General Education

**Chair of the Committee on General Education**

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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, and a second language requirement. 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.

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, information literacy/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 | Philosophy of Health and Well-Being | 4 | F, Sp |
| PHIL 262 | Freedom and Responsibility | 4 | 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 267 | Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity | 4 | Annually |
| POL 269SOC 262 | International LGBTIQ+ RightsSociology of Money | 4 | F, (odd years) |
| 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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# POL - Political Science

POL 202 - American Government (4)

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The institutions and principles of American national government are examined. Topics include the constitutional foundation, federalism, political parties, Congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court, and civil rights.

General Education Category: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

POL 203 - Global Politics (4)

This is an introduction to the governance of other contemporary national political systems and to the forces, principles, and transnational arrangements of international politics.

General Education Category: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

POL 204 - Introduction to Political Thought (4)

Fundamental concepts and issues of philosophy and political theory are investigated. Basic precepts about authority, law, government, and the terms of obligation are examined in light of contemporary concerns.

General Education Category: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

POL 208 - Introduction to the Law (4)

Students are introduced to the legal system, the nature of legal reasoning and the roles of judges, juries, legislatures and others in shaping the law.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

POL 262 - Power and Community (4)

Students study normative and empirical aspects of the concepts of “power” and “community.” Examples of power relations in a variety of contexts and settings will be compared.

General Education Category: Connections.

Prerequisite: FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

POL 265 - Politics and Popular Culture: Global Perspectives (4)

Students investigate the intersection of politics and popular culture in Western and non-Western societies by examining entertainment values, their relationship to political culture and behavior, and the debate over globalization.

General Education Category: Core 4.

Prerequisite: Gen. Ed. Core 1, 2, and 3.

Offered: Annually.

POL 267 - Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity (4)

Students investigate how different societies have dealt with citizenship and immigration issues and how conceptions of nationhood influence citizenship and immigration debates.

General Education Category: Connections.

Prerequisite: FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Annually.

POL 269 – International LGBTIQ+ Rights (4)

Students will explore the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer individuals and their communities from an international and comparative perspective.

General Education Category: Connections

Prerequisite: FYS 100, FYW 100/FYW 100P/FYW 100H and 45 credit hours.

Offered: Fall (odd years)

POL 300 - Methodology in Political Science (4)

The approaches and methods of empirical political science research are surveyed. Emphasis is on research design, data collection, and interpretation.

General Education Category: Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

Prerequisite: POL 202 and any Gen. Ed. Mathematics course, or consent of department chair.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

POL 301W - Foundations of Public Administration (4)

The art and science of public administration is introduced. Focus is on the administrative leadership necessary to manage government agencies within the American political system. This is a Writing in the Discipline (WID) course.

Prerequisite: POL 202 or consent of department chair.

Offered: Fall.

POL 303 - International Law and Organization (4)

Both twentieth-century international organization and the place of evolving international law are considered with respect to the settlement of disputes and the maintenance of peace.

Prerequisite: POL 203 or consent of department chair.

Offered: Spring.

POL 306 - State and Local Government (4)

Students examine the political structures, processes, policies, and power distributions in state and local governments in the United States. Topics include intergovernmental relations, executive leadership, and legislative policy making.

Prerequisite: POL 202 or consent of department chair.

Offered: Every third semester.

POL 307 - Political Behavior (4)

Students examine how individuals interact with the American political system. Topics include political socialization, political psychology, public opinion, voting behavior, and other forms of mass political participation.

Prerequisite: POL 202.

Offered: Fall (even years).

POL 308W - Current Political Controversy (4)

Students learn the art and science of political analysis by critically reading and writing about political controversies currently in the news while learning to use the tools and data available to political scientists. This is a Writing in the Discipline (WID) course.

Prerequisite: POL 202 and completion of 30 credits.

Offered: Fall, Spring.

POL 309 - Gender and Politics in the U.S. (4)

Focus is on the increasing involvement of women in the politics and issues of contemporary America. Women's political socialization, voting behavior and political roles in government are also discussed.