In an effort to build a sense of community and strengthen bonds within the Freshman class, while at the same time giving students the intellectual grounding needed to flourish throughout their lives, the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) at Stevens Institute of Technology proudly presents The Freshman Experience.

This innovative program provides students with the foundational skills necessary to become reflective, critical, articulate, intellectually confident and above all, truly innovative. In addition, the Freshman Experience helps orient all Stevens students to college life, giving them a common base across majors and schools, enabling them to build a sense of solidarity and affiliation.

The two courses comprising The Freshman Experience at Stevens follow common syllabi and make use of the same textbooks, which means that every Stevens Freshman is reading and discussing the same material at the same time, regardless of section or instructor. This allows students to engage in discussions and debates about the material in virtually every locale of the Institute, from the dining halls to the dorm rooms to the sports arenas.

The Freshman Experience at Stevens consists of: CAL 103 and CAL 105.

**COURSES:**
- CAL 103: Writing & Communications
- CAL 105: Knowledge, Nature, Culture

**CAL 103: WRITING & COMMUNICATIONS**

CAL 103 enhances students’ communication skills through an emphasis on textual analysis, academic research, and public presentation. The course empowers students with the written and oral communication skills they will need for success in both the academic and professional worlds.

Special attention is given to providing strategies for formulating independent thought through the analysis of ideas presented by some of the world’s greatest authors. Through their own writing, students are then able to apply what they have learned to contemporary issues in today’s global society.

Topics covered in the readings include leadership and ethics, as well as the relationship between the humanities, science, and technology. As part of the course, students are introduced to the rich resources available to them in S.C. Williams Library.

**STUDENTS IN CAL 103 WILL READ:**
- Aristotle, Politics
- Germaine Greer, “Masculinity”
- Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince
- Lao-Tzu, Tao-te-Ching
- Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own
- Gazzaniga, “Toward a Universal Ethics”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance”
- Nietzsche, The Gay Science
- and more...

**BENEFITS OF THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE:**
- Sets the benchmark for standards in college-level writing and communications.
- Provides a common curriculum and texts that become the subject of further inquiry and discussion outside of the classroom.
- Introduces small class sizes that encourage peer and student-faculty collegiality.
- Exposes students to influential texts that have impacted global thought over millennia.
- Directs students to understand ideas in texts and apply them to our modern times.
- Provides an intellectual and structural foundation for leadership development.

“We believe that the arts and humanities are the lifeblood of purposeful living and knowing; and that contained in great humanistic works, one finds the seeds for understanding and dealing with many of the world’s social, moral, scientific, and practical problems. We also believe that by reading and critically discussing great works, our students will be able to acquire those skills that allow them to become successful human agents in our complex world.”

– Lisa M. Dolling, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Letters
CAL 105: KNOWLEDGE, NATURE, CULTURE

CAL 105 introduces students to all the humanistic disciplines offered by the College of Arts and Letters – history, literature, philosophy, the social sciences, art, and music – in a focused and meaningful way.

By studying seminal works and engaging in discussions and debates surrounding the topics and ideas presented, students learn how to think critically, examine evidence in formulating ideas, subject opinions to rational evaluation, and to value and respect a wide diversity of opinions and points of view.

This course enables students to appreciate the enduring importance of the humanities, social sciences, and arts, and to recognize their relevance to contemporary society. The Reader for CAL 105 has been edited and published by Stevens faculty and is given to all incoming students as a gift from the College of Arts and Letters.

STUDENTS IN CAL 105 WILL READ:

+ Descartes, Meditations
+ Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener”
+ William James, Principles of Psychology
+ Thomas Kuhn, “The Structure of Scientific Revolutions”
and more...

The CAL Reader

TESTIMONIALS

+ “I feel that through these types of classes I will really formulate a sense of self during the pivotal growing years we call college.”
  – Tiffany Caroselli, Civil Engineering ’14

+ “I think having a core curriculum like this that every Freshman has to take will produce a tradition that will eventually connect past and present students and encourage discussions of great works and issues.”
  – Kyle Gonzalez, Computer Science and Music & Technology ’13

+ “CAL 105 was my favorite course all year. The texts we read from varying time periods all related to contemporary issues and problems. Innovation requires critical thinking. It requires asking questions, identifying complexity, finding connections, and communicating effectively. These are invaluable skills emphasized in the course.”
  – Tamar Boosaghian, Music & Technology ’13

FACULTY IN THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

The CAL 103 classes are taught by experts in academic and professional writing who also specialize in a variety of areas, such as comparative literature, creative writing, journalism, world literature, and business writing. They each bring a wealth of expertise in academic, technical, and professional writing to the classroom and are instrumental in helping prepare Stevens students for all the writing they will do throughout their college careers and beyond. Faculty teaching CAL 105 all specialize in the disciplines covered by the course, including philosophy, literature, history, and the social sciences. Collectively, these multidisciplinary experts help reveal the richness of the ideas contained in the texts. This unique approach enables students to appreciate the different ways that common readings can be encountered, understood, and applied to the contemporary world.