

# Associate in Arts Degree in General Studies

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ASSOCIATE IN ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

*The Associate in Arts (General Studies) program will enable students to apply the knowledge and skills of liberal learning to personal growth and professional advancement. Students who complete the A.A. core curriculum will fulfill the general education requirements for upper division degree work at Trinity. 61 college level credits are required for graduation.*

#### Program Goals

- *Ensure that students attain the fundamental competencies required for collegiate level academic work*
- *Enable students to acquire core skills in quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, problem solving, technological literacy, and communication*
- *Encourage students to be actively involved in the learning process and become independent learners*
- *Provide a curricular structure that:*
  - *Links core skill acquisition with mastery of foundational knowledge in liberal arts disciplines*
  - *Emphasizes the ways that knowledge in various disciplines is interrelated*
  - *Builds upon core skills to prepare students to be ethical, engaged citizens as well as successful professionals*

**A college degree is closer than you think...**

## INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE

### The learning experience

#### **INT 113 Academic Achievement - 3 credits** (Linked with either PSYC 100 or POLS 102)

Introduces students to the concepts and practices associated with a successful college experience. Students are taught skills that will lead to self-management and self-responsibility in terms of their academic success. The course will familiarize students with Trinity's policies and procedures, academic services and student services. Students will be assisted in the transition to college with emphasis placed on the adult learner. Topics covered will include: returning to college, balancing work, family and school, and managing time. In addition, the course will help students to identify different learning and teaching styles, develop critical thinking skills, and acquire effective study habits and valuable classroom skills.

*Formerly INT 106 – Academic Achievement Seminar*

## SKILLS FOR WORK AND LIFE

### Information Literacy – 3 credits

#### **INT 117 Introduction to Information Literacy - 3 credits**

In order to be successful in both the academic and professional realm, a student must be able to discover, retrieve, evaluate, manage and communicate all forms of information. The purpose of this course is to help students learn the importance of the internet as a research tool and to enable students to evaluate the quality of information and understand how information is to be used in a way that supports critical thinking and communication of thoughts, ideas, and/or opinions. This course will also give students a clear understanding of the ethical and legal issues surrounding the use of information.

*Formerly ISYS 102- Introduction to Information Literacy*

### Writing – 6 credits

*Students may be required to complete Collegiate Bridge English Courses before taking the following course - see page 4*

#### **ENGL 106 Writing for Academic and Professional Success - 3 credits**

Focuses on planning, writing, and revising compositions for academic and professional purposes, including informational, analytical, evaluative, and persuasive compositions. Develops skills in accessing, evaluating, using, and documenting informational sources. Introduces students to professional writing applications, including memos, resumes, and reports.

#### **PHIL 101 Logic and Problem Solving - 3 credits**

Develops skills in reasoning and use of logic to assess arguments. Provides tools for creative and critical thinking. Emphasizes the enhancement of decision-making and problem-solving capabilities.

### Numeracy – 3 credits

*Students may be required to complete Collegiate Bridge Math Courses before taking the following course - see page 4*

#### **MATH 111 Applied Mathematical Skills - 3 credits**

Covers basic algebra with an emphasis on problem solving skills; elementary mathematical modeling, focusing on applications to real world phenomena; probability theory and applications; and introduction to the use of statistics to describe and analyze data.

### Communication – 6 credits

#### **COM 101 Introduction to Communication & Public Speaking - 3 credits**

Studies principles of communication, with an emphasis on developing the skills needed to communicate effectively in personal and professional relationships, and in informative and persuasive public speaking contexts.

#### **COM 224 Cross-Cultural Communication - 3 credits**

Cross-cultural Communication examines basic principles of communication in multi-cultural contexts. Students will analyze the impact of cultural assumptions and values on understanding and communication between individuals and among communities.

## UNDERSTANDING THE SELF, SOCIETY, & NATURE

### Arts & Humanities – 6 credits

#### **FNAR 248 Music and Culture - 3 credits**

Surveys global music, examining the relationship between music and culture in both western and non-western music. Formal musical traditions, popular culture music, and folk music will all be included. Students will develop listening skills as well as an appreciation for the music of diverse cultures.

#### **HIS 250 Contemporary World History - 3 credits**

Examines major forces that have shaped the world since 1945, including nationalism, revolution, democratization, globalization, ethnic and racial conflict, and technological transformation and the information revolution.

### Social Sciences – 9 credits

#### **PSYC 100 Foundations of Psychology - 3 credits**

Introduces students to the primary concepts of psychology, and to the tools of psychologists use to study the wide variety of human behavior. Provides a general overview of the fields of psychology through lectures, readings, short thought papers, and interactive class activities. The course surveys several major topic areas: the biology of behavior, learning, memory, consciousness, personality, and abnormal behavior. Students will learn to critically evaluate the state of knowledge in the field, particularly as it applies to a highly diverse society as or own.

