

RALSTON COLLEGE



COURSE CATALOG
2023-2024



BULL ST
W. GORDON ST.

3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the President	4	Academic Information	
About the College		Assessments	10
Mission Statement	4	Oral and Written Final Examinations	11
Institutional Goals	4	Grading Scheme	11
Hours of Operation	5	Exemptions	11
Holidays	5	Appeal	11
Academic Calendar	5	Attendance	11
Facilities	5	Make-up Work	11
Accreditation	5	Plagiarism	12
Faculty and Academic Personnel	6	Academic Probation or Dismissal	12
Legal Status	6	Transfer Credit	12
Contact Details	6	Financial Information	
Program of Study and Course Descriptions		Tuition	12
MA Program	7	Financial Aid and Employment	12
Curricular Goals	7	Refunds	12
MA Workload	7	Student Information	
Coursework	7	Readmission	13
Instructional Approach	9	Complaint Procedure	13
Admissions Information		Student Conduct	14
Admission to the MA Program	9	Graduation Requirements for the MA	14
Orientation	10	Curricular Resources	14
Policy of Non-Discrimination	10	Learning Management System	15

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Students,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Ralston College, and to its MA in the Humanities. This course catalog provides important information to help orientate you as a new student; its general guidelines and calendar will also serve as a ready point of reference throughout the year ahead. My colleagues and I hope your time at the College will be transformative for you, both academically and personally.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Blackwood", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Blackwood, PhD
President
Ralston College

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Ralston College is to revive the conditions of a free and flourishing culture by providing transformative, rigorous education in the humanities. Our fundamental commitments are to truth, freedom, beauty, and fellowship.

The College exists to share the riches of humanistic inquiry with students enrolled in its degree programs and more broadly with all those who seek truth with courage.

Ralston College is an independent institution devoted to freedom of thought and speech. It has no political or religious affiliations and does not accept government funds.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

Ralston College is devoted to higher education and the advancement of the arts and sciences. The College's chief aim is that its students come better to understand themselves and the world around them. The College provides a place to think hard about fundamental human questions in the context of a community devoted to friendship and freedom of thought.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Ralston College is open for business Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This typical schedule may vary depending on the needs and events of the College.

HOLIDAYS

The College will be closed for the following 11 holidays:

New Year's Day (January 1st)
Martin Luther King, Jr Day (the third Monday of January)
Presidents' Day (the third Monday of February)
St Patrick's Day (March 17th)
Good Friday (March 29th)
Memorial Day (the last Monday of May)
Independence Day (July 4th)
Labor Day (the first Monday of September)
Columbus Day (the second Monday in October)
Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday of November)
Christmas Day (December 25th)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Term I: August 1st, 2023 to September 30th, 2023
Term II: October 16th, 2023 to December 8th, 2023
Term III: January 8th, 2024 to March 1st, 2024
Term IV: March 19th, 2024 to May 10th, 2024
Exams: May 13th, 2024 to May 24th, 2024
Graduation: June 1st, 2024

FACILITIES

The College operates several buildings in downtown Savannah. The meeting times and locations of any particular class will be listed in the syllabus for each class. Seminars and lectures are normally held in the Ralston Room of Cranmer Hall (27 W. Charlton St). Other College events take place at the Chancellor's House (110 W. Gaston St) or occasionally in the Noble Hardee House (3 W. Gordon St).

ACCREDITATION

Ralston College is authorized to operate and to grant the degree of "Master of Arts in the Humanities" by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC). The College is in the process of accreditation but is not yet accredited.

FACULTY AND ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

Stephen Blackwood, PhD
President
Director of the MA in the Humanities

Michael Hurley, PhD
Acting Provost

James Bryson, PhD
Coordinator of the MA in the Humanities
Professor of Philosophy

Joseph Conlon, PhD
Director of the Greek Program
Professor of Classics

Nicole Blackwood, PhD
Professor of Art History

Katie Rook, MA
Lecturer in Rhetoric

LEGAL STATUS

Ralston College is a private non-profit institution of higher learning incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia as a self-perpetuating corporation, and has been determined to be a 501(c)(3) public charity by the Internal Revenue Service. Ralston College is authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission to confer academic degrees. The College is fully independent and has a self-governing board.

CONTACT DETAILS

The physical and legal address of Ralston College is 110 W. Gaston St, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Its postal address is P.O. Box 8302, Savannah, Georgia 31412-8302. General correspondence may be directed to this address or by email to ralstoncollege@ralston.ac. Applications for grades and transcripts can be made through the College's Populi portal (<https://ralstoncollege.populiweb.com>).

