

Rhode Island College
Annual Report of the Committee on General Education
May 15, 2013

A year ago, the new general education program at Rhode Island College had just been approved and the first courses had been approved. During the 2012-2013 academic year, COGE met semimonthly to review proposals and oversee the implementation of the new program. By the end of the year, a complete program of courses had been approved (attached).

First Year Seminar was implemented beginning in Fall 2012 under the leadership of Dr. Quenby Hughes, Associate professor of History. This program provided the FYS experience to virtually all students who enrolled at the College this year. First Year Writing also served these students, led by Dr. Becky Caouette, Assistant professor of English and Director of Writing.

Assessment is a vital component of the new general education program. The task of devising and testing assessments, beginning with FYS and FYW, was led by a separate but overlapping group chaired by Dr. Dan Weisman, Professor of Social Work. This task will continue in the summer and beyond.

Departments and individual colleagues have devoted significant intellectual effort to design, revise, and improve courses for the program. The results are seen in the list of approved courses.

For the coming year, we envision phasing out the last vestiges of the previous program and adding courses to the Connections category and to the distribution to increase student choice.

Thanks are due to the members of COGE, listed below. Special acknowledgement must be given to Dr. Zubeda Jalalzai and Dr. Jane Przybyla, whose terms on COGE are completed.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Magyar, Chair

COGE 2012-2013 Membership

Name	Department	Constituency
Denise Guilbault	Music, Theater, and Dance	Arts
David Espinosa	History	History
Olga Juzyn	Modern Languages	Language
Zubeda Jalalzai	English	Literature
Stephanie Costa	Mathematics	Mathematics
James Magyar, Chair	Physical Science	Natural Science
Marta Laupa	Psychology	Social and Behavioral Science
Tish Brennan	Reference	Adams Library
Jane Przybyla	School of Management	School of Management
Ezra Stieglitz	Elementary Education	Feinstein School
Mary Byrd	Nursing	School of Nursing
Dan Weisman	MSW	School of Social Work
Michael Michaud	English	Chair of Writing Board (or designee)
Becky Caouette	English	Director of Writing (or designee)
Quenby Hughes	History	FYS Coordinator
Ron Pitt	VPAA	VPAA or designee
Earl Simson	Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Dean, FAS (or designee)
Vacant	Student	Student



REACH
INSPIRE
CONNECT

General Education at Rhode Island College

General Education Outcomes

Each course in General Education addresses several outcomes. Students who complete the general education program will encounter each outcome at least once at an introductory level. No introductory course can fully meet an outcome. Rather, every course introduces or develops several outcomes. Relevant outcomes are addressed at a higher level within the advanced work of the respective majors.

Written Communication Students will understand the different purposes of writing and employ the conventions of writing in their major fields. Students will produce writing that is well organized, supported by evidence, demonstrates correct usage of grammar and terminology, and is appropriate to the academic context.

Critical and Creative Thinking Students will be able to analyze and interpret information from multiple perspectives, question assumptions and conclusions, and understand the impact of biases, including their own, on thinking and learning.

Research Fluency Students will demonstrate the ability to access, understand, evaluate, and ethically use information to address a wide range of goals or problems.

Oral Communication Students will learn to speak in a clearly expressed, purposeful, and carefully organized way that engages and connects with their audience.

Collaborative Work Students will learn to interact appropriately as part of a team to design and implement a strategy to achieve a team goal and to evaluate the process.

Arts Students will demonstrate through performance, creation, or analysis an ability to interpret and explain the arts from personal, aesthetic, cultural, and historical perspectives.

Civic Knowledge Students will gain knowledge of social and political systems and of how civic engagement can change the environment in which we live.

Ethical Reasoning Students will demonstrate an understanding of their own ethical values, other ethical traditions from diverse places and times, and the process of determining ethical practice.

Global Understanding Students will analyze and understand the social, historical, political, religious, economic, and cultural conditions that shape individuals, groups, and nations and the relationships among them across time.

Quantitative Literacy Students will demonstrate the ability to: (1) interpret and evaluate numerical and visual statistics; (2) develop models that can be solved by appropriate mathematical methods; and (3) create arguments supported by quantitative evidence and communicate them in writing and through numerical and visual displays of data including words, tables, graphs, and equations.

Scientific Literacy Students will understand how scientific knowledge is uncovered through the empirical testing of hypotheses; be familiar with how data is analyzed, scientific models are made, theories are generated, and practical scientific problems are approached and solved; have the capacity to be informed about scientific matters as they pertain to living in this complex world; be able to communicate scientific knowledge through speaking and writing.

Program Requirements

All degree programs require the completion of ten 4-credit General Education courses: three [Core courses](#) and seven [Distribution courses](#). Students must also complete the [Second Language requirement](#). A [Writing in the Discipline](#) requirement is also included in General Education and is a part of each major.

Core Requirement

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, 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 at twenty students.

First Year Writing (FYW)

FYW 100 is required in freshman year. It 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's Writing Requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students.

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 and FYW courses and must have earned at least 45 college credits before taking a Connections course.