#### **POLS 102 Politics and Citizenship - 3 credits**

Develops student understanding of current political and policy issues. Through study of academic, newspaper, and broadcast journalism sources on American and global politics, students will learn how to conduct research, assess sources, analyze policy debates, construct written and oral arguments, and become more informed and active citizens.

#### **SOCY 101 Social Issues - 3 credits**

Examines contemporary social issues in the United States using current sociological approaches and theories. Topics include poverty, racism and sexual discrimination, health care, aging, violence, family and community structures, and substance abuse.

### Scientific Understanding – 3 credits

#### **ENVS 102 The Science of the Environment - 4 credits**

Introduces non-science majors to evolution, earth science, and plate tectonics with an emphasis on the mid-Atlantic region. Labs include use of the scientific method, development of observational skills, computer-assisted learning, and several field trips. There is an additional laboratory fee for this course.

### Religious Studies / Ethics – 6 credits

#### **PHIL 252 Practical Ethics - 3 credits**

Develops students' abilities to handle problematic ethical situations in their lives and work, and to come up with constructive responses to ethical dilemmas. The course will build skills in respectful, open dialogue about values and ethics. It will also increase students' awareness of and responsiveness to diverse values, including an understanding of tensions between values as well as the importance of seeking common ethical ground.

#### **RST 289 Comparative Religions - 3 credits**

This course surveys the relationship of several religious traditions of the world—Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity and Islam, concentrating on their development, belief systems, and practices of today. Special emphasis will be placed on their differences as well as similarities.

## COLLEGIATE BRIDGE COURSES – FUNDAMENTALS

All students must demonstrate or develop fundamental academic competencies at the beginning of their studies for the A.A. degree. Incoming students will take skills inventories in reading, composition, and mathematics. The purpose of the skills inventory is to promote student success by placing students in classes appropriate to their skill level.

Based on an assessment test, students will be placed either in college-level courses or collegiate bridge classes.

All collegiate bridge coursework must be completed within the first 24 credit hours of enrollment. Students taking collegiate bridge classes receive credit upon successful completion of the courses. Students who place out of collegiate bridge classes take the college-level courses.

### Math Courses

#### **MATH 030 Pre-Algebra - 3 credits**

Designed for students with little or no high school algebra, or those who have not taken high school algebra in a number of years. Provides a comprehensive overview of basic computational skills and their applications, such as fractions, decimals, ratios and proportions, percentages, measurement, and an introduction to algebra.

#### **MATH 060 Elementary Algebra - 3 credits**

The course will cover ratios, percentages, integers, introduction to algebraic expression and solving basic equations.

### English Courses

#### **ENGL 030 Fundamental Writing Skills - 3 credits**

Designed to help students acquire skills necessary to write effective paragraphs. Focuses on sentences and paragraph construction, the writing process, grammar, usage, and mechanics.

#### **ENGL 060 Composition Skills - 3 credits**

Focuses on writing clear, effective compositions. Students will learn how to construct paragraphs, how to state topics, and how to develop narratives and analyses.

## AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The area of emphasis serves as the basis for a major or minor in a Bachelor's Degree Program. Students will select one area of emphasis in which they will complete an additional twelve credits. Three areas of emphasis are offered for the A.A.: Social and Behavioral Sciences, Business, and Arts and Humanities.

The Area courses were selected based upon both academic discipline and course content. As a result, the areas of emphasis are interdisciplinary. Some courses can apply to more than one area of emphasis. Interdisciplinary areas help students understand the relevance of different academic disciplines to their chosen major.

Recommended Area of Emphasis	Recommended Area of Emphasis Social and Behavioral Sciences	Recommended Area of Emphasis Arts and Humanities	Recommended Area of Emphasis Business	Students can select any Area of Emphasis
<b>For students who intend to pursue:</b>	<i>BA Human Relations</i>	<i>BA in GS Humanities Concentration</i>	<i>BS Business Administration</i>	<i>BA in GS Information Systems Concentration</i>
	<i>BA Criminal Justice</i>		<i>BA in GS Business Administration Concentration</i>	
	<i>BA Communications</i>		<i>BA in GS Human Resource Management Concentration</i>	
	<i>BA in GS Communication Concentration</i>			
	<i>BA in GS Human Resource Management Concentration</i>			
<b>Area of Emphasis Course List</b>	Principles of Management and Leadership	Politics, Literature, and Film	Fundamentals of Business	Students who complete the AA program cannot select the BS in Nursing as a major. Students need to have completed an RN for that major.
	Architecture, Cities, and Society	Introduction to the Humanities	Marketing Theory and Practice	
	Work and Society	Religion and Capitalism	Principles of Management and Leadership	The BA in LS Information Systems does not have specific courses as part of the AA program. Area of Emphasis classes will become electives for students who select these majors.
	Theories of Social Psychology	Early African American Literature	Work and Society	
	Introduction to Counseling	Architecture, Cities, and Society	Religion and Capitalism	
	Politics, Literature, and Film			

