Ashby Signature Projects

Parlor Theater
The Rocky Horror Picture Show
Haunted House
48—Hour Film Festival
Foustgiving
Sports/Wellness
Garden Plot
Social Justice Initiatives
Foustercon
Fouststock
Foustcast/Ashby Lit Mag
Membership/Yearbook

All Ashby students sign up for a minimum of two signature projects.
Welcome to your Ashby Core Class!

One of the reasons that Ashby is such a great place to live and take classes is our curriculum that is designed to integrate and connect all the experiences you have while you are here. Core classes are the center of that curriculum.

With the goal of understanding contemporary media literacies and ethical engagement in civic and academic life, Core courses ask you to think about the ways we encounter individuals, communities, cultures, ideas and perspectives with thoughtful intention. You will have opportunities to think through and express concepts connected to ethical engagement by learning about the varied ways we communicate and form our ethical values in this digital age. Every Core course, regardless of the content or subject, helps you focus on how to think about the world you live in. In particular, Core directs your attention toward how to talk about and make meaning from what you want to learn and know as a student in college.

We will explore multiple literacies that extend beyond traditional reading and writing, such as the literacy of sounds, visual images, spatial relations and gesture or movement. Examining ideas from your coursework through the lens of ethical engagement—while expressing those ideas using multiple literacies and forms—helps you talk about and make sense of the content you are learning. Keeping our focus in mind, you can think about many other ways to communicate and process what you know and care about: a podcast, a video, a map, a recipe, a eulogy, a dance, a comic strip panel. How does your thinking about a subject grow and change as you put your ideas into different shapes and perspectives?

Think of Core as an ongoing conversation among you, your peers, your instructors, and your brain.

Your Core instructors will ask the question often asked by our founder,
Warren Ashby: what do you believe and why? Then we will ask you to account for those beliefs, to offer evidence for the value of your ideas. You do this all the time already, but Core will ask you to expand your range of concepts and evaluate what counts as worthy evidence. Courses typically explore different areas of one theme across several disciplines. What connects these disciplines? In addition to issues of identity, ideology, power, and class, these courses connect to your general education curriculum rooted in the liberal arts. Each course will include a shared core reading, a group core lecture, and an assignment related to the reading and lecture, and your instructor will incorporate these concepts throughout your course.

**Core Courses in Ashby are designed with specific goals in mind:**

- To understand the concepts of Contemporary Media Literacies and Ethical Engagement in Civic and Academic life.
- To communicate concepts of Ethical Engagement using contemporary media literacies through the creation of a variety of genres in class and co-curriculum.
- To engage with course content by processing ideas and concepts through language and/or images, sound, digital texts, or movement.
- To make connections among history, English, language, rhetoric, religion, and science, all of which are interconnected, even though they seem like discrete subjects.
- To illustrate how your liberal arts education is the foundation for critical thinking.
- To become intentional in the way you apply ethical engagement and engage ethically in multiple contexts.
Psychology is the science of human behavior. This course provides an overview of the field of psychology. We explore a variety of topics, including the biological basis for behavior, developmental processes, social behavior, personality, learning and other cognitive processes, and abnormal psychopathology.

How does Core fit into the larger Ashby Curriculum?

The Ashby Curriculum

Core Courses (2)
- Take these any time during your 2 years in Ashby
- These courses
  - Meet Gen Ed requirements.
  - Are designed to help you make connections between ideas and concepts presented in Core and your other courses at UNCG.
  - Help with ethical considerations raised in courses and their disciplines.

Ashby Research Capstone Course (1)
- This course is required during the Spring semester of your sophomore year
- In the Ashby Research Capstone Course, you will
  - Generate your Ashby Research Capstone Portfolio, in the form of a website.
  - Focus on a research inquiry of your own about an issue connected to your experiences in Core, your particular course of study at UNCG, or any other area of critical inquiry that has resulted from your intellectual curiosity.
  - Connect your co-curricular work to your coursework and your website project by reflecting on your participation in our signature projects, within which you will have applied ethical communication and creativity in multiple contexts.
  - Craft your digital identity through a collection of genres that illustrate your ethical engagement with your environment, your research interests, and your experiences at Ashby College.

What does this mean for you as an Ashby student?

Think ethically and create lots of genres!
- Think about alternative ways to process and communicate knowledge.
• All your Core courses will have opportunities for you to create a variety of genres (in addition to essays and presentations) that speak to and engage with the content you are learning in class!

• Your instructors in Ashby will help you think about the different kinds of genres available.

Make the Ashby Research Capstone process work for you!

• During your first 3 semesters at Ashby you will want to do a few helpful things to make your last semester at Ashby and the process of creating the Ashby Research Capstone efficient, useful, and productive:
  
  o Start formulating a research question early that addresses a concept or topic that you are curious to learn more about. Usually this is an idea connected to your major or your life interests and it will likely (but not necessarily) emerge from your thoughts and experiences in your coursework.

  o Save all electronic and hard copies of any genre work you produce in your Core classes so that you might use them in your Ashby Research Capstone Portfolio.

  o Save work in various genres you produce in any of your other courses that might connect to your area of inquiry.

  o Save work in various genres you produce (or think about producing some!) while you are participating in your committee work.

