

1135-Q1-2291 **Jennifer R. Bowen*** (jbowen@wooster.edu), The College of Wooster, 1189 Beall Ave., Wooster, OH 44691. *The Signal and the Noise: Why Numeracy Really Matters*. Preliminary report.

Required of all first-year students, the First Year Seminar (FYS) in Critical Inquiry at The College of Wooster (OH) focuses on the process of critical inquiry in a writing-intensive, small seminar. Each seminar invites students to engage a set of issues, questions, or ideas that can be illuminated by the disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives of the liberal arts. Seminars are designed to enhance the intellectual skills essential for liberal learning and for successful participation in the college's academic program. Above all, however, this course offers an introduction to college writing, reading, research, and discussion. In this session, we will examine the experience of teaching the FYS, "The Signal and the Noise: Why Numeracy Really Matters." Is algebra really necessary? When will I use this? What is math for? The course explored quantitative literacy, quantitative reasoning, and numeracy and innumeracy in the United States. In this context, students examined quantitative experience using Nate Silver's writing, informed by big data, social and natural sciences, and popular culture. In addition, the emergence of MOOCs and Khan Academy as educational technologies in mathematics. (Received September 25, 2017)