

LINC 100 2G: Introduction to College Life

Dr. Francis Ryan
Fall 2006
Moravian College
Classroom: Comenius 305

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Course description:

This is a half unit (.50) course requirement whose primary goals are to introduce first-year students to the intellectual life of Moravian College, to promote a smooth transition to college life, and to help students develop a coherent plan for their education. Specific topics include: becoming familiar with college policies related to your role as a student and member of the Moravian College community; assisting your transition to becoming a successful college student; exploring the purpose of a liberal arts education at Moravian College and its relation to life after college; developing specific goals, objectives and plans for your education; and assisting your engagement in college life.¹ While each class meeting will address a specific theme, we will also discuss other issues ranging from credit and financial issues, the history and culture of Moravian College, on and off campus recreation and housing issues, and making the most of campus resources, such as the Counseling Center and Leadership Center.

We will meet once a week on Tuesdays in Comenius 305. Please note that attendance at these classes is mandatory. Anyone unable to attend is expected to contact the instructor via email or by office phone number before the scheduled class meeting. As your academic advisor, please know that I am always here to help you with whatever questions you might have as you begin this exciting year.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation 25%
Attendance and write ups of community events 30%
Speaking assignment 10%
Interview with professor 10%
Participation in library orientation session 5%
Individual advising sessions 5%
Weekly In class written assignments 15%

Campus Events: Moravian College provides a wide variety of informative events, artistic performances, athletic contests and other intellectual and social events. To encourage you

¹ This section of the syllabus is modeled after Professor Art Lyons's ICL course description of a similar class.

to sample a variety of the non-academic opportunities available to you at Moravian, the course requires you to attend at least **5** such events this semester. Of these 5, there is one mandatory event: please attend the presentation on sexual decision making and health on September 11, with health educator Jay Friedman, in Prosser Auditorium at 7pm. For each of your 5 events, write a one-two page journal entry of your experience. The journal entries should include a few sentences describing the event, but should focus primarily on your reaction to the event.² The journal entry can be handwritten

Interviewing a Faculty Member: Please select and interview a faculty member in the major you are interested in pursuing. In the interview, find out about the faculty member's research interests, their background, and the reasons why they decided to pursue their area of interest. Find out what inspired that faculty member to become interested in that major when he/she was a student. What college or university did that faculty member attend? What graduate school? What were the biggest challenges they faced as they pursued their goals in school? Each faculty member within a major focuses their research and teaching on different sub-disciplines. What are his or her specific sub-disciplines? Perhaps ask the faculty member what his or her thoughts are about how his or her field of interest has changed since they were in school.

Find an article relating to the faculty member's interest and give a 5 minute presentation of your findings to the class. If you are undecided about your major, interview a faculty member in a field of study that you think you may be interested in pursuing. Two weeks before the presentation, please give me the name of the faculty member you plan to interview. *Presentations will be held on October 31.*

Reading Assignments:

Our course will require readings based on weekly topics that will be assigned via on-line connections and through photocopies distributed in class.

August 27: Jenny Boylan presentation.

August 29: First Class and Evening Library Session

September 5: Negotiating the First Few Weeks

Reflections on the first week of classes. First Written assignment due: please write a 250 word journal entry in which you reflect on your first few days in college.

September 12: The Weekend Challenge

Reading Paul Keegan, "Inhuman Architecture, Bad Food, Boredom Death by Fun and Games."

² My thanks to Professor Dan Libby for providing a model for this section of the syllabus.

September 19: In Class Debate: The Meaning of Generations.

Martine Delvaux, "The Exit of a Generation: The "Whatever" Philosophy. *Midwest Quarterly* (January 1999)

September 26: Preparing for mid-term exams: What to expect.

Class writing exercise and handout: How to Write College Essays
Philip Zimbardo "A Practical Guide to Sources of Help."

October 3: Exploring the Moravian College Heritage

Visit to the Moravian College Archives.

October 10: Fall recess.

No classes

October 17: Study Abroad Options

Jennifer Creamer, International Studies Program

October 24: Thinking Ahead: Exploring Career Options

Presentation by Career Planning Center.

October 31: Meeting of the Minds

Interview faculty member

Financial Awareness Presentation

November 7: Integrity in the Classroom and Research

Library Meeting with Dr. Dorothy Glew

November 14: Our Bethlehem Heritage

Bethlehem Steel Plant Tour. Details to follow.

November 21:

TBA

November 28: Realizing Campus Resources

Leadership center

The Philadelphia Center and other internship opportunities.

December 5: A Look Back, A Look Ahead.

Final class meeting