PROGRAM OF STUDY AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MA PROGRAM

Ralston currently offers one program, an MA in the Humanities, which takes one year to complete. This program is guided fundamentally and thoroughly by the mission of the College to provide transformative and rigorous education in the humanities.

The MA in the Humanities focuses on the careful reading and unfettered discussion of core texts, along with works of art, that trace the literary, philosophical, political, and artistic development of human thought and culture from antiquity, through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, early modernity and the Enlightenment, into the contemporary world.

CURRICULAR GOALS

The aim of the MA in the Humanities is to prepare students to think deeply about what it means to live a good and meaningful life. It does so through the analysis and interpretation of philosophical, theological, religious, and literary texts and the study of the artistic and cultural achievements that have shaped Western culture. This includes reading texts in the language in which they were originally composed, most notably ancient Greek, as the foundational language of Western culture. The program provides students with an understanding of perennial metaphysical, moral, and political arguments and ideas and of their historical development from ancient times to the present.

MA WORKLOAD

The program consists of four instructional terms. The first term is devoted to a Greek language immersion program in Greece (8+ hours per day). Within each of the three terms in Savannah, instruction will be delivered via literature lectures (2 hours per week), through slow-reading seminars (6 hours per week), lectures in art and culture (2 hours per week), and instruction in the Greek language (4 hours).

COURSEWORK

In order to be admitted to (i.e. to be awarded) the degree of Master of Arts in the Humanities, candidates must complete four eight-week terms. Term I consists of immersive instruction in the Greek language (14 credit hours) and a seminar on Hellenic art, thought, and culture (2 credit hours). Term II focuses on concepts of the Whole in the ancient and classical periods; it consists of Greek instruction (2.5 credit hours), a slow-reading philosophy seminar (3.5 credit hours), a lecture course on literature (1 credit hour), and a lecture course on art and culture (1 credit hour). Term III focuses on concepts and ideas about the Whole in the medieval and Renaissance periods; it consists of Greek instruction (2.5 credit hours), a slow-reading philosophy seminar (3.5 credit hours), a lecture course on literature (1 credit hour), and a lecture

course on art and culture (1 credit hour). Term IV focuses on the Whole in the modern and contemporary periods; it consists of Greek instruction (2.5 credit hours), a slow-reading philosophy seminar (3.5 credit hours), a lecture course on literature (1 credit hour), and a lecture course on art and culture (1 credit hour).

Immersive Instruction in Greek Language (Term I)

The Greek Residency Program of the first term introduces students to Attic Greek and Modern Greek simultaneously, and also covers topics in Greek history, art, literature, and architecture. Students receive a thorough and analytical introduction to the grammar and syntax of both languages, and also read and explicate extended passages. By the end of the course, students are able to read basic texts and to express themselves on a large variety of topics in both languages.

Greek Instruction (Terms II-IV)

Students read, explicate, and discuss texts in the original Greek. The texts complement the themes and topics of the seminars and lectures for each term, and may include selections from Homer, Plato, Aristotle, the Septuagint and New Testament, as well as from other ancient, medieval, and modern authors.

Slow-Reading Philosophy Seminar (Terms II-IV)

“The Conception of the Whole” presents a small number of difficult and important texts. The course begins with a close study of ancient philosophical and theological texts, with a principal focus on the Platonic dialogues and Aristotelian treatises relevant to the theme of the course. In the third term, the course moves into the medieval period, with a special focus on Augustine and Dante. The year will conclude with a close reading of modern philosophical texts, including works by Descartes, Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche.

Literary Lectures (Terms II-IV)

“A Literary History of the Whole” traces the conceptions of the whole through the literature of the ancient (Term II), medieval (Term III), and modern (Term IV) periods.

Art and Culture Lectures (Terms II-IV)

“Artistic Representation of the Whole in the History of Human Culture” seeks to explore—by means of the visual and performing arts—certain cultural moments from a wide variety of times and places. This course includes the study and performance of works of music, as well as illustrated lectures on the visual arts and architecture. In Term II, the focus will be the ancient world, in Term III the medieval and Renaissance periods, and Term IV will concentrate on modern art and culture.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

The MA program aims to present a history of human endeavor in diverse fields by means of the reading of core texts with supplementary study of works of art, music, and architecture. In general the emphasis will be on confronting these works as directly as possible, with the principal focus on primary, rather than secondary, literature. It must be understood that the reading load for this program is very heavy. The course is suitable only for those willing to spend many hours each day reading difficult texts as well as thinking and talking with others about them. It should also be understood that the course assumes a high level of English-language facility. Those who are not already skilled in reading and writing English at a very advanced level will not flourish in this program and should not enroll in it. No knowledge of a foreign language is currently required upon admission, but students should be ready to engage in serious and sustained study of Greek on a daily basis.