#### **INT 290 Capstone Project in General Studies for the Associate's Degree – 3 credits**

The capstone course allows students an opportunity to create a body of work which will show that they have met the goals of the Associate Degree Program. Specific student goals include: preparedness to matriculate to a Trinity Bachelor's Degree program; acquisition of core skills in quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, problem solving, technological literacy, and communication; an appreciation of the interrelatedness of knowledge from various academic disciplines, and an understanding of how the program goals will assist students in becoming ethical, engaged citizens as well as successful professionals. This course is open only to students in the Associate's degree program.

## AREA OF EMPHASIS COURSES

### **BADM 100 - Fundamentals of Business - 3 credits**

An introductory course designed to provide students with an overview of business organizations. This course will explore the following aspects of business: forms of business ownership, research and development, marketing, finance, accounting, production, materials management, and human resources management.

*Business*

### **BADM 230 Marketing Theory and Practice - 3 credits**

Addresses the theory and practice of marketing consumer goods and services. This course will introduce marketing principles, concepts, and tactics; including consumer behavior theory. Emphasis will be placed on the use of research and analytical tools in the promotion of goods and services. This course is only open to students in the Associate's Degree program.

*Business*

### **BADM 250 - Principles of Management & Leadership - 3 credits**

Discusses the theory and practice of management. Teaches the functions of management (planning, organizing, and leading) through participation in discussions, simulations, role-playing, and team activities. Students will develop effective management and leadership skills, with a focus on personal awareness and growth.

*Business, Social & Behavioral Sciences*

### **ENGL 217 – Early African American Literature – 3 credits**

Studies African-American Literature from colonial times to the 20th century. The course will survey folklore, poetry and prose.

*Arts & Humanities*

### **FNAR 222 - Architecture, Cities, and Society – 3 credits**

Examines the relationship between human behavior and designed environments. Studies the application of psychological facts to the design of buildings and cities. The course will cover both urban planning and architecture in relation to function and aesthetics. The history of both architecture and urban planning will be addressed; however, the main focus of the course will be modern cities and buildings.

*Social & Behavioral Sciences, Arts & Humanities*

### **GST 102 – Introduction to the Humanities – 3 credits**

This course will provide students with a broad overview of the humanities. The course will explore the cultural differences and similarities as expressed through art, history, literature, and philosophy. Students will reflect on the development of personal and cultural beliefs and how these beliefs can affect actions and values.

*Arts & Humanities*

### **HUMR 213 Introduction to Counseling – 3 credits**

This course provides an overview of professional counseling in helping professions. Topics will include the history, and philosophies and theories of counseling; in addition to the implications of current economic and social climates on the practice of counseling. Students will explore the roles, functions, and limitations of counselors and leave with an understanding of basic counseling skills.

*Social & Behavioral Sciences*

### **POLS 274 Politics, Literature, and Film - 3 credits**

The course explores various themes in politics as they are presented in both literature and film. Academic materials will be integrated with excerpts from novels, short stories, poetry, film, and television. Some topics examined will be: Democracy, social inequality, justice, citizenship, and oppression.

*Social & Behavioral Sciences, Arts & Humanities*

### **PSYC 210 Theories of Social Psychology - 3 credits**

This course will study the influence of others, real or imagined, on an individual's thoughts, emotions, and actions. Topics covered will include social perception and social influence in the context of leadership, conformity, persuasion, aggression, altruism. The course will expose students to theories of social interaction that will be useful in both their academic and career development.

*Social & Behavioral Sciences*

### **RST 244 Religion and Capitalism – 3 credits**

Examines the relationship between religion and capitalism. The course will examine the religious ideals in the context of capitalism; with special emphasis on corporate wealth. The course will focus on Christianity, but other religions will be discussed. Topics will include profit, wealth, poverty, and charity, and economic justice.

*Business, Arts & Humanities*

### **SOCY 240 Work and Society – 3 credits**

This course studies work from a sociological perspective in the context of the modern American workplace. Topics include career choices, occupational socialization and commitment, issues of gender, race and age discrimination in the workplace, larger social forces that shape the world of work, such as the relationship of work to the economy, and the future of work. 3 credits

*Business, Social & Behavioral Sciences*