Rhode Island College General Education Connections Courses

Connections (C) courses are upper-level General Education 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.
    1. 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

    2. Attach your syllabus to the form.
    3. 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) 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.

Consulting

The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning has Connections preparation workshops. It's also wise to consult with the chair of COGE at an early stage in the proposal preparation process.

J. Zornado February 14, 2023

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 learning 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.

General Education Outcome   Assignments or Activities:

General Education Outcome	Assignments or Activities:
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: [IF
NOT WORKING SELECT "COMMENTS ON ROLLOVER" IN YOUR WORD PREFERENCES UNDER VIEW] **PLEASE READ THESE.**

N.B. **ALL numbered categories in section (A) must be completed. Please do _not_ use highlight to
select choices within a category but simply delete the options that do not apply to your proposal (e.g.
in A.2 if this is a course revision proposal, just delete the creation and deletion options and the
various program ones, so it reads "course revision") Do _not_ delete any of the numbered categories—if
they do not apply leave them blank. If there are no resources impacted please put "none" in each A. 7 category.**

A.1. Course or program		
Replacing		
A. 1b. Academic unit	**Faculty of Arts and Sciences | School of Business | School of Education | School of Nursing | School of Social Work | Other: (Indicate)**	
A.2. Proposal type	**Course: creation | revision | deletion** **Program: creation | revision | deletion | suspension**	
A.3. Originator		Home department	
A.4. Context and Rationale Note: Must include additional information in smart tip for all new programs		
A.5. Student impact Must include to explain why this change is being made?		
A.6. Impact on other programs		
A.7. Resource impact	_Faculty PT & FT_:	
	Library:	
	Technology	
	Facilities:	
A.8. Semester effective		A.9. Rationale if sooner than next Fall	
A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: Use the Word copy versions of the catalog sections found on the UCC Forms and Information page. Cut and paste into a single file **ALL the relevant pages from the college catalog that need to be changed.** Use tracked changes feature to show how the catalog will be revised as you type in the revisions. If totally new copy, indicate where it should go in the catalog. If making related proposals a single catalog copy that includes all changes is preferred. Send catalog copy as a separate single Word file along with this form.		
A.11. List here (with the relevant urls), any RIC website pages that will need to be updated (to which your department does not have access) if this proposal is approved, with an explanation as to what needs to be revised:		
A. 12 **Check to see if your proposal will impact any of our transfer agreements, and if it does explain in what way. Please indicate clearly what will need to be updated.**		
A. 13 Check the section that lists "Possible NECHE considerations" on the UCC Forms and Information page and if any apply, indicate what that might be here and contact Institutional Research for further guidance.		

B. NEW OR REVISED COURSES DELETE SECTION B IF THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE A NEW OR REVISED COURSE. AS IN SECTION A. DO NOT HIGHLIGHT BUT SIMPLY DELETE SUGGESTED OPTIONS NOT BEING USED. **ALWAYS FILL IN B. 1 AND B. 3 FOR CONTEXT.** NOTE: COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND TOPICAL OUTLINES ONLY NEEDED FOR NEW OR SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED COURSES.