AFRI 262	Cultural Issues in Africana Studies	HIST 268	Connections: Civil Rights and National Liberation Movements
ANTH 265	Anthropological Perspectives on Childhood	HIST 269	Connections: Jazz and Civil Rights: Freedom Sounds
ANTH 266	Anthropological and Indigenous Perspectives on Place	HIST 272	Connections: Globalization 15th Century to the Present
ART 261	Art and Money	HIST 273	Connections: Latin America and Globalization, 1492-Present
BIOL 261	Connections: The World's Forests	HIST 275	Russia from Beginning to End
COMM 261	Issues in Free Speech	HONR 264	Seminar in Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Issues
COMM 263	East Asian Media and Popular Culture	MUS 261	Music and Multimedia
ENGL 262	Connections: Women, Crime, and Representation	PHIL 262	Freedom and Responsibility
ENGL 263	Connections: Zen - East and West	PHL 263	The Idea of God
ENGL 265	Women's Stories Across Cultures	POL 266	Investing in the Next Global Economy
GED 263	The Holocaust and Genocide	POL 267	Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity
GED 264	Multicultural Views Same Sex Orientation and Transsexuality	SOC 261	Fountain of Age
GED 265	Disability Viewed Through Cross-Cultural Lenses	SOC 262	Sociology of Money
GED 268	Bullying Viewed from Multicultural Lifespan Perspectives	SOC 264	Sex and Power: Global Gender Inequality
GEND 261	Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures	SOC 267	Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education
GEOG 261	Globalization, Cities and Sustainability	THTR 261	Contemporary Black Theatre: Cultural Perspectives
HIST 267	Connections: Memoirs, Autobiographies, Fiction and Film		

Distribution Requirement

Distribution courses emphasize ways of thinking and methods of inquiry within various disciplines. Students are required to take one course in each of the following seven areas:

Arts – Visual and Performing

ART 101	Drawing I: General Drawing	ENGL 113	Approaches to Drama
ART 104	Design I: Two Dimensional Design	MUS 201	Survey of Music
ART 201	Introduction to Visual Arts	MUS 203	Elementary Music Theory
ART 210	Nurturing Artistic & Musical Development	MUS 225	History of Jazz
ART 231	Prehistoric to Renaissance Art	PHIL 230	Aesthetics
ART 232	Renaissance Art to Modern Art	THTR 240	Appreciation & Enjoyment of the Theatre
COMM 241	Introduction to Cinema and Video	THTR 242	Acting for Non-Majors
DANC 215	Contemporary Dance & Culture	FILM 116	Approaches to Film & Film Criticism

History

HIST 101	Multiple Voices: Africa in the World	HIST 105	Multiple Voices: Latin America in the World
HIST 102	Multiple Voices: Asia in the World	HIST 106	Multiple Voices: Muslim Peoples in the World
HIST 103	Multiple Voices: Europe in the World to 1600	HIST 107	Multiple Voices: The United states in the World
HIST 104	Multiple Voices: Europe in the World since 1600		

Literature

ENGL 120	Studies in Literature and Identity	FREN 115	Literature of the French Speaking World
ENGL 121	Studies in Literature and Nation	ITAL 115	Literature of Italy
ENGL 122	Studies in Literature and the Canon	PORT 115	Literature of the Portuguese Speaking World
ENGL 123	Studies in Literature and Genre	SPAN 115	Literature of the Spanish Speaking World

Mathematics

MATH 139	Contemporary Topics in Mathematics	MATH 209	Precalculus Mathematics
MATH 144	Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers II	MATH 212	Calculus I
MATH 177	Quantitative Business Analysis I	MATH 240	Statistical Methods I

Natural Science (lab required)

BIOL 100	Fundamental Concepts of Biology	PHYS 110	Introductory Physics
BIOL 108	Basic Principles of Biology	PHYS 200	Mechanics
BIOL 111	Introductory Biology	PSCI 103	Physical Sciences
CHEM 103	General Chemistry I	PSCI 210	Introduction to Astronomy
CHEM 105	General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I	PSCI 212	Introduction to Geology
PHYS 101	General Physics 1	PSCI 217	Introduction to Oceanography

Social and Behavioral Sciences

AFRI 200	Introduction to Africana Studies	GEOG 206	Disaster Management
ANTH 101	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	POL 202	American Government
ANTH 102	Introduction to Archaeology	POL 203	Global Politics
ANTH 104	Introduction to Archaeology	POL 204	Introduction to Political Thought
ANTH 205	Race, Culture and Ethnicity: Anthropological Perspectives	PSYC 110	Introduction to Psychology
COMM 240	Mass Media and Society	PSYC 215	Social Psychology
ECON 200	Introduction to Economics	SOC 200	Society and Social Behavior
GEND 200	Gender in Society	SOC 202	Society and the Family
GEOG 100	Introduction to Environmental Studies	SOC 204	Urban Sociology
GEOG 101	Introduction to Geography	SOC 207	Crime and Criminal Justice
GEOG 200	World Regional Geography	SOC 208	Minority Relations Minority Group Relations
		SOC 217	Aging and Society

Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning

ANTH 306	Primate Ecology and Social Behavior	MATH 213	Calculus II
ANTH 307	Human Nature: Evolution, Ecology and Behavior	MATH 248	Business Statistics I
BIOL 221	Genetics	MATH 324	College Geometry
BIOL 335	Human Physiology	PHIL 220	Logic and Probability in Scientific Reasoning
CHEM 104	General Chemistry II	PHYS 102	General Physics 2
CHEM 106	General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry II	PHYS 201	Electricity and Magnetism
CSCI 423	Analysis of Algorithms	POL 300	Methodology in Political Science
GEOG 201	Mapping our Changing World	PSCI 208	Forensics
GEOG 205	Earth's Physical Environments	SOC 302	Research Methods I
HSCI 232	Human Genetics	SOC 404	Research Methods II