

# CA First Year Topics Fall 2011

## Ramapo College of New Jersey, School of Contemporary Arts

**CNTP 101 section 01** Course leader: Jonathan Lipkin

College Website: <http://www.ramapo.edu>, Course Website: <http://phobos.ramapo.edu/~jlipkin>

College Closing/Special Announcement Number: (201) 236-2902

Time: Mon/Thurs 9:45-11:15 AM; Fulfills the first year seminar general education requirement

Room: H-Wing Auditorium (group meetings)/A-217 (section meetings); CA Office: BC-239

Jonathan Lipkin, [jlipkin@ramapo.edu](mailto:jlipkin@ramapo.edu), (201) 684-7056

For urgent matters: [jlipkin@jlipkin.com](mailto:jlipkin@jlipkin.com), (718) 772-3068 (mobile)

Office Hours: M 5:30-7:00, R 11:30-1

### Course Description

Required of all incoming first year students in the School of Contemporary Arts, this course introduces students to Ramapo College through an exploration of the disciplines of the School: Communication Arts, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. While these disciplines cover a broad swath of creative experience, they share at their core the creative exploration of the human condition.

Through reading/reading notes, lectures and visits to galleries, shows, concerts and other cultural activities, students will begin to discuss some of the fundamental questions of these mediums. This course will prepare students for the rigors of college-level academics while also exposing them to the resources that the College has to offer. It focuses on the basic skills of college: reading/reading notes; writing; discussion; creative production and analysis.

Each faculty member will present lectures on their area of interest, followed by discussions in section classrooms.

### Course Objectives

This course has as its focus the development of critical thinking skills in the student. By the end of the term, students will be able to:

- Read and understand college-level texts; take useful notes (measured by Section-based assignments)
- Analyze works of art using the language of the discipline; understand context (Papers, participation)
- Conduct effective research using library resources such as online and print holdings; evaluate the accuracy of online sources (Papers)
- Write clear and effective papers (Papers)
- Use College resources such as the Center for Academic Success and library (Section-based)
- Express well-informed opinions in classroom discussions (Participation)
- Understand the basic workings of the college environment; reading/reading notes a syllabus; how and where to get advisement; how to use various information systems at the college; interaction with faculty; acting in a professional manner. (Section-based)

“Well, let’s see. Can’t we kind of fuck things up? What can we do?”

-John Baldessari

## General Education

CNTP-101 satisfies the First Year Seminar (FYS) General Education Requirement for Ramapo College. It is the first course in the general education curriculum of Ramapo College of New Jersey and it serves as the introduction to general education and liberal learning. The goal of FYS is to develop students' critical thinking skills using open discussion, reading/reading notes, writing, and experiential learning. FYS courses are open only to first-semester, first-year students and they are designed expressly to acclimate new Ramapo College students to the higher academic expectations they will be asked to meet throughout their years of college study.

First-Year Seminar is the home of the Ramapo College Summer Reading/Reading Notes Program. All incoming first-year students will be required to read a common book selected by students, faculty, and staff members, which will be used as a discussion topic in the FYS course. Students are expected to read the book during the summer months prior to joining the Ramapo community and they will be asked to discuss issues raised in the reading/reading notes and to write thoughtful responses to questions that develop in the course of engaging discussions.

## Texts

--Lowen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me*. New York: The New Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 1607512343

--Hacker, Diana, and Barbara Fister. *Rules for Writers with Tabs with 2009 MLA and 2010 APA Updates*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-312-66482-4

--Additional materials will be available from e-Reserve or through the course website

## Course Requirements

Classroom participation	15%
Section-based assignments	10%
Five short papers	75%

## Schedule of Classes

### Introduction

**R 9/1** **Activities:** Intro to course. Writing Center workshop. Quiz on summer reading/reading notes. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**R 9/8** **Activities:** Discussion of summer reading. Meet in section classrooms  
**Due today:** Summer reading paper

### Photography

**M 9/12** **Activities:** Photo lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium.  
**Due today:** Photo reading/reading notes.

