FIGS are one-credit courses taught by talented and informed upper-class Peer Instructors during the first ten weeks of classes. Enjoy a small class environment limited to 25 first-year students as you explore exciting topics. Each FIGS class will examine the opportunities available at Rutgers and beyond as you discover the basics of research, academics, and co-curricular involvement.

You will meet faculty in your interest area; explore career, research and educational opportunities; and learn the ins and outs of the many resources available at Rutgers. Since FIGS are taught by an experienced upper-class student, you gain valuable advice on how to navigate Rutgers from someone who was once in your shoes.

The descriptions on the following pages will provide you with a general overview of the topical areas offered.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMAL SCIENCE</th>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have a passion for animals? Come and explore academic paths and career opportunities within the field of Animal Science. This FIGS will focus on the five options of Animal Science at Rutgers University as well as other fields where you could incorporate your interest for working with animals. Learn more about opportunities for involvement and research at Rutgers, future graduate and professional school paths and specialization areas, and meet faculty and professionals working in the field.</td>
<td>Explore aspects of the business world: current issues, trends, career options, and business practices used in everyday life. Students will gain insight into the various undergraduate plans of study for business majors at Rutgers including the Rutgers Business School, majors in the liberal arts, and graduate programs. Hear from industry leaders and faculty members who will provide valuable insight and advice on current hot topics in business.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ANTHROPOLOGY, CULTURE, &amp; PERSPECTIVES</th>
<th>CHEMISTRY</th>
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<td>What is the significance of your individual culture within our complex society? Discover what the study of anthropology (linguistic anthropology, cultural anthropology, and evolutionary anthropology) is all about. Where do you fit into the human race? How is culture defined? How do differences in our culture affect our interactions with others and the way in which we live in the world around us? This FIGS will also focus on the variety of academic paths and career opportunities related to the field of Anthropology.</td>
<td>Why explore Chemistry? Chemistry can lead to fascinating careers where you can create new materials, technologies, drugs, theories, or businesses. This discipline opens up doors for further study, ranging from graduate school to law school to medical school. This seminar will provide opportunities to network with faculty, upper-class students, and professionals in the field. Join this section and bring the periodic table to life!</td>
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<tr>
<th>ART &amp; ART HISTORY</th>
<th>COMMUNICATION</th>
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<td>Join us on the journey to examine “What is art?” In this course, students will learn about genres, time periods, and terms related to the study of art. You will be exposed to a variety of art-related resources at Rutgers, meet faculty from the Art History department, and visit art museums and exhibitions in the area. If you love art, share your interest and become part of this course.</td>
<td>Learn about this exciting field through the exploration of interpersonal, mediated, and organizational communication. These umbrella topics as well as the areas of public relations, advertising, and reputation management will be explored and related to the personal and academic life of students. This course will focus on issues within the study of communication, the media, and popular culture, including its impact on society and individuals. Discover the connections between the study of Communication and the life of first-year students as well as the limitless possibilities available in this area of study.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES</th>
<th>COMMUNITY ACTIVISM &amp; CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investigate the diversity of Asian American peoples and cultures in the U.S. Develop a better understanding of one of our country’s most vibrant sub-populations and their influence on society and involvement throughout history. Utilizing film, literature, and graphic novels, we will discuss topics such as history, stereotypes of the “Model Minority” and the “Perpetual Foreigner,” language, society, and popular culture. Meet faculty and staff members involved in the Collective for Asian American Studies; explore related study abroad, academic, and involvement opportunities; and network with peers who are also interested in cultural awareness.</td>
<td>This course will introduce students to different types of civic engagement, such as advocacy, rallying, and political campaigning, and demonstrate how they have been used historically to promote social change. Social movements will also be discussed and students will be encouraged to think analytically about the different forms of activism and how they can be used tactically and strategically to solve different social issues. This FIGS will explore the various university departments where students can study these topics, career possibilities, and social justice opportunities on and off campus.</td>
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</table>
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & AWARENESS

Are you interested in improving and protecting our environment? This course will provide information about what you can do to be a global citizen and ethical consumer. Topics to be covered include fair trade, buying locally, local and global initiatives, and how we can form a more optimistic viewpoint about the condition of our environment. Learn more about what you can do to lend a helping hand and academic and career paths related to environmental policy.

