

## Rhode Island College General Education Connections Courses

**Connections (C)** courses are upper-level courses that emphasize comparative perspectives—such as across disciplines, across time, across cultures—on a particular topic or idea. Courses proposed for this requirement must include further development of the **WC, CCT, RF, OC,** and **CW** General Education Learning Outcomes. Interdisciplinary courses are encouraged, and team-taught courses are possible if that approach can be justified pedagogically. **Connections** is a category, not a course; therefore departments will propose courses carrying the departmental designation (e.g., BIOL or ENGL) and a shared number (261, 262, 263). Connections have as prerequisites First Year Writing, First Year Seminar, and at least 45 total credits. They may require specific General Education categories to be completed as prerequisites as well. These courses are 4 credits and they are capped at 30 students.

### Steps to creating a Connections course

1. Start with a good idea that meets the upper level and comparative objectives of the category. The choice of topic is wide open.
2. Design the course to explore the content or subject area, while at the same time addressing each of the Learning Outcomes and crafting experiences where students can demonstrate their competence in these categories.
3. Prepare a standard syllabus that includes items such as topics covered, possible resources, assignments, grading, and the usual administrative detail
4. Include in the syllabus explicit statements of the Learning Outcomes you are addressing, explain how they will be approached, and state how the students will demonstrate their progress towards those outcomes.
5. Now that the course is designed, prepare the requisite paperwork.
  - a. Fill out the Connections form for COGE that begins on the next page. It has places to explicitly address Learning Outcomes and teaching methods. If these are well described in the syllabus, appropriate text can be copied and pasted into the form. All course descriptions will include the following text at the end:

*Connections courses may not be used as part of a major or minor.  
Prerequisites: Completion of FYS, FYW and at least 45 credits*
  - b. Attach your syllabus to the form.
  - c. Attach an Undergraduate Curriculum Committee form to the package. This document includes those portions of the form that are required for Connections courses.
6. Secure the approval of your department's curriculum committee and of the department, as indicated by the Chair's signature on the UCC form.
7. Secure the signature of chairs of departments that may have a stake in the course
8. Secure the signature of your Dean. The Dean's office is the first line of checking that all is in order.
9. Transmit the material electronically to COGE ([coge@ric.edu](mailto:coge@ric.edu)) and note that the signatures have been obtained.
10. Present your material at a COGE meeting for approval.
11. Upon COGE approval the package will be transmitted to the UCC for the remaining deans' Signatures and UCC approval.

### Note on converting Core 4 courses to Connections courses

Core 4 courses emphasize comparative perspectives and make good candidates for Connections courses. The Core 4 syllabus can be a starting point, but the proposal still has to address all of the Connections requirements. It should be noted that students will have a slightly different background, since they will have more overall experience but will not necessarily have the western and nonwestern courses that they did in Cores 1-3.

### Consulting

The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning has Connections preparation workshops. It's also wise to consult with the chair of COGE ([jmagyar@ric.edu](mailto:jmagyar@ric.edu)) at an early stage in the proposal preparation process.

*James G. Magyar*  
*November 6, 2015*

# Rhode Island College General Education Connections Course Proposal

*Proposing Department or Program:*

*Chair/contact:*

*DEPT/PROG CODE (e.g., ENGL, PHYS, AFRI)      Course number: (26x)*

*Catalog title:*

*Catalog Description:*

*Prerequisites: Completion of FYS, FYW and at least 45 credits*

*Credits: 4.*

*Connections Learning Outcomes: Written Communication (WC), Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT), Research Fluency (RF), Oral Communication (OC), and Collaborative Work (CW)*

Explain briefly how this course meets the description for a Connections course, utilizing a comparative approach—such as across disciplines, across time, across cultures—on a particular topic or idea. Also briefly describe the kind(s) of required project(s) that ask students to make such connections.

For each of the following major General Education program outcomes, identify potential projects, assignments or activities that will 1) engage students actively in the learning process and 2) teach a specified academic skill through the exploration of content.

<b>General Education Outcome:</b>	<b>Assignments or Activities:</b>
Critical and Creative Thinking	
Written Communication	
Research Fluency	
Oral Communication	
Collaborative Work	

In order for the College to plan for our students, please indicate how often the course will be offered, and for how many sections each year.

Include a syllabus that meets the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee standards in the proper place in the UCC form.



## UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC) PROPOSAL FORM

A. COVER PAGE SCROLL OVER BLUE TEXT TO SEE FURTHER IMPORTANT [INSTRUCTIONS](#): PLEASE READ.

N.B. DO **NOT** USE HIGHLIGHT, PLEASE DELETE THE WORDS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO YOUR PROPOSAL  
ALL numbers in section (A) need to be completed, including the impact ones.

A.1. <a href="#">Course or program</a>			
<a href="#">Replacing</a>			
A.2. <a href="#">Proposal type</a>	<b>Course: creation   revision   <a href="#">deletion</a></b> <b>Program: <a href="#">creation</a>   <a href="#">revision</a>   <a href="#">deletion</a>   <a href="#">suspension</a></b>		
A.3. <a href="#">Originator</a>		<a href="#">Home department</a>	
A.4. <a href="#">Context and Rationale</a>			
A.5. <a href="#">Student impact</a>			
A.6. <a href="#">Impact on other programs</a>			
A.7. <a href="#">Resource impact</a>	<a href="#">Faculty PT &amp; FT:</a>		
	<a href="#">Library:</a>		
	<a href="#">Technology</a>		
	<a href="#">Facilities:</a>		
A.8. <a href="#">Semester effective</a>		A.9. <a href="#">Rationale if sooner than next Fall</a>	
<p>A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: This single file copy must include ALL relevant pages from the college catalog, and show how the catalog will be revised. (1) Go to the "Forms and Information" page on the UCC website. Scroll down until you see the Word files for the current catalog. (2) Download ALL catalog sections relevant for this proposal, including course descriptions and/or other affected programs. (3) Place ALL relevant catalog copy into a single file. Put page breaks between sections and delete any catalog pages not relevant for this proposal. (4) Using the track changes function, revise the catalog pages to demonstrate what the information should look like in next year's catalog. (5) Check the revised catalog pages against the proposal form, especially making sure that program totals are correct if adding/deleting course credits. If new copy, indicate where it should go in the catalog. If making related proposals a single catalog copy that includes all is acceptable. Send as a separate file along with this form.</p>			

