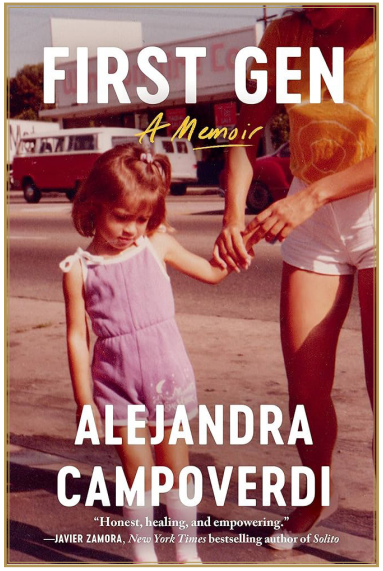
2026 COMMON READ



FIRST GEN
by Alejandra Campoverdi

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This is a space to grow — academically, personally, and socially. Be curious, be engaged, and don't be afraid to speak up!

ELMS COLLEGE

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ELMS COLLEGE

First Year Seminar







WHAT TO EXPECT IN

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

What is First Year Seminar (FYS)?

FYS at Elms College is a unified, interdisciplinary course built around a common read.

All sections explore the same material, assignments, and themes through:

- Shared readings and discussions
- Common lectures and events
- Innovation Challenge: Design

FYS helps you transition to college life while engaging in deep thinking, diverse perspectives, and real-world connections

What You Will Gain

FYS develops core liberal arts and academic skills that matter for college, careers, and citizenship:

- Clear writing and public speaking
- Openness to diverse viewpoints
- Lifelong intellectual curiosity
- Critical thinking and reasoning
- Close reading and analysis
- Thoughtful discussion and debate





CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

INNOVATION CHALLENGE

PEER EDUCATION: LIVING THE ELMS COLLEGE MISSION

ELMS COLLEGE

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

Why FYS?

- Small class sizes (15-20 students)
- Strong faculty-student engagement
- Discussion-rich learning environment
- Exposure to new ideas and disciplines

Assignments, Activities, and Assessment

Designed to build critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and engagement with Catholic Social Teaching through projects, discussions, activities, and community work.

- Common Read and Reflection
- Participation in lectures, events, and service projects
- Various papers and presentations
- Innovation Challenge
- The Longest Table
- Service Day participation
- Elms Essentials
- Catholic Social Teaching Events

Daily Class Format

Warm-Up Activity

- Quick group discussion (e.g. weekly highs/lows)
- Journaling prompts tied to CST
- Review of important to-dos

Class Discussion

- Instructor or student-led formats
- Small group and whole-class models
- May include discipline-specific insights
- Various topics

Wrap-Up and Reminders

- Key takeaways
- Upcoming readings and assignments
- Required and recommended events

LEARN MORE