FOOD SCIENCE

Do you like food? How about science? Then you will love exploring food science. Learn how foods are formulated to taste better, last longer, and be safer and more health-promoting. Join this FIGS course to discuss how chemistry, biology, microbiology, psychology, physics and engineering all contribute to making better food. Students will discover what classes are connected to this area of study, the research opportunities available at Rutgers and the many exciting career options for students graduating with a food science degree.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS

Explore the relevance of foreign language and linguistics in today’s culture, as well as its impact in other parts of the world. Learn about the variety of foreign language and linguistics related educational and research options at Rutgers. Regardless of your career interest, this course will encourage new insights concerning career options and real world applications related to these areas.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Considering medical school? Intrigued by scientific research? Discover the many opportunities in the medical field, explore what it means to be a health care professional and network with fellow students, professionals and faculty in the field. During this course, you will learn about the many undergraduate plans of study possible at Rutgers, the medical school application process, and alternative careers including research, as well as discuss current issues in domestic and international healthcare.

ECOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

What exactly is ecology? Great question! If you are interested in aspects of animal science, marine biology, and environmental science but don’t know how to pursue all of them at once, you should explore ecology. This FIGS will focus on evolutionary origins and maintenance of biodiversity, conserving and restoring native ecosystems, and issues of global change such as managing natural resources within urban ecosystems. We will interact with faculty members in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources and take a look at some exciting careers in this growing field.

EDUCATION

Do you envision yourself educating tomorrow’s youth? Is there a “right” path for you to take? Educators today face a wide range of issues in our ever-changing society. This course is designed to introduce you to teaching in the U.S. educational system. Discover the plans of study at Rutgers that are available to someone interested in a career in teaching. We will also explore the field of education, hear perspectives from current teachers and explore the career options available with an education degree.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Want to channel your literary creativity? Students in this course will read short works of literature and have lively discussions about contemporary and historical works. Acquaint yourself with various authors and insightful literary pieces. Learn more about the English department at Rutgers, meet faculty, and explore the variety of programs and resources at Rutgers, both those specific to the area of English, and those that are useful to all new students.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

This FIGS will introduce first-year students to possibilities at Rutgers and beyond in the field of Computer Science. Students will learn about majoring/minoring in Computer Science, the diverse career opportunities related to Computer Science, and other fields of overlap such as Math, Computer Engineering, Economics, and Art. The course will highlight opportunities in research, work being done by Rutgers professors, clubs related to Computer Science, as well as innovations in technology and software in the world.

DENTAL PROFESSIONS

Are you interested in dentistry as a possible career? This FIGS will introduce students to options and specialties in the dental field and careers in dentistry such as dental practice, teaching and research. Articles on new technology, procedures, dentists’ outlook on life, and dentistry and awareness in other parts of the world will be important components of the course. Dentistry and medicine will also be compared and contrasted. Come and explore the art of dentistry.
**HISTORY**

How is history relevant to our everyday lives? Do we really learn from the past? In this course, we will delve into history by studying both primary and secondary historical sources. Learn about the history department at Rutgers, meet faculty members in the department, and discover the many paths that you can take with a degree in history.

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**JOURNALISM**

Print. Radio. Television. Internet. Journalists navigate these branches of media every day. In this course, we will discuss the importance of networking and gaining practical experience in order to be a successful journalist and participate in activities that will aid you in improving your writing and presentation skills. You will learn about the departments and academic opportunities at Rutgers related to journalism and receive an introduction to the many on-campus publications and involvement opportunities.