The President, Dr Stephen Blackwood, BA (Vind.), MA (Dal.), PhD (Emory), and the Provost, Dr Michael Hurley, MA (St. And.), PhD (Cantab.), will oversee the supervision of instructors and teaching. In addition to the President and Provost there will be other faculty, both full-time and part-time. Certain lectures, and series of lectures, will be given by visiting faculty with expertise in particular subjects.

Students can also expect to benefit from the extraordinary intellectual accomplishments, depth, and diversity represented by the College's Board of Visitors as well as from the College's international network of other academics, scholars, philosophers, writers, musicians, poets, architects, scientists, and specialists of many fields.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

ADMISSION TO THE MA PROGRAM

Using a broad range of criteria and a combination of traditional and innovative methods of evaluation, Ralston College admits students based on merit while giving due consideration both to demonstrated achievements and distinction and to clear aptitude and scholarly promise. We also strive to cultivate a cohesive collegiate environment where every student is able to press themselves to the very limits of their abilities in a community that values friendship and freedom of thought.

Candidates who apply to Ralston College for admissions to its MA in the Humanities program are required to submit a curriculum vitae, an application essay, and a questionnaire designed to gauge the applicant's suitability to the program; at the first stage, unofficial transcripts may also be supplied. These documents are reviewed by the Admissions Committee and promising candidates are advanced to the next round, at which they are invited to submit official copies of their transcripts, and a list of academic references. After a further review, finalists are invited to participate in online interviews. Offers of

admission are made thereafter.

ORIENTATION

Orientation to the program, facilities, policies, personnel, and expectations of the College will take place at the beginning of Term I in Greece and Term II in Savannah.

POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Ralston College admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the College. Ralston College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. This statement is made pursuant to IRS Revenue Procedure 75-50 and is not intended to exclude any category not mentioned in it.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ASSESSMENTS

Students will be assigned a mark of “pass” or “fail” by the instructors of Greek, the slow-reading seminars, and the lecture series, on the basis of participation in the respective course and performance on a substantial examination or other assignment at the end of each term.

If a student has not completed his or her work in any required course, he or she will not be eligible to take the final examinations.

Any student who has not completed his or her coursework, and who has not otherwise made arrangements with an instructor to do so, will be notified that he or she has been placed on academic probation. This status will not be lifted until the incomplete work has been completed to the satisfaction of the instructor.

Students who do not pass final take-home examinations at the end of each term will be given the opportunity for a second attempt. This attempt has to be successfully completed by the beginning of the following term or, in Term IV, the beginning of the final exam period. Until that time, such students are put on academic probation.

ORAL AND WRITTEN FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Students who pass all courses will be eligible to undergo a two-part examination, including both a written and oral examination that will require students to draw on the material for all of the courses required for the degree (i.e. the entire year's work). The written component will consist of take-home questions to be answered over a period of three days. The oral exam will take the form of a conversation as well as a defense and clarification of the arguments made in the written examination. The duration of the oral exam will be approximately one hour, and will be conducted by the two internal examiners, as well as at least one external examiner.

A grade of "pass with distinction" will be awarded to a student who demonstrates exceptional knowledge of, and an outstanding ability to interpret, the assigned texts and other material in the entire MA course. A grade of "pass" will be awarded to a student who demonstrates a good or very good knowledge and ability to interpret the assigned texts and other material in the entire MA course. A grade of "fail" will be given to a student who demonstrates poor knowledge and interpretative grasp of the assigned texts and other material in the entire MA course.

GRADING SCHEME

On the basis of the written and oral components of the examination each candidate will be assigned one of the following grades: "fail", "pass", or "pass with distinction". These grades refer to the degree course in its entirety. Those who receive a passing grade will be admitted to the degree of Master of Arts.

EXEMPTIONS

The College may in extraordinary circumstances (e.g. disability) exempt a student from one or the other component of the exam, in which case the student's evaluation will rest entirely on the completed component.

APPEAL

Students may appeal decisions of the examiners to the Provost or the Hebdomadal Board within one week of receipt of their examination grades.

ATTENDANCE

Students must attend all seminars and lectures to remain in good academic standing. If a student cannot attend a given seminar or lecture, he or she must inform one of the instructors.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student is not able to complete an examination or assignment by a given deadline, he or she must

contact the instructor in good time beforehand – urgent extenuating circumstances notwithstanding – to arrange to make up for any incomplete work. Instructors will make reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

PLAGIARY

Academic integrity is an intrinsic necessity of the academic enterprise and thus of the College itself. Violations of academic integrity will be considered with the utmost seriousness and, pending investigation and confirmation, will result in penalties up to and including dismissal from the program and expulsion from the College.

