GC1Y courses

GC1Y courses are available to students who are currently in their first year at Georgia College and should generally be completed during one of the student’s first two terms of enrollment.

Transfer students who have not yet fulfilled their Area B1 requirement may also register for GC1Y courses and should do so at their earliest possible opportunity.

The following sections have been approved to fulfill the GC1Y requirement. Not all of these sections or topics will be offered each semester; students should consult the schedule of classes for offerings, section times, and instructors. Students are strongly encouraged to register for their GC1Y course at their first available registration opportunity to have the greatest selection of course sections.

Approved GC1Y Courses

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Ability/Disability
Long Title: Representations of Ability and Disability
Sponsoring Department: Special Education & Education Leadership
Approved Instructors: DeClouette

Ability and disability are cornerstone concepts in education. This course provides an opportunity to examine how ability and disability are represented in popular culture, literature, film, and autobiographies by people with and without disability, and in professional texts/narratives (e.g., research literature, practitioner materials) and the meaning of these representations for educational practice and social policy. In addition to considering different constructions and meanings of ability and disability, participants will examine markers of privilege as well as processes of marginalization. The focus of the course is on developing skills to examine how ideas (including ideas about the body and the mind) are constructed and represented in cultural contexts and the meaning of this for work in education-related fields.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Capital Punishment
Long Title: The Capital Punishment Debate
Sponsoring Department: Government & Sociology
Approved Instructors: Cook, Doude

The study of the death penalty is a contentious issue in the United States. The United States is one of the last first world nations to employ the practice of capital punishment. Georgia has been at the center of this debate since the 1970s and continues to be a center of debate regarding racial and socioeconomic biases among those given the death sentence. This course will explore the history of the death penalty, the death penalty as it is currently practiced, words of those who have experienced a death sentence from a personal perspective, and the possibility of error in the justice system, specifically regarding death sentences.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Climate & Chem
Long Title: Climate and Chemistry
Sponsoring Department: Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy
Approved Instructors: Fietkau, Lisse, Meztker, Richards

This course explores how chemistry helps us understand ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, smog, acid rain and other important climate concerns.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Comp & Info Tech
Long Title: Computer and Information Technology
Sponsoring Department: Information Systems & Computer Science
Approved Instructors: Adkins, Goette

This course is a thematic exploration of the role of computer and information technology in today’s global society. Students will learn about the ever expanding impact of technology across various industries, medicine, government and education. The course content will be learned through the study of current topics, experimentation with graphics design, game development tools, and robotics. Students will host a poster presentation of research and projects at the end of the course. During the first term offering of this course, students have been extensively involved in developing working applications for Android smart-phones using App Inventor.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Contmp Hlth Issues
Long Title: Contemporary Health Issues
Sponsoring Department: Health and Human Performance, Nursing
Approved Instructors: Coke, Fowler, Hunt, Jarriel

Contemporary Health Issues is a speaking intensive course designed to increase the student’s knowledge about international issues, policies and events that affect the health of populations. This course includes an examination of the significance of bioethical, social, cultural, epidemiological, and economic factors that impact health. Class sessions will be used to engage in dialogue and debate about student-derived health issues. Practical application activities and a service-learning
project will complement the class. Students will gain valuable skills in public speaking, research and writing, negotiation, and powers of persuasion, leadership, organization, and interpersonal communication.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Creative Arts Ther
Long Title: Creative Arts Therapies
Sponsoring Department: Music Therapy
Approved Instructors: Keith, Robinson

U.S. society issues, including religion, race, economics, disabilities, education are examined. The creative arts, including visual arts, music, dance and movement, and creative writing, are also examined. The class members develop rubrics in order to develop a critical thinking model on looking at the arts and seeing if and how they serve a purpose while addressing society needs. The class involves five hours of community involvement, as well as classroom speaking and presenting.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Cultur/Youth Mid E
Long Title: Culture and Youth in the Middle East
Sponsoring Department: Early and Middle Grades Education
Approved Instructors: Carter, Mehranian

This course critically analyze cultures, youth, and politics of the middle east, as well as existing cultural interpretations of the middle east in the West, by using relevant examples of literature, art, film, music, and dance from and about this important region of the world.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Freakonomics
Long Title: Freakonomics
Sponsoring Department: Economics & Finance
Approved Instructors: Clark