MST 225-01-All RC Course
Will Dodson
TIME TBA MFOU 120
Film Appreciation (GFA)

As a general entry to the broad field of film studies, this course introduces you to the study of film as an art form, as an industry, and as a culture. In addition, you will learn basic concepts and terminology for cinematic techniques, styles, and analytical approaches. The course also highlights the achievements of selected prominent filmmakers and the traditions and contexts in which these filmmakers have produced their works. This is a hybrid Web/Lecture course. You will meet weekly as a class for a lecture and film screening, and participate in online discussion forums and complete online course assignments.

RCO 155-01-All RC Course
Amy Brown
T 2-3:15 GUIL 119
On Demand Media Culture (GRD, SI)

Media influences who we are and our beliefs in the perspectives of others. This course introduces how the invention and expansion of the on-demand media concept is changing our culture and behavior. We will examine how changes in the media affect globalization, social norms, consumer expectations, and business practices. As we focus on the recent invention of on-demand media, students learn how to become critical consumers and producers of media.
FALL 2018 ASHBY COURSE OFFERINGS

Fall 2018 Core Theme:
Contemporary Media Literacies

RCO 204-01-Core
Christine Flood
TR 9:30-10:45 MFOU 120
American History through Literature (GLT, WI)

There is an old cliché that truth is stranger than fiction. While that may be so, fiction is oftentimes an imaginative re-telling of historical events, and much can be learned from reading novels critically. In this course students will be studying the political, social, and economic forces of twentieth-century America as represented in the characterizations, plot lines, and literary devices of novels. The pieces of literature covered in the course are some of the great works in the American literature genre and represent much more than just a creative piece but also a reflection of the time that they were written. Using literature as a lens for understanding and contextualization, this course will offer a comprehensive overview of American history.

RCO 155-01-Core
Anne Barton
TR 9:30-10:45 GUIL 119
Art of Discourse (GRD, SI)

The description of our course can only begin with a question. How can we contribute to and/or strengthen the discourses of civility already present in modern western society? To answer that question, we must begin with an explanation. ‘Civility,’ a word related to the Latin words for ‘citizen’ and ‘city,’ is a concept that has long regulated (or attempted to regulate) social interactions among the citizens of the nation-states that make up the modern western world. Such discourses of civility allow members of a community to express opposing and deeply felt opinions without recourse to rhetorical strategies that allow emotion and passion to overcome good manners and polite interactions. In this our modern (or postmodern) age, civil discourse is threatened by extreme rhetoric fueled by the broadening of modes of
communication. Social media and other forms of mass communication allow individuals to share their thoughts and reactions instantaneously. In a world in which the goal is #worldwide trending, nothing is left unsaid, even (or perhaps especially) those things that do not consist of thoughtful commentary but rather of incendiary remarks that incite rapid and thoughtless responses. Discourses of civility, then, allow us to create a space in which words and concepts are treated carefully, with due attention to their power both to bind and to divide.

**RCO 203-01-Core**
**Will Dodson**
**TR 9:30-10:45 MFOU 128**
**Ethics for Post-Millennials (GPR, WI)**

What do we believe? Warren Ashby is only one of an illustrious line of philosophers—not to mention theologians, politicians, artists, and just regular folks—to have asked this question. The founding of Ashby Residential College, and Ashby’s culminating work, *A History of Western Ethics*, offer his answers to this question. Ashby College is an experiment in learning and applying that learning in our communities. In that spirit, you will gain in this course a working knowledge of ethics as a field of inquiry and action, and just as important, you will ask, Why do we believe what we believe? As you consider contemporary ethical dilemmas, you will learn about the rhetoric of belief, how we come to accept certain values and reject others, and how shared beliefs form the basis of our communities. You will also develop your oral and written communication skills, facility for critical and synthetic reading, and techniques for applied research in the humanities through media productions and cross-community communication.

**RCO 101-01 (ENG 101 Equivalent)-All RC Course**
**Christina Murrell**
**TR 11:00-12:15 MFOU 128**
**College Writing I (GRD)**

Writing does not exist only within the four walls of the classroom. Rather, writing is a social act that engages with people and social contexts. As we learn the academic approach to writing essays, we will also challenge the four walls of the classroom, read articles, and write essays that enable us to be involved with our current political climate. Focusing this course on issues of diversity and American identity, you will be asked to read and write on the theme of what it means to be American and how our ever-changing and diverse systems shape our understanding of what it means to be an American college student.

**RCO 115-01 (MAT 115 Equivalent)-All RC Course**
**Aaron Rapp**
**MWF 11-11:50 GUIL 119**
**College Algebra (GMT)**

This course is part of the GEC mathematics requirement. Students will learn algebraic expressions, exponents, radicals, factoring, solving equations and inequalities, graphing, polynomial and rational functions. By the end of the course, students will think critically, communicate effectively, and develop fundamental skills in quantitative and information literacies, as well as understand fundamental principles of mathematics and statistics, and recognize their relevance in the world.

**HIS 347-01-All RC Course**
**Chrissy Flood**
**MWF 11-11:50 MFOU 128**
**History of North Carolina (SI)**

How much do you really know about the state you now call home? In History 347, students will learn about the historical development of North Carolina, both chronologically and topically, from its beginnings in the sixteenth century up to the present time. To do so we will focus on diverse subjects such as politics, race, age, gender, economics, and culture, all the while attempting to understand how historical events touched everyday citizens. We will view history not as a random list of dates and events, but instead as a narrative of inter-related events.