ACADEMIC PROBATION OR DISMISSAL

Suspected cases of plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity are investigated first by the instructor, then by a committee of the faculty, and then, if confirmed, referred for discipline to the Hebdomadal Board.

TRANSFER CREDIT

It will not be possible for credit to be given for academic work accomplished at other institutions, nor should it be assumed that other institutions will grant credit for work performed at Ralston College (though of course this is in any case a determination to be made by the other institution).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION

The annual tuition fee is \$55,000. Additionally, there is a cost of \$7,000 related to travel and other activities in Greece during Term 1, and \$2,000 for books and other educational material.

FINANCIAL AID AND EMPLOYMENT

Information about financial aid and any approved and available scholarships will be made available at www.ralston.ac (the College's website). Students will be able to apply for a number of full or partial scholarships, as well as bursaries for travel, living expenses, and other program-related expenses. The College will provide advice about employment prospects and related matters to those who request it.

REFUNDS

Ralston College will refund all monies paid if requested to do so within three days of the payment being

made (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and federal and state holidays). If a student should withdraw at some later point a refund will be made (prorated from the date of formal initiation of the withdrawal process) as long as at least 50% of the program is still in the future (in the 2023-2024 academic year, this means that the written notice by means of which the withdrawal process is intended to be initiated must be received by the College before noon on January 5th, 2024, prior to the beginning of Term IV.)

No refunds will be issued for scholarships awarded by the College to pay tuition and related fees.

The tuition refund policy does not apply to medical or compassionate withdrawals. In some cases, partial tuition adjustments or non-refundable credits may be granted, however, this will depend on each individual student's circumstances.

STUDENT INFORMATION

READMISSION

Students dismissed for reasons of academic performance or for non-academic reasons may make an application for readmission to the Hebdomadal Board.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The following steps are prescribed for students who wish to lodge a complaint about Ralston College or anyone under its aegis.

First, it is almost always best that one first attempts an informal resolution by means of frank conversation with those involved. Complaints regarding academic matters (such as, e.g., grades, timelines), should first be addressed to the Instructor and, subsequently, to the Director of the MA program.

If an informal solution should prove unsuccessful or, in academic matters, the above mentioned procedure has been exhausted without resolution, a formal process, if desired, may be initiated by submitting to the Delegate of the College for Complaint Matters (the "Delegate") a Letter of Complaint (the "Letter") containing an account of the grievance; one may also wish to indicate in the Letter one's desired outcome.

Upon receipt of the Letter, the Delegate shall review the Complaint and contact the student making the Complaint (the "Complainant") within ten business days to verify receipt of the Letter and to clarify any matters that are unclear. The Delegate will then undertake to investigate and evaluate the Complaint and

will endeavor to make a determination respecting it within twenty-five business days from the date upon which the Letter was received.

If the Delegate is for any reason not able to make a determination within twenty-five business days, the Delegate shall refer the matter to the Hebdomadal Board. Under normal circumstances, however, the Delegate shall provide the Complainant with written notification of the determination and any associated outcome.

The Complainant may, if desired, appeal this result in writing (the “Appeal”) to the Hebdomadal Board, which shall respond in writing to the Appeal within fifteen business days. The decision of the Hebdomadal Board is final in the sense of not being subject to further appeal within the College.

However, the Complainant may, having exhausted the internal Complaint Procedure, file a complaint with the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission at <https://gnpec.georgia.gov/organization/about-gnpec/contact-gnpec> or 2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220, Tucker, GA 30084.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The College expects its students to behave reasonably and courteously, in a manner befitting a community of free and intelligent people. The Hebdomadal Board may dismiss or suspend students for reasons relating to their academic performance or for non-academic reasons such as a refusal to comply with duly promulgated rules, ordinances, or the directives of those in authority. In cases of sickness, the Hebdomadal Board is able to extend aid and permit extra time for the completion of academic work. The Hebdomadal Board is also able to authorize the readmission of students who have been dismissed or suspended.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA

In order to be awarded the degree of Master of Arts (Magister Artium) candidates for the degree must pass all compulsory courses (graded pass/fail) as well as the final written and oral examinations, which will assess the student’s comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the material covered in all courses over the entire year.

The final examination will have three possible results: pass with distinction, pass, and fail. Students who receive a “pass” for all courses and receive “distinction” or “pass” in the examinations will receive the MA degree. Grades and transcripts can be obtained through Populi or the Office of the Registrar.

CURRICULAR RESOURCES

Ralston College possesses a library of books accessible to members of the College. This collection has been assembled primarily to support its teaching in the humanities. Recently it has been supplemented

by the addition of several private libraries. Of particular interest is the Charles and Annette Kratz Rare Book Collection.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Students will access course content, activities, and assessments through Ralston's online Learning Management System, Populi.



