

Rollins

FOUNDATIONS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

rFLA 300

[Course Title]

Interdisciplinary Capstone Course

Course Theme: Cultural Collision | Enduring Questions |
Environments | Identities | Innovation

[Course Meeting Time]

Course Description:

[Insert course Description here]

This course is part of the Rollins Foundations in the Liberal Arts. This curriculum is intended to:

- Introduce students to the liberal arts
- Expose students to a broad array of disciplines and ways of thinking and understanding
- Provide an academic and extracurricular community for the students
- Teach students how to integrate knowledge and skills across disciplines and courses

As the 300-level interdisciplinary capstone of the Foundations Seminars, this course:

- Examines a complex question or problem that allows students an opportunity to apply concepts/theory to the real world
- Reflects on rFLA experiences and coursework
- Demonstrates how knowledge or methods from multiple disciplines equips people to solve problems

Professor Contact info:

Office:

Office Hours:

Foundations Objectives¹:

- Critical Thinking: Students will be able to perform a “comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.” In addition, they will understand “The historical, ethical, political, cultural, environmental, or circumstantial settings or conditions that influence and complicate the consideration of any issues, ideas, artifacts, and events.”

¹ Course learning objectives follow the definitions offered under the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ LEAP initiative (Liberal Education and America’s Promise).

Remember to just select 1-2 themes.

Use the course theme to integrate your class with others in the Foundations curriculum and drive home the relevance of coursework to students.

This may be the first time students have thought about interdisciplinarity. How will you provide opportunities for them to look back on their coursework and articulate its relevance for their lives and their world? Consult the rFLA Canvas page for suggestions on supporting these connections.

- Information Literacy: This is the ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.- Adopted from the National Forum on Information Literacy.
- Written Communication: Written communication is the development and expression of ideas in writing. Written communication involves learning to work in many genres and styles. It can involve working with many different writing technologies, and mixing texts, data, and images. Written communication abilities develop through iterative experiences across the curriculum.

Educating Beyond the Classroom

At Rollins, part of our mission is to empower graduates to pursue meaningful lives and productive careers. The Foundations curriculum models this goal by taking learning outside the walls of the classroom. Your participation in this course includes experiential learning that often includes attendance at campus events. The schedule might look a little different than other classes, but these events allow you to take advantage of some of the most important opportunities that a liberal arts college affords.

Consistently, when CEOs from top US companies are asked what they look for in applicants, they name a variation of the following skills: strong written communication, critical thinking, independence, teamwork, and problem solving. Employers say that what sets one applicant apart from another are skill sets that transcend one’s major or desired profession and the ability to thoughtfully demonstrate those skills during the application process. Your Foundations curriculum is carefully designed to teach these in-demand skills and to provide moments of reflection that encourage you to translate these classroom-centered activities to the worlds of work and life.

This fall, the Foundations Summit will be held on Tuesday, December 3, from 9-10:30am. At this Summit, you will present work that allows you to demonstrate the multiple skills and approaches you’ve learned in the program. Start thinking now: faculty and staff interviewers at the Summit will ask you about how your Foundations coursework has prepared you for life after college and why courses from many disciplines are essential to 21st century citizens—just the kinds of questions you may be asked on a job interview.

The two additional out-of-the-classroom experiences for our class are:

XXXX
XXXX

When students express concern about the “relevance” of coursework, it’s often code for career preparation. Our curriculum delivers essential skills, but that reality is not always visible to students. Consider including course objectives that name the life and career skills students will gain. The NACE (National Assoc. of Colleges and Employers) Competencies are a great place to start. You might also tag assignments with a quick identifier of transferrable skills (e.g. “collaboration,” “written communication,” “problem solving”).

All 300 level students must contribute to the Foundations Summit. Note the time change to Tuesday morning to allow time for reflection in your class after the event..

Course Objectives:

Books:

Requirements:

Grading:

Schedule:

Syllabus Statements

Remember: Students are no longer required to earn a C- in individual rFLA courses. Instead, they must earn a cumulative 2.0 GPA across *all* rFLA coursework (including competencies & RCC).

In week 13, all rFLA students will need to submit to Foliotek a short reflective essay from a common writing prompt tied to course level. This assignment can be completed in or out of class and should take around 45 minutes (but please account for extended time accommodations).

Include materials from the Common Read in your reading list. Let's engage students in a campus-wide conversation about the terms of our mission. Fall 2019 readings on the theme of Global Citizenship pair well with Jose Antonio Vargas's talk at 7pm on Oct 18. See rFLA on Canvas for the complete selection of readings.