This course will discuss, debate, and analyze the topics presented in the books "Freakonomics" and "SuperFreakonomics" by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. These books present interesting and nontraditional perspectives, from multiple disciplines, focusing on behaviors that are not traditionally associated with economics. Students will be expected to describe and critically evaluate the diverse perspectives relevant to each topic. Upon successfully completing the course, students will be able to apply economic reasoning, explain the behavior of rational individuals when confronted with the everyday problem of making constrained choices, apply critical thinking analysis to current economic issues, evaluate how incentives influence decision making, and illustrate the unintended consequences associated with everyday decision making.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Glob Challenges I
Long Title: Global Challenges I (formerly Seven Revolutions I)
Students in this course will be introduced to global challenges that are changing the world in which we live, learn the fundamentals of information literacy and research, conduct team-based research on one of global challenges, and then pull this research together in an e-book or other e-format. The global challenges include population demographics, natural resource management, economic integration, conflict and the challenges of governance.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Growing up with Lit
Long Title: Growing Up with Literature
Sponsoring Department: Foundations and Secondary Education
Approved Instructors: Gregg

This course explores how stages of development from childhood through young adulthood are reflected through literature, book and stories.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Hist Rock and Roll
Long Title: History of Rock and Roll
Sponsoring Department: Music
Approved Instructors: Woodruff

What is the roll of "rock" music in Western society? This exciting survey will take a chronological look at the roots of rock music from the blues, country, rock and roll, surf music, soul, funk, rap, folk, southern rock, British rock, psychedelic, singer/songwriter, hard rock, heavy metal, punk, and new wave. Students will develop cultural perspective by learning about the pioneers and sociocultural influences that became the creative drive for these most important genres of music that greatly affect our lives and music of the present.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Interact Past Lit
Long Title: Interacting with the Past through Literature
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric
Approved Instructors: Simon

Interacting with the Past Through Literature will explore contested historical events through the lens of literary and critical readings. Possible course topics include The Transatlantic Slave trade; Jamestown and Pocahontas; and The Salem Witchcraft Crisis.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Into Wilderness
Long Title: Into the Wilderness
Sponsoring Department: Health and Human Services
Approved Instructors: Hirsch, Hobbs, Turner
This course will be a thematic exploration of protected places through which multiple perspectives on wilderness are applied to the politics of legally designated Wilderness areas and wilderness management. The course will include a thorough review of wilderness philosophy, a guided case study of a selected problem or conflict within a wilderness area in the state, and a student-selected case study of a different problem/conflict within a wilderness area. The part of the course will require field trip(s) to local wilderness areas and meetings/interviews with various stakeholders (local citizens, advocacy groups, politicians, government employers, etc.).

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Monsters & Machines  
Long Title: The Uncanny: Monsters and Machines  
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric  
Approved Instructors: Flaherty

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the uncanny or monstrous "other" in the popular imagination. We will look at figures such as vampires, aliens, robots, and cyborgs in literature, film, and television to consider questions of cultural identity. What is frightening about these mysterious others? What is appealing? How are the creatures presented differently for adults or young adults? How do the portrayals of these figures present human relationships (love, parenting) with the uncanny? How do these creatures serve as metaphors for the human experience? How do they address issues of gender, race, or class? What do fictional portrayals of these creatures reveal about our psychological, philosophical, or national ideals and biases? What does the popular perception of these figures reveal about the ways we perceive ourselves?

Schedule Title: Crit Think: New Biology  
Long Title: The New Biology: Promise and Peril  
Sponsoring Department: Biology & Environmental Sciences  
Approved Instructors: Gleason

Students will critically examine text and media that explore contemporary problems in biology that we as individuals, society, and our global environment currently face or may soon face in the future. Students will learn the science behind the topics we choose to learn more about and then explore the ethical, financial, legal, and sociological implications that surround these issues. Group work, discussions, and student-presentations, and a culminating term paper will be the major means by which progress in learning how to critically think will be evaluated.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Phil & Soc Justice  
Long Title: Philosophy and the Search for Social Justice  
Sponsoring Department: Philosophy & Liberal Studies  
Approved Instructors: Edmondson, Littlefield, Winchester
We will read a contemporary novel, "White Tiger", a book about inequality in American education, "Savage Inequalities", the ancient Chinese text "The Analects of Confucius" and 3 contemporary philosophers (Amartya Sen, Michael Sandel and Peter Singer) to think about how to make the world a more just place.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Psych Ethics
Long Title: Psychological Ethics
Sponsoring Department: Psychological Sciences
Approved Instructors: Rose
This course will use case examples and readings from related disciplines to explore many ethical issues related to the clinical practice of psychology, counseling, research, teaching and other professionally-related activities. Class discussion and brief written assignments will enhance student understanding of ethics in general and specifically how ethics influences the helping professions.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Publ & Coll Memory
Long Title: Public and Collective Memory
Sponsoring Department: Government & Sociology
Approved Instructors: McClure
Students will develop critical thinking skills through exploring issues related to public and collective memory and forgetting. Topics may include: politics of commemoration, personal narratives and storytelling, construction and control of collective identities.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Public Deliberation
Long Title: Public Deliberation
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric
Approved Instructors: Clark
"Public Deliberation" explores how ordinary citizens become engaged in public discourse and self-governance around critical local, regional, and national issues.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Rsrch Age Google
Long Title: Research in the Age of Google, the Cloud, and Open Space
Sponsoring Department: Library
Approved Instructors: Carpenter, Cole, Davis, Walker, Wertz
In today’s information rich society, it is important for students to not only access and evaluate information, but learn to manage it using all the technological tools available. In this course, students will describe and critically evaluate the current state of information retrieval in today’s ever-changing information landscape. Tools and issues include, but are not limited to, research using Google, cloud computing, open source resources, media bias, information overload, online privacy, and scholarly databases.
Schedule Title: Crit Think: Sci Fi & Philosophy  
Long Title: SciFi and Philosophy  
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric  
Approved Instructors: Blazer

