General Education

**Chair of the Committee on General Education**

Joseph Zornado

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 focuses on eleven learning outcomes through three core courses, seven distribution areas, a second language requirement, and writing in each of the disciplines. First Year Writing provides a starting point for writing at all levels. The college requires first year students to enroll in a one-credit course, Introduction to RIC in their first semester. Also in the first year, students take First Year Seminar, choosing from a large selection of intriguing courses designed to spark curiosity and critical engagement. Connections courses serve as a developmental moment in which the skills learned in the first year carry through.  Meanwhile, students engage in writing across disciplines in order to develop writing skills appropriate to the style and context of their writing.

Distribution courses offer students the opportunity to choose courses that advance their professional goals, engage their personal interests, or to explore new areas of knowledge. The Distribution requirement includes an advanced course in science and mathematics, crucial to understanding the world today.

Rhode Island College graduates must demonstrate knowledge of a second language. There are various ways to demonstrate proficiency in a second language. 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 |
| HONR 100 | First Year Seminar | 4 | F, Sp |

\* HONR 100 is open only to students in the College Honors Program.

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

\* FYW 100H is open only to students in the College Honors Program.

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/HONR 100 and FYW 100/FYW 100P/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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| ANTH 261 | The Complexities of Global Health | 4 | F, Sp |
| AFRI 262 | Cultural Issues in Africana Studies | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| 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 267 | Books that Changed American Culture | 4 | Alternate years |
| ENST 261 | Climate change and YOU | 4 | F, Su |
| FILM 262 | Cross-Cultural Projections: Exploring Cinematic Representation | 4 | As needed |
| GEND 261 | Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures | 4 | Sp (alternate years) |
| GEND 262 | Lights, Camera, Gender!: Gender in Film | 4 | F |
| GED 262 | Native American Narratives | 4 | F, Sp |
| GEOG 261 | Globalization, Cities and Sustainability | 4 | Sp |
| HIST 263 | Christianity | 4 | F, Sp |
| HIST 265 | Post-1945 Conflicts in Africa and Globally | 4 | Annually |
| HIST 267 | Personal Memories of the World Wars | 4 | Annually |
| HIST 268 | Civil Rights and National Liberation Movements | 4 | Annually |
| HIST 269 | Jazz and Civil Rights: Freedom Sounds | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| HIST 272 | Globalization, 15th Century to the Present | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| HIST 273 | Latin America and Globalization, 1492-Present | 4 | Annually |
| HIST 274 | The History of the Dominican Republic | 4 | Annually |
| HIST 275 | Russia from Beginning to End | 4 | F, Sp |
| MUS 261 | Music and Multimedia | 4 | As needed |
| NURS 262 | Substance Abuse as a Global Issue | 4 | F |
| NURS 264 | Status of the World's Children | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| NURS 266 | Health and Cultural Diversity | 4 | F, Sp |
| PHIL 261  PHIL 262 | Philosophy of Health and Well-Being  Freedom and Responsibility | 4  4 | F, Sp  F, Sp, Su |
| PHIL 263 | The Idea of God | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| PHIL 265 | Philosophical Issues of Gender and Sex | 4 | F, Sp |
| PHIL 266 | Asian Philosophies: Theory and Practice | 4 | F, Sp |
| PSCI 262 | Space: The Final Frontier | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| POL 262 | Power and Community | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| POL 266 | Investing in the Global Economy | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| POL 267 | Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity | 4 | Annually |
| SOC 262 | Sociology of Money | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SOC 264 | Sex and Power: Global Gender Inequality | 4 | F, Sp |
| SOC 267 | Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education | 4 | Even years |
| SOC 268 | Genocide, Atrocity and Prevention | 4 | Annually |
| SUST 261 | Exploring Nature Through Art, Science, Technology | 4 | F, Sp |
| THTR 261 | Contemporary Black Theatre: Cultural Perspectives | 4 | Annually |

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# PHIL - Philosophy

PHIL 200 - Introduction to Philosophy (3)

Basic philosophic issues, such as the existence of God, free will, minds, the nature of reality, knowledge, and truth, are examined. Emphasis is on reasoning and justification.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PHIL 205W - Introduction to Logic (4)

This course covers principles of valid reasoning. Formal methods of propositional and quantificational logic are introduced to evaluate the validity of reasoning in arguments. This is a Writing in the Discipline (WID) course.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PHIL 206 - Ethics (3)

An examination and explanation of ethical judgments are made. Clarification and analysis of ethical terms and the validity of norms of conduct from the standpoint of formalistic, intuitional, hedonistic, and naturalistic ethical theories are considered.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

PHIL 207 - Technology and the Future of Humanity (3)

Philosophical issues concerning recent and near term technological advances. Topics may include uploading personhood, robot consciousness, machine life or death decision making, human enhancement and life extension, or simulated violence.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PHIL 220 - Logic and Probability in Scientific Reasoning (4)

Natural and social sciences require probabilistic reasoning, with special logical features. This course studies general principles of logic, special principles of probabilistic reasoning, their scientific applications, and common probabilistic fallacies.

General Education Category: Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

Prerequisite: Completion of any Mathematics or Natural Science general education distribution.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PHIL 230 - Aesthetics (4)

This course examines issues in the philosophy of art, such as: the nature of art, art and emotion, artistic intentions, aesthetic value, art and knowledge, and art and morality.

General Education Category: Arts - Visual and Performing.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

PHIL 261 -Philosophy of Health and Well-Being (4)

Students explore connections across traditional practices and recent developments concerning human health through philosophical concepts of health and well-being, plus ethical principles such as welfare, autonomy, and justice.

General Education Category:Connections

Prerequisite:Connections courses may not be used as part of a major or minor. FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

PHIL 262 - Freedom and Responsibility (4)

This class examines the nature of free will. What is it? Is it necessary for moral responsibility? Do we have it? And if not, what should we do about it?

General Education Category: Connections.

Prerequisite: Connections courses may not be used as part of a major or minor. FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

PHIL 263 - The Idea of God (4)

Concepts of Divinity are critically examined. Issues include polytheism, monotheism, atheism, gender and the God(ess). Students are challenged to critically examine their own ideas through various philosophical and religious traditions.

General Education Category: Connections.

Prerequisite: Connections courses may not be used as part of a major or minor. FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.