	OLD (FOR REVISIONS ONLY) ONLY include information that is being revised, otherwise leave blank.	NEW Examples are provided within some of the boxes for guidance, delete just the examples that do not apply.
B.1. Course prefix and number		
B.2. Cross listing number if any		
B.3. Course title		
B.4. Course description		
B.5. Prerequisite(s)		
B.6. Offered	**Fall │ Spring │ Summer │ Even years │ Odd years │ Annually Alternate Years │ As needed**	**Fall │ Spring │ Summer │ Even years │ Odd years │ Annually Alternate Years │ As needed.**
B.7. Contact hours		
B.8. Credit hours		
B.9. Justify differences if any		
B.10. Grading system	**Letter grade │ Pass/Fail │ CR/NCR**	**Letter grade │ Pass/Fail │ CR/NCR**
B.11. Instructional methods	**Fieldwork │ Internship │ Laboratory │ Lecture │ Practicum │ Seminar │ Small group │ Individual │ Studio │**	**Fieldwork │ Internship │ Laboratory │ Lecture │ Practicum │ Seminar │ Small group │ Individual │ Studio │**
B.11.a Delivery Method	**On campus │ Distance Learning │ Asynchronous │ Synchronous │ Hybrid % Online │**	**On campus │ Distance Learning │ Asynchronous │ Synchronous │ Hybrid % Online │**
B.12. CATEGORIES 12. a. How to be used	**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**
12 b. Is this an Honors course?	**YES │ NO**	**YES │ NO**
12. c. General Education N.B. Connections must include at least 50% Standard Classroom instruction.	**YES │ NO category:**	**YES │ NO category:**
12. d. Writing in the Discipline (WID)	**YES │ NO**	**YES │ NO**
B.13. How will student performance be evaluated?	**Attendance │ Class participation │ Exams │ Presentations │Papers │ Class Work │ Interviews │ Quizzes │ Performance Protocols │ Projects │ │ Reports of outside supervisor │ Studio work │ Field Work │ Clinical work**	**Attendance │ Class participation │ Exams │ Presentations │Papers │ Class Work │ Interviews │ Quizzes │ Performance Protocols │ Projects │ │ Reports of outside supervisor │ Studio work │ Field Work │ Clinical work**
B.14 Recommended class-size		
B.15. Redundancy statement		
B. 16. Other changes, if any		

B.17. **Course learning outcomes: List each one in a separate row**	**Professional Org.Standard(s), if relevant**	**How will each outcome be measured?**
		Click Tab from here to add rows

B.18. **Topical outline: DO NOT INSERT WHOLE SYLLABUS, JUST A TWO-TIER TOPIC OUTLINE suitable for the contact hours requested. Proposals that ignore this request will be returned for revision.**

1) Topic 1
   a) Subtopic 1a
   b) Subtopic 1b
   c) Subtopic 1c
2) Topic 2
   a) Subtopic 2a
   b) Subtopic 2b etc.

C. PROGRAM PROPOSALS   COMPLETE ONLY WHAT IS RELEVANT TO YOUR PROPOSAL. DELETE SECTION C IF NOT NEEDED. PLEASE ADD IN THE 2020 CIP NUMBER FOR MAJOR REVISIONS OR NEW PROGRAMS IN C. 2; THESE CAN BE FOUND AT HTTPS://NCES.ED.GOV/IPEDS/CIPCODE/BROWSE.ASPX?Y=56 CONSULT WITH INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH TO BE SURE YOU SELECT THE CORRECT ONE.

	OLD (FOR REVISIONS ONLY)	NEW/REVISED
C.1. Enrollments Must be completed.		
C. 2. 2020 CIP number		
C.3. Admission requirements		
C.4. Retention requirements		
C.5. Course requirements for each program option. Show the course requirements for the whole program here.		
C.6. Credit count for each program option		
C.7. Program Accreditation (if relevant)		
C.8 Is it possible that the program will be more than 50% online (includes hybrid)?*	YES │ NO	YES │ NO
C.9 Will any classes be offered at sites other than RIC campus or the RI Nursing Ed. Center?*	YES │ NO	YES │ NO
C. 10. Do these revisions reflect more than 25% change to the program?*	YES │ NO	YES │ NO
C.11. Program goals Needed for all new programs		
C.12. Other changes if any		

* If answered YES to either of these questions will need to inform Institutional Research and get their acknowledgement on the signature page.

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 their 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 to the current Chair of UCC. Check UCC website for due dates. Do NOT convert to a .pdf.

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

NAME	POSITION/AFFILIATION	SIGNATURE	DATE
	Program Director of		
	Chair of		
	Dean of		Tab to add rows

D.2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: REQUIRED FROM OTHER PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS (AND THEIR RELEVANT DEANS IF NOT ALREADY INCLUDED ABOVE) THAT ARE 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; ALL FACULTY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

NAME	POSITION/AFFILIATION	SIGNATURE	DATE
			Tab to add rows