This course will interpret science fiction and fantasy literature, film, television, gaming culture (role playing, live-action role playing, and video games), and fan culture (fanzines and fan fiction) through the lens of philosophy. Students will not only analyze sci-fi and fantasy works from a literary perspective but also learn about the philosophical concepts that these works explore, such as the nature of reality, the concept of the self, and the philosophy of morality.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Sex, Drugs, & Econ  
Long Title: Sex, Drugs, and Economics  
Sponsoring Department: Economics & Finance  
Approved Instructors: Conaway

This course explores how economic theory can be used to analyze controversial issues, as well as, the often hidden costs and unintended consequences of government policies governing sex, drugs, usury, child labor, health care, abortion, capital punishment and immigration, among others.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Social Problems  
Long Title: Social Problems  
Sponsoring Department: Government & Sociology  
Approved Instructors: Bruce, Koch

Sociology is a scientific study of human behavior. Sociologists take seriously the fact that all human behavior occurs within a social context and that context influences human behavior. This course will explore a series of social problems (including racism and poverty among other topics) from the sociological perspective and will propose and evaluate contextual solutions to the problems.

Section Title: Crit Think: Swansonomics  
Long Title: Swansonomics  
Sponsoring Department: Economics & Finance  
Approved Instructors: Conaway

In this course we will examine the libertarian beliefs espoused by the character Ron Swanson from the television series “Parks and Recreation”. You may love the government or you may hate it, either way, this class will make you rethink your position. The topics will include, but are not limited to: The expected economic consequences of a specific piece of legislation or political position/philosophy, unintended consequences, various systems of taxation (progressive income taxes,
the “fair” tax, value added taxes, etc), Public vs. Private pay, Public Unions, the
tragedy of the commons, government bailouts, the size of the government, Fiat
money, the role of government, transfer programs, the 1%, the 47%, and
incentives, in general.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: Utop/Dystop Worlds
Long Title: Through the Looking Glass: Utopian/Dystopian Worlds
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric
Approved Instructors: Beasley

Human beings have a natural tendency to desire a better future and to daydream
about living in a more perfect society. But what would a more perfect society look
like? This is a question writers have tried to answer for hundreds of years, and this
body of imaginative writing is named utopian literature, after Sir Thomas More’s
hugely popular Utopia (1516). In this course, we will explore the nature and
evolution of utopian literature, as well as the emergency of dystopian literature (such
as George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four), which imagines societies far worse than
our own. We will discuss many of the important artistic and political questions that
utopian and dystopian texts raise.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: War Literature
Long Title: War Literature
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric
Approved Instructors: MacLachlan

For much of its history, the United States has been at war, both domestically and
abroad. After potential for victory becomes complicated, popular culture often
loses interest in the war’s outcomes, as well as the individuals involved. While the
amount of money powering the military is high (roughly twenty percent of the federal
budget), the average civilian is increasingly disconnected from military life. How can
this be? Public debates of war often only begin when a fictional representation of
war is created. What do fictional representations of war reveal about our national
identities, biases, and philosophies? This course aims to investigate and critically
analyze the costs of two recent major wards in American history: The Iraq War and
The Vietnam War.

Schedule Title: Crit Think: We The People
Long Title: We The People
Sponsoring Department: English & Rhetoric
Approved Instructors: Burt, Dillard, Vail

This course explores how we create ourselves and influence our worlds through our
worlds through the use of rhetorical communication in interpersonal, group, and
public settings.
Contact Information

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