**R 9/15** **Activities:** Discussion of photo lecture. Meet in section classrooms  
**Due today:** Photo reading/reading notes

**M 9/19** **Activities:** Photo Lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**R 9/22** **Activities:** Discussion of photo lecture. Meet in section classrooms  
**Due today:** Photo reading/reading notes

### Library

**M 9/26** **Activities:** Library lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium  
**Due today:** Photography paper

### Music

**R 9/29** **Activities:** Music lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium.

**Due today:** Music reading/reading notes

**M 10/3 Activities:** Discussion of music lecture. Meet in section classrooms

**Due today:** Music reading/reading notes

**R 10/6 Activities:** Music Lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**M 10/10 Activities:** Discussion of music lecture. Meet in section classrooms

**Due today:** Music reading/reading notes

### Ramapo Pride

**R 10/13 Activities:** GLBQT panel. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

### Visual Arts

**M 10/17 Activities:** Theater lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium.

**Due today:** Music paper, theater reading

**R 10/20 Activities:** Discussion of theater lecture. Meet in section classrooms

**Due today:** Theater reading/reading notes

**M 10/24 Activities:** Theater Lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**R 10/27 Activities:** Discussion of theater lecture. Meet in section classrooms

**Due today:** Music reading/reading notes

### Advisement

**M 10/31 Activities:** Advisement lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

### Theater

**R 11/3 Activities:** Theater lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium.

**Due today:** Visual arts paper, theater reading/reading notes

**M 11/7 Activities:** Discussion of theater lecture. Meet in section classrooms

**Due today:** Theater reading/reading notes

**R 11/10 Activities:** Theater Lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**M 11/14 Activities:** Discussion of theater lecture. Meet in section classrooms

**Due today:** Music reading/reading notes

### Section-based activities

**R 11/17 Activities:** TBA. Meet in section classrooms

**M 11/21 Activities:** TBA. Meet in section classrooms

### Media Analysis

**M 11/28 Activities:** Media analysis lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**R 12/1 Activities:** Discussion of Media analysis lecture. Meet in section classrooms.

**M 12/5 Activities:** Media analysis lecture. Meet in H-Wing auditorium

**R 12/8 Activities:** Discussion of Media analysis lecture. Meet in section classrooms.

**R 12/15 Activities:** Final exam week. Meet in section classrooms for wrap-up

# Additional Information

## Final Grade Determination

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
>95	95-91	90-87	86-84	83-81	80-78	77-75	74-70	69-66	65-61	<60

## Assignments

Written assignments should be printed out and handed to your section leader at the start of the class they are due. If we are meeting as a group in the auditorium, please hand in hand in directly to section leader.

Papers (summer reading/reading notes, etc) should be handed in through turnitin.com and in print. The turnitin course ID is 4055969 and the password is Ramapo. Print out your paper on a decent-quality printer. It should have a cover sheet which includes: course name, section number, section leader, assignment, date and your name. Don't include your name on any other pages. I like to grade papers without knowing who wrote them in order to eliminate any bias. You must staple papers yourself. I do not accept late assignments - any work not turned in by the due date will be given a grade of 0.

## Peer Facilitators

As an added resource for first-year students, each section of First-Year Seminar (FYS) will have a peer facilitator. These upper-level students will attend FYS classes and assist the instructor with the academic topics covered in this seminar. They will serve as discussion leaders on issues that pertain to your personal and social development. Peers will also facilitate weekly discussions on the class readings. Your peer facilitator will be your mentor and will be available to you to provide guidance on navigating the different personal and social hurdles that you may encounter in your first year at Ramapo. The peer facilitator for our section is Megan Williams.

## Experiential Component

This course will include five hours of unmonitored appropriate activity outside the classroom which will be announced in class and posted on the website.

## Attendance and Participation

Your grade measures your performance in the course - nothing more, nothing less. It does not measure how intelligent you are, or whether you are kind to puppies. An essential part of the course is being in class and participating in the discussions and other activities. You are expected to attend each class meeting - there are no 'excused absences' for this course except for religious observance. If you must be absent because of religious observance, make arrangements with your section leader within the first three weeks of the semester, otherwise they will be considered regular absences.

Missing one class will lower your grade by three points. Two missed classes will lower your grade by seven points. If you miss three classes, you will fail the course. It is your responsibility to keep track of absences - I will not notify you if you are going to fail the course for attendance.

If you miss a class, you are still responsible for handing in the assignment on its original due date. If you come to my office before the next class meeting, I can go over the assignment, but please don't ask me to 'recap' the class for you. During each class, I expect you to contribute to the discussion in a meaningful way. Please turn off your pagers, cell phones, and any other electronic devices that vibrate, make noise and so forth. Texting during class is rude and distracting - please don't. I will lower your participation grade significantly and without warning if you repeatedly text in class.

Please be prompt, and return from breaks on time. You are expected to read and engage the reading/reading notes each week. You don't need to understand each and every word, but you should come to class having done the reading/reading notes, and prepared to discuss it intelligently.

## Electronic Communication

Your Ramapo College email address (@ramapo.edu) will be used to communicate with you about all course-related matters. Please check it regularly.

## Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a documented disability, please make an appointment during your section leader's office hours.

## General Education Program Course

This course fulfills the First-Year Seminar category of the general education curriculum at Ramapo College. It also fulfills the lower-level core for the School of Contemporary Arts. Common to all First-Year Seminar (FYS) courses, you will develop critical thinking skills that are basic to college level study, regardless of your area of interest. You will be reading/reading notes, writing, and participating in thoughtful group discussions with the aim of developing the skills of a scholar. You will learn to support your arguments using a foundation of knowledge and facts rather than simply using personal opinions and experiences.

## Important Dates

First Day of Classes: September 1st

Last day for Schedule Adjustments: September 12th

Last day to withdraw with 100% tuition refund: September 12th

Last day to withdraw with 50% tuition and/or housing refund: September 26th

Last day to withdraw from courses with "W" grade: October 27th

Thanksgiving Recess: Nov 22nd - 27th

Reading/Reading Notes Day: December 14th

Final Exam Week: December 15th – 21st

## Policy on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to read and understand Ramapo College's academic integrity policy, which can be found in the Ramapo College Catalog. Members of the Ramapo College community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of the Provost.

### Policy

All members of the Ramapo community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Since violations of academic integrity erode community confidence and undermine the pursuit of truth and knowledge at the College, academic dishonesty must be avoided.

### Procedures

The Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs has the responsibility for the oversight and enforcement of the academic integrity policy and for making the policy an institutional priority. The Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs is also responsible for publishing the policy and for educating both faculty and students about the policy.

Faculty members play a crucial role in the academic integrity policy. They are responsible for educating their students about the importance of academic integrity and for communicating to students their expectations with respect to academic integrity in course work.

Students have the responsibility to understand the College academic integrity policy and to comply with the policy in all their academic work.

### Criteria

There are four broad forms of academic dishonesty:

1. **Cheating.** Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents his or her mastery of material on a test or other academic exercise. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:
  - copying from another student's work;
  - allowing another student to copy his/her work;
  - using unauthorized materials such as a textbook, notebook or electronic devices during an examination;
  - using specifically prepared materials such as notes written on clothing or other unauthorized notes, formula lists, etc., during an examination;
  - collaborating with another person during an examination by giving or receiving information without authority;
  - taking a test for another person or asking or allowing another to take the student's own test.
2. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism occurs when a person represents someone else's words, ideas, phrases, sentences, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work that includes such material, the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific footnote references; additionally, verbatim statements must be acknowledged through quotation marks.

To avoid a charge of plagiarism, a student should be sure to include an acknowledgment of indebtedness:

- whenever he or she quotes another person's words directly;
- whenever he or she uses another person's ideas, opinions, or theories, even if they have been completely paraphrased in one's own words;
- whenever he or she allows another individual to contribute to the work in some significant fashion (for instance, through editing, or sharing of ideas);
- whenever he or she uses facts, statistics, or other illustrative material taken from a source, unless the information is common knowledge.

Examples of standard citation formats can be found on the [Library Website: Citation Manuals and Style Guides](#).

3. **Academic Misconduct.** Academic Misconduct includes the alteration of grades, involvement in the acquisition or distribution of unadministered tests, and the unauthorized submission of student work in more than one class. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:
  - changing, altering, falsifying, or being the accessory to the changing, altering, or falsifying of a grade report or form or other academic record, or entering any computer system, College office or building for that purpose;
  - stealing, buying, selling, giving way, or otherwise obtaining all or part of any unadministered test or entering any computer system, College office or building, for the purpose of obtaining an unadministered test;
  - submitting written work (in whole or in significant part) to fulfill the requirements of more than one course without the explicit permission of both instructors;
  - disregarding policies governing the use of human subjects or animals in research;
  - sabotaging another student's work through actions designed to prevent the student from successfully completing an assignment;
  - knowingly facilitating a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy by another person.

4. **Fabrication.** Fabrication refers to the deliberate use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive. Examples of fabrication include, but are not limited to:
- citation of information not taken from the source indicated;
  - listing of sources in a “works cited” that were not used in that project;
  - altering, stealing and/or falsifying research data used in research reports, theses, or dissertations;
  - submission as one's own of any academic work prepared in whole or in part by others, including the use of another's identity;
  - falsifying information or signatures on registration, withdrawal, or other academic forms and records.

More on academic integrity can be found here: [http://www.ramapo.edu/catalog\\_10\\_11/academic-policies.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/catalog_10_11/academic-policies.html)