**B. NEW OR REVISED COURSES DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHT. DELETE THIS WHOLE PAGE IF THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE A NEW OR REVISED COURSE.**

	OLD ( <u>FOR REVISIONS ONLY</u> ) Only include information that is being revised, otherwise leave blank (delete provided examples that do not apply)	NEW Examples are provided for guidance, delete the ones that do not apply
B.1. <u>Course prefix and number</u>		
B.2. Cross listing number if any		
B.3. <u>Course title</u>		
B.4. <u>Course description</u>		
B.5. <u>Prerequisite(s)</u>		
B.6. <u>Offered</u>	Fall   Spring   Summer   Even years   Odd years   Annually <u>Alternate Years</u>   <u>As needed</u>	Fall   Spring   Summer   Even years   Odd years   Annually Alternate Years   As needed.
B.7. <u>Contact hours</u>		
B.8. <u>Credit hours</u>		
B.9. <u>Justify differences if any</u>		
B.10. <u>Grading system</u>	Letter grade   Pass/Fail   CR/NCR	Letter grade   Pass/Fail   CR/NCR
B.11. <u>Instructional methods</u>	Fieldwork   Internship   Laboratory   Lecture   Practicum   Seminar   Small group   Individual   Studio   Distance Learning	Fieldwork   Internship   Laboratory   Lecture   Practicum   Seminar   Small group   Individual   Studio   <u>Distance Learning</u>   Hybrid
B.12. <u>Categories</u>	Required for major/minor   Restricted elective for major/minor   Free elective   Required for Certification	Required for major/minor   Restricted elective for major/minor   Free elective   Required for Certification
B.13. Is this an Honors course?	YES   NO	YES   NO
B.14. <u>General Education</u> N.B. Connections must include at least 50% Standard Classroom instruction.	YES   NO   category:	YES   NO   category:
B.15. <u>How will student performance be evaluated?</u>	Attendance   Class participation   Exams   Presentations   Papers   Class Work   Interviews   Quizzes   Performance Protocols   Projects     Reports of outside supervisor	Attendance   Class participation   Exams   Presentations   Papers   Class Work   Interviews   Quizzes   Performance Protocols   Projects     Reports of outside supervisor
B.16. <u>Redundancy statement</u>		
B. 17. Other changes, if any		

B.18. <u>Course learning outcomes: List each one in a separate row</u>	<u>Professional Org.Standard(s), if relevant</u>	<u>How will each outcome be measured?</u>
		Click Tab from here to add rows

B.19. <u>Topical outline: Do NOT insert whole syllabus, we just need a two-tier outline</u>
1) Topic 1 a) Subtopic 1a b) Subtopic 1b etc.

B.19. **Topical outline: Do NOT insert whole syllabus, we just need a two-tier outline**

2) Topic 2 etc.

**C. PROGRAM PROPOSALS COMPLETE ONLY WHAT IS RELEVANT TO YOUR PROPOSAL DELETE THIS WHOLE PAGE IF THE PROPOSAL IS NOT REVISING, CREATING, DELETING OR SUSPENDING ANY PROGRAM.**

	<u>OLD (FOR REVISIONS ONLY)</u>	NEW/REVISED
C.1. <u>Enrollments</u>		
C.2. <u>Admission requirements</u>		
C.3. <u>Retention requirements</u>		
C.4. <u>Course requirements</u> for each program option		
C.5. <u>Credit count for each program option</u>		
C.6. Other changes if any		
C.7 <u>Program goals</u> Needed for all new programs		

**D. SIGNATURES**

- Changes that affect General Education in any way **MUST** be approved by ALL Deans and COGE Chair.
- Changes that directly impact more than one department/program **MUST** have the signatures of all relevant department chairs, program directors, and relevant dean (e.g. when creating/revising a program using courses from other departments/programs). Check UCC manual 4.2 for further guidelines on whether the signatures need to be approval or acknowledgement.
- Proposals that do not have appropriate approval signatures will not be considered.
- Type in name of person signing and their position/affiliation.
- Send electronic files of this proposal and accompanying catalog copy to [curriculum@ric.edu](mailto:curriculum@ric.edu) and a printed or electronic signature copy of this form to the current Chair of UCC. Check UCC website for due dates.

**D.1. APPROVALS: REQUIRED FROM PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS/DEANS WHO ORIGINATE THE PROPOSAL. MAY INCLUDE MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS, E.G., FOR JOINT/INTERDISCIPLINARY PROPOSALS.**

NAME	POSITION/AFFILIATION	<a href="#">SIGNATURE</a>	DATE
	Program Director of		
	Chair of		
	Dean of		
James G. Magyar	Chair, Committee on General Education		Tab to add rows

**D.2. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS](#): REQUIRED FROM OTHER PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSAL. SIGNATURE DOES NOT INDICATE APPROVAL, ONLY AWARENESS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BEING SUBMITTED. CONCERNS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE UCC COMMITTEE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION**

NAME	POSITION/AFFILIATION	<a href="#">SIGNATURE</a>	DATE
			Tab to add rows