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**LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE**

Are you interested in gaining insights into the fascinating and diverse region that stretches from the Mexican border to the tip of Tierra del Fuego? We will explore topics together such as, politics, economics, art, history, society, language, and culture and learn about the relationship between North and Latin America. We will discuss study abroad opportunities, meet faculty, benefit from the unique perspectives of class members and discover how studying the richness and diversity of the Latin American culture complements any major program or career focus.

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**LAW & LEADERSHIP**

Are you a budding legal ace? Want to influence change through civic leadership? This course will focus on various issues and opportunities in the political and legal spheres. Students will be introduced to different career paths and educational options (law school, Ph.D., etc.). Current professional and political issues that shape our world will be discussed. Students will also be provided with the tools and the information to work towards becoming leaders in the Rutgers community and the greater world of law and politics.

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**MATHEMATICS**

Do you enjoy solving math problems? Do you envision yourself working with mathematics for a living? As one of the most uniquely versatile academic subjects, mathematics serves as the logical “common denominator” behind various STEM and social science disciplines including computer science, education, engineering, and physics. This course will optimize your first year by exploring mathematics and the different courses of study, career options, and involvement opportunities. Meet fellow students who are passionate about mathematics and network with faculty. You will learn how to integrate your mathematical passion into your Rutgers student experience – we will prove it to you!

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**NURSING**

Are you considering a career in nursing? This course will explore the variety of careers available in hospitals, clinics and schools and will introduce you to undergraduate paths of study at Rutgers. Join this FIGS and learn more about current issues in healthcare, research opportunities available at Rutgers, and faculty and professionals working in the nursing field.

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**NUTRITION**

Are you eating healthy? Ever wonder about the label on the side of food packages? Do you know what it means to plan a balanced meal? In this course, students will explore the different options within the nutrition major and the different career paths the nutritional field offers. In addition students will learn about and discuss some of the current issues and advancements in nutrition.

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**PHILOSOPHY**

Join this seminar and explore new topics each week through philosophical examination and debate. Learn techniques for analysis of major issues and strategies to strengthen arguments and prove points. This FIGS will expose students to the different fields of philosophy and opportunities that exist at Rutgers to pursue an academic and career path related to philosophy. Join this section and further your thinking about philosophy and how you discuss the world.

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**PLANT & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

Have you ever wondered why New Jersey is called the “Garden State?” Discover the answer in this FIGS course! Learn about the important role plants play in agriculture, society, and the environment. Topics to be covered include New Jersey agriculture, organic farming, GMOs, urban agriculture, plant biotechnology, and much more. Students will learn about the many research and career opportunities available in the fields of agriculture and plant science (pun intended!), as well as get to know professors and students from the Plant Biology department.
POLITICAL SCIENCE
Are you interested in learning how legislation gets passed, why countries get involved in conflict, or how politicians get elected? Are you intrigued by the interesting political stories that fill daily newspapers and current issues in politics and world affairs? This course will explore the various subfields of the political science major, including American politics, international relations, political theory, and public law. Students will learn about careers in fields such as law, government, graduate school, and other opportunities in the public and private sectors, as well as meet professors and students from the Political Science Department.

PSYCHOLOGY
Analyze this! This course is designed to get you on the road to determine your personal and professional goals through the exploration of psychology. Dabble in psychological theory and debate current social trends. Discover what is really important to your life as a college student, what career opportunities exist in the field, and the various research opportunities available in psychology.

SOCIAL WORK
This course will explore different models and approaches to social work and social welfare, as well as academic options and involvement opportunities at Rutgers. Students will be able to use skills they already have (from life experience, time in school, etc.) and relate these skills to the profession of social work. Themes that will be addressed in the course include: history of social work, different types of social work as a profession, the place of a social worker in today’s society and what it means to be a part of a helping profession.

SOCIOLOGY
This FIGS is designed to give you an insight into the sociological world. We will examine society, social relationships, and sociological processes taking place in your everyday world including your residence hall, classroom, and even pop culture phenomena. Meet faculty members in the sociology department, discuss the opportunities available to you at Rutgers, and discover the many career paths for sociology majors.

SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY & EXERCISE SCIENCE
Are you interested in exploring a future in Sports Psychology or Exercise Science? This is the FIGS for you! Explore this multi-disciplinary field spanning psychology, sport science, and medicine; the variety of major and career options available to you; and the links between psychology and exercise science. Develop a plan for inside and outside of the classroom that will provide you with a strong foundation of experiences and knowledge for future pursuits.

THEATER
The theater is unquestionably a meeting place of the arts. If you have ever had affection for acting or performing arts, this course is for you! We will explore the academic options related to theater and involvement opportunities at Rutgers. In addition, we will explore the world of professional theater through field trips and discussions with professionals in the field. Students will leave this course with a desire to get involved in the arts at Rutgers and beyond!

VETERINARY MEDICINE
Have you developed an interest in helping our friends in the animal kingdom? This course will introduce the courses of study related to field of veterinary medicine and allow students to explore a number of career options including small and large animal veterinarians, veterinary tech work, and research. Students will interact with faculty members at Rutgers, hear from professionals working in the field, and be introduced to clinical, research and involvement opportunities outside of the classroom.

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES
Are you interested in learning about the depiction of women in today’s society? This course will expose you to the relevancy and importance of feminism in the social, economic, political, cultural, national and religious spheres. Explore the department of Women’s and Gender Studies and meet current faculty in the area. Engage in rousing discussions and begin to look at gender from a whole new perspective.
I’m not really sure what I want to major in. How should I decide which FIGS topics to sign up for?
FIGS are a great opportunity to learn more about an area that interests you and explore whether it might be the right major for you. Ultimately, you should be interested in the content of the class, so select a topic that you want to learn more about.

Are FIGS available to all first-year students?
Only students enrolling in the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, and Rutgers Business School are able to register for a FIGS.

How many students are in a FIGS?
Each FIGS will have no more than 25 first-year students. This will be significantly smaller than most classes that you take in your first semester, which is another great reason to take a FIGS.

What should I expect each week in FIGS?
Your weekly FIGS class will be planned and facilitated by your Peer Instructor. FIGS are seminar courses, which means they are based on participation. You will receive the most benefit from this class if you come each week and take advantage of learning from your Peer Instructor. All FIGS will have the opportunity to go on an out-of-class excursion, hear from a peer panel, meet a faculty member, explore the various aspects of your interest area, and learn about the many services and resources available at Rutgers. You will have some short homework assignments and projects, but they are all designed to complement your learning, not provide you with busywork.

Can I take a FIGS and a Byrne Seminar?
Yes. If you are interested in both FIGS and Byrne Seminars, you should note this on your course request form when you are selecting your fall classes. FIGS are only offered in the fall semester; Byrne Seminars are offered in the fall and spring.

If I requested to participate in a learning community, how do I reference the corresponding FIGS on the course request form?
Students selected to participate in the Discovery Houses, Achievement in Math and Science (AIMS), Rosalind Franklin and Bunting Cobb communities are guaranteed placement in the related FIGS course for that community and will automatically be assigned into this class by a first-year dean. You are welcome to list alternate FIGS options on course request forms in the event you are not assigned to a learning community.

How do I register for a FIGS?
When you come to campus for an advising day, indicate your choice on the appropriate course registration form. Students that did not indicate interest in taking a FIGS during advising days, but are interested in being placed in a FIGS should fill out the online pre-registration form (figs.rutgers.edu/content/figs-classrequest-form) by early August.

If you find that you are not registered for a FIGS when you get your class schedule in August, you may still register for one during the first week of classes through the online Web Registration System (course number-01:090:120 or 11:090:120). To see the list of available FIGS, visit the Schedule of Classes in late August/early September at: http://soc.ess.rutgers.edu/soc
Academic Engagement and Programming
Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
115 College Avenue, Bishop House
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Website: figs.rutgers.edu
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