, and Nietzsche's thought.
Professor Peter Aicher EYE 111, A World of Words: “I teach the languages, literature, and civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome. My specialty is the city of Rome, its history, and its aqueducts. I'll be appearing in upcoming documentaries about Rome on the National Geographic and the Discovery channels. Things I like about EYE: 1) it's a challenge for me that's worth the effort 2) it's a communal effort across the university 3) my particular EYE (World of Words) about the origins of English and language in general introduces a whole new world to most of the students who take it.”
Professor James Masi, EYE 112: The Built Environment: Energy. Dr. James Masi teaches the materials science course, Entry Year Experience, Fluid Mechanics, and Advanced Materials. Students and faculty also know him as friendly and innovative mentor and supervisor of student projects with external clients, such as ITT, Heinz, and Sandia Laboratories. Dr. Masi has an avid interest in alternative energy, reading, music (classical and jazz), traveling internationally, and his children and grandchildren. He lives with his wife, Patricia, in Cape Elizabeth.

In EYE 112, Professor Masi enjoys the interface with first year men and women (of multiple chosen disciplines) as they “learn the ropes” of coping with university life, responsibilities, and teamwork. The added benefit of teaching the energy/environment course is the stirring of the minds and spirits of these students that we are stewards of this fragile planet. Through this they learn how energy, the environment, and the science of energetics tie together. Both student and teacher grow from the experience. “They teach me a great deal about seeing through their eyes.”

Professor Lucinda Cole, EYE 113: The Pleasure of Eating/Animals: “My teaching and research interests are animal studies, literature and the environment, and Restoration
and early modern literature. In my EYE courses on animals and human feeding practices, I always learn something from the students, some of whom bring to the classroom rich experience in, for example, organic farming, hunting, environmental stewardship, or ethnic cuisines. So the courses are always a little unpredictable.

**Professor Eve Raimon, EYE 115: What is Sex?** “Teaching in EYE affords me the opportunity to meet with colleagues from far outside my discipline about topics in which we share an interest but that we approach from different disciplinary perspectives. I get the chance to learn about the topic from my colleague's angle, and s/he gets to learn about it from mine. In this manner, new students can see the complexity involved in a subject like "What is 'Sex'?" which Prof. David Harris and I have taught, or "What is 'Race'?" which we plan to teach as an EYE course.” Eve’s teaching/research interests intersect American studies and cultural studies. She teaches courses in ethnic studies, gender studies, literary theory, critical race theory, creative nonfiction, critical thinking, and expository writing.

**Professor Liz Vella, EYE 116, Nature/Nurture** Dr. Vella teaches courses in Health Psychology, Introduction to Psychology, Research Methods, and EYE 116: The Nature-
Nurture Debate. Her research program in health psychology incorporates biopsychosocial models in the study stress and coping.

Dr. Vella enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for the study of gene-environment interactions in predicting trait outcomes with students in EYE 116: The Nature-Nurture Debate. In particular, she finds it gratifying to bear witness to the development of more critical and sophisticated perspectives among her students in appreciating environmental influences to genetic expressions, in addition to the enhancement of fundamental skills in writing, information literacy, and oral presentation.

Professor Bruce Thompson, EYE 116: Nature/Nurture “I am a developmental psychologist at USM and teach courses that encompass the human life span. My particular area of research is called developmental psycholinguistics, which is the study of cognition and language in infants and children. I have taught two EYE courses and will be teaching another in the fall of 2010. These focus on gender in society and the role of genes and environment on human development and behavior. These courses are very gratifying because they allow us, by design, to highlight connections for students across diverse areas of scholarship. The more a student can see how one area of scholarship (e.g. genetics) is related to another (e.g. gender and politics) the more powerful a student’s critical thinking will be.”

Professor Adam Tuchinsky, EYE 117: Thoreua, Nature, Self and Society

I like teaching in EYE for a variety of reasons. The subject of the course, Henry David Thoreau, returns me to material that inspired me to become an historian in the first place and is situated around a 19th century intellectual who still speaks to today’s students. I really enjoy collaborating with other faculty; the “backstage” work of teaching is usually solitary. But most importantly, EYE is structured so that students and faculty build a connection that is a little deeper than it is in conventional classes.”
**Professor Kent Ryden EYE 117: Thoreau: Nature, Self and Society:** “My main teaching and research interests are in the field of environmental humanities, including regionalism, nature writing, ecocriticism, and cultural landscape studies.”

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**Professor Tom Parchman EYE 118: Musician’s Health: A Path to Peak Performance**

Dr. Tom Parchman is Associate Professor of Music at USM. He teaches courses for the Music Education program, woodwind pedagogy, and music appreciation for non-majors. Professor Parchman enjoys teaching EYE 118: Musician’s Health because it allows him to collaborate with faculty in music and in Sports Medicine, drawing connections between two areas usually seen as very far apart.

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**Professor Brian Toy: EYE 118: Musician’s Health**

Dr. Brian Toy is Associate Professor of Exercise, Health, and Sports Sciences at USM. His interests include athletic training education and epidemiology of athletic injuries. Professor Toy enjoys teaching EYE 118: Musician’s health because it allows him to apply his knowledge of athletic injuries to a whole new area, musician’s health, and to see the many parallels between the two.
Professor Jeannine Uzzi, EYE 119: Metamorphoses  “I love teaching EYE because I really enjoy teaching first year students; I find their transition to the life of the mind exciting, and I enjoy helping first year students explore what it means to begin to write, think, and speak at a new level. As a classicist my interests necessarily include a range of topics from etymology and grammar to literature to archaeology and art--my research speciality is Roman sculpture--but this course allows me to do perhaps the most important thing a classicist can do: show students the relevance of classics to the modern world and explore the connections and disconnects between the ancient and the modern. Plus, I haven't met a student yet who can resist the mythology of Ovid's *Metamorphoses!*”

Professor Rose Cleary: EYE 119: Metamorphoses  While I earned my Ph.D. in Psychology and have a Masters degree in Philosophy, I have come to be a serious student of Literature. I love teaching this EYE course because it allows students and me to dig into some remarkable literary works as we explore BIG questions – like, how are humans like/not like gods, animals, and/or robots? And what is our place in the grand scheme of things? The course gives me the opportunity to help students articulate their own responses to these questions in light of the books we read, the films we see and the talks we have in class. I thoroughly enjoy welcoming students to the University, introducing them to its possibilities and resources as well as the practices and habits that will help them make the most of their years at USM and beyond. I am the Director of the Honors Program and an Associate Professor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Program at USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College.
Dudley Greeley, EYE 125: Getting Down to Business Teaching interest: The distinguished best of Matthew Arnold's "disinterested" academics appear convinced that society must reorganize itself if 7 billion people are to lead satisfying lives. Comparing the myths and beliefs of the current paradigm with thoughtful efforts to "redefine progress" offers students a more hopeful vision for their own lives. What are the most promising principles and beliefs on which a new paradigm might be constructed?

What I like most about teaching EYE: The enthusiasm of an engaged student presenting their new understanding of a useful perspective to other students is tremendously reassuring.

[picture coming soon!]