College Seminar:
get ready to say something

csem.nd.edu
THE COLLEGE SEMINAR in Arts and Letters is a one-semester, interdisciplinary course in which you explore significant questions on such topics as faith, reason, and identity while developing your speaking and presentation skills.

Drawing from classic texts and contemporary culture, CSEM courses help you explore the diversity of academic disciplines that comprise a liberal arts education.

The goal: to help you become a skilled, fluent, and persuasive speaker.

Small classes—each with no more than 15 students—allow you to engage with faculty and fellow students in meaningful conversations.

Seminar-style courses—focused on developing excellence in speech and discussion—favor dialogue over lecture, speaking over writing, and participation over passive learning.

Read, think, and reason—as you practice listening, questioning, stating and defending claims, and considering alternative points of view.

Get ready to say something.
Recent seminars include:

- Is There an Environmental Crisis?
- Sex and Morality
- Disability
- Trojan War Tragedies
- The Rhetoric of War and Peace
- Debating Democracy in a Global Context
- Live and Let Diet
- Poverty and Politics
- Performance and Persuasion

CSEM courses cover a wide range of issues and ideas.
What is College Seminar?

CSEM is a one-semester requirement for all sophomores majoring in the College of Arts and Letters. It is conducted through small discussion groups, introduces students to great works and interdisciplinary study, and aims to improve speaking skills.

Is CSEM required for my major?

If you are majoring in Arts and Letters, then CSEM is a requirement.

When can I take CSEM?

Normally, you take CSEM in your sophomore year. If you transfer from another college in Notre Dame or from a different university, then you can take it later.

How many CSEMs can I take?

You can take only one CSEM. There are approximately 20 courses from which to choose each semester.
Is CSEM the same as University Seminar?
They are different. The USEM focuses on developing writing skills and is taken during the first year by all students at the University. CSEM focuses on developing oral skills and is taken only by majors in the College of Arts and Letters.

Can I take CSEM if I’m in the Honors Program?
CSEM is not open to students enrolled in the Glynn Family Honors Program because that program is conducted entirely through small-class discussion seminars.

Do I need to take CSEM if I’m pursuing a dual degree?
Students who declare a dual degree, i.e., those who are earning a bachelor of arts degree from the College of Arts and Letters as well as a bachelor degree from another college, must complete the requirements of both colleges, and therefore must take CSEM.

Find more information at csem.nd.edu
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