General Education

**Chair of the Committee on General Education**

James Magyar

**General Information**

The General Education Program is designed to provide students in all academic majors and professional programs with the knowledge and skills of a college-educated citizen. General Education approaches eleven learning outcomes through three core courses, seven distribution areas, a second language requirement, and writing in each of the disciplines. In the first year, First Year Writing provides a starting point for writing at all levels throughout the curriculum. Also in the first year, students choose from a large selection of intriguing topics with which to hone their skills in First Year Seminar. Connections courses, taken later in one’s program, again use a topical approach to strengthen academic skills. Writing in each discipline purposefully and explicitly develops student writing appropriate to the style and context of the individual discipline.

Recognizing the vast scope of knowledge available, Distribution courses allow students to choose courses in each area to advance professional goals, enhance personal interests, or explore new areas. One of these courses is a more advanced course that builds upon other General Education courses in science and mathematics to develop skills and understanding at a higher level.

Rhode Island College graduates also demonstrate knowledge of an additional language, demonstrated through the Second Language Requirement. The following sections provide more detailed information on General Education at the College.

**Core Courses**

**Courses**

**First Year Seminar (FYS)**

FYS 100 is required in the freshman year, with sections on a wide variety of topics. Each section is discussion-based and focused on developing critical thinking, oral communication, research fluency, and written communication. FYS 100 will not be offered in the summer or the early spring sessions. Students who enter the college as transfer students are not considered first-year students and are exempt from this requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students

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| FYS 100 | First Year Seminar | 4 | F, Sp |

**First Year Writing (FYW)**

FYW 100 (or FYW 100P) is required in freshman year. Either course introduces students to college-level writing and helps them develop the writing skills needed for success in college courses. Successful completion of the course (a final grade of C or better) will also meet the College Writing Requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students for FYW 100 (four credit hours); courses are limited to fifteen students for FYW 100P (six credit hours).

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| FYW 100 | Introduction to Academic Writing | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| FYW 100P | Introduction to Academic Writing PLUS | 6 | F, Sp |

**Connections (C)**

Courses in the Connections category are upper-level courses on topics that emphasize comparative perspectives, such as across disciplines, across time, and across cultures. Students must complete the FYS 100 (p. 259) and FYW 100 (p. 259)/FYW 100P (p. 259)/FYW 100H courses and must have earned at least 45 college credits before taking a Connections course. Connections courses cannot be included in any major or minor program.

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| AFRI 262 | Cultural Issues in Africana Studies | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| ANTH 261 | The Complexities of Global Health | 4 | F, Sp |
| ANTH 262 | Indigenous Rights and the Global Environment | 4 | F, Sp |
| ANTH 265 | Anthropological Perspectives on Childhood | 4 | F, Sp |
| ANTH 266 | Anthropological and Indigenous Perspectives on Place | 4 | F, Sp |
| ART 261 | Art and Money | 4 | Sp |
| ART 262 | Encounters with Global Arts | 4 | F |
| BIOL 261 | The World's Forests | 4 | F (even years) |
| COMM 261 | Issues in Free Speech | 4 | Annually |
| COMM 262 | Dialect: What We Speak | 4 | As needed |
| COMM 263 | East Asian Media and Popular Culture | 4 | Sp, Su |
| ENGL 261 | Arctic Encounters | 4 | As needed |
| ENGL 262 | Women, Crime, and Representation | 4 | As needed |
| ENGL 263 | Zen East and West | 4 | Sp (alternate years) |
| ENGL 265 | Women's Stories across Cultures | 4 | As needed |
| ENGL 266 | Food Matters: The Rhetoric of Eating | 4 | Sp (alternate years) |
| ENGL 267 | Books that Changed American Culture | 4 | Alternate years |
| FILM 262 | Cross-Cultural Projections: Exploring Cinematic Representation | 4 | As needed |
| GEND 261 | Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures | 4 | Sp (alternate years) |

## ANTH - Anthropology

ANTH 101 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (4)

The concept of culture and its significance to an understanding of human societies are studied. Examples from a variety of societies are used to illustrate the basic approaches and concepts of cultural anthropology.

General Education Category: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

ANTH 102 - Introduction to Archaeology (4)

The methods by which archaeologists study culture and reconstruct past societies are examined through lecture-discussion, films, and laboratory exercises.

General Education Category: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

ANTH 103 - Introduction to Biological Anthropology (4)

The biocultural nature of human physical variation is examined through lecture-discussion, films, and laboratory exercises. Topics include modern variation, primatology, and paleo- anthropology.

Offered: Spring.

ANTH 104 - Introduction to Anthropological Linguistics (4)

Language is examined as a uniquely human phenomenon, with emphasis on the systematic description and analysis of communication as a socially and culturally shaped process.

General Education Category: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Offered: Fall.

ANTH 118 - Anthropology (3)

Students will explore the evolution and biological variation of humans as well as the development and diversity of human culture.

Offered: As needed.

ANTH 162 - Non-Western Worlds (4)

Selected cultures and historical traditions that arose outside the Western experience are studied. Sections are titled: African Worlds, Amazonia, Ancient Nile, Borneo, Caribbean "Others," The Maya, Past and Future, Middle East, The Middle East: Women and Men in Non-Western Cultures, Native Americans in the Northeast.

General Education Category: Core 3.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

ANTH 167 - Music Cultures of Non-Western Worlds (4)

Selected music cultures of the non-Western world are introduced in the contexts of sounds, concepts, social interactions, and materials of music. Students cannot receive credit for both MUS 169 and ANTH 169.

General Education Category: Arts - Visual and Performing

Offered: Fall, Spring.

ANTH 206 - Oral Traditions (4)

Various forms of spoken traditions are studied as cultural manifestations. These include myths, legends, folktales, parables, poetry, riddles, and games.

Offered: As needed.

ANTH 214 - Indigenous Cultures in the Amazonian Environment (4)

Students will explore the myth and reality of Amazonia, focusing on surviving native peoples, their perspectives on life, intimate knowledge of the rainforest environment and critical problems threatening their survival.

Offered: Alternate years.

ANTH 233 - Methods in Anthropology (4)

Students are introduced to multiple qualitative and quantitative methods for data collection and analysis, and instruction on spoken and written communication, with emphasis on ethnographic and observed data.

Prerequisite: Completion of at least three of the following courses: ANTH 101, ANTH 102, ANTH 103, ANTH 104.

Offered: Spring.

ANTH 235 - Bones and Stones: How Archaeologists Know (4)

Students learn about scientific and mathematical tools used to investigate archeological questions like, how old are these bones, how were those tools used, and what did ancient people eat?.

General Education Category: Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning (AQSR)

Prerequisite: Completion of any mathematics or natural science general education distribution.

Offered: Annually.

ANTH 261 – The Complexities of Global Health (4)

Students examine contemporary global health policies and interventions; the methods used across disciplines in the field of global health; and their distinct histories and impacts in communities around the world.

General Education Category: Connections

Prerequisite: Completion of FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H, and at least 45 credits.

Offered: Fall, Spring

ANTH 262 - Indigenous Rights and the Global Environment (4)

Using a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approach, students will examine and comment critically on human rights and global environmental issues as they intersect and impact indigenous peoples across the world.

General Education Category: Connections

Prerequisite: Completion of FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H, and at least 45 credits.

Offered: Fall, Spring.