

Introduction to College Life
Fall, 2006

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Wednesday 12:50-2:00
Room 113 PPHAC

Course Description:

This is a half unit (0.50) course requirement whose primary goals are to introduce first-year students to the intellectual life of Moravian College; promote a smooth transition to college life; and 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.

Student Advisor:

To my ICL class:

As you are reading this syllabus right now, a year ago I was reading the same ICL syllabus. I had the same unnerving feelings you are all having about life as a college student; away from home, friends, and almost everything familiar. Part of the fun of college is making the transition into a new life and finding things out about yourself and the other students you meet. Dr. Scholtz and I both want to make sure that in this transition, we can make things easier for you. Moco (Moravian) is a BLAST!!!

This class is much less focused on exams, papers, and lectures. We both know you are going to have plenty of those types of classes! Our class should give you the opportunity to meet new people, understand life on campus, and make your experience at Moravian all your own. Whether you are shy, really outgoing, someone who is a go-getter, or doesn't like to make waves, it doesn't matter! There is no typical Moravian student.

We are the first resource you should come to about questions, concerns, doubts, or anything else that may come up. Whatever I can do to make life even a little bit easier, I would be more than willing to do that! Welcome again and here is to a good year!

Best, Scott

Intended Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Prepare for College Life at Moravian College

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will:

- a. Become familiar with college policies related to their role as students and members of the Moravian College community/
- b. Understand the expectations and responsibilities of being a college student and a member of the Moravian College community.

2. Introduction to Liberal Education

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Identify and understand the general goals and purposes of the liberal arts and sciences tradition for individuals within society.
- b. Articulate the value of liberal learning for their own personal and professional success.

3. Individual Planning for Education at Moravian College and Beyond

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Articulate their specific goals, objectives, and plans for their personal education.
- b. Execute strategies and tools to help them renew and revise these plans in the future.

4. Academic Survival Skills

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate intellectual skills, which should result in greater personal, professional, and academic success; including but not confined to: effective study skills, time management, and goal setting.
- b. Pursue their educational goals with greater confidence and efficacy.

5. Personal Coping Skills

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Identify and understand aspects of themselves (learning styles, communication styles, coping styles, personal values, cultural values) that will affect personal well-being and academic success.
- b. Engage in a variety of coping skills that work best for them in challenging situations.
- c. Pursue their personal goals and handle the challenges of adjustment to college with greater confidence and efficacy.

Course Policies:

Attendance and Participation

In order for the student to meet the stated outcomes of this course, class attendance and participation is required. This statement is based on our philosophy that in order to make a successful transition to college life, active participation and engagement within the class are critical. Some classes will involve group activities, guest speakers, panel presentations, and reflective writing/dialogues. If the student misses a class, points will be deducted from the overall grade. There are no excused/unexcused absences. An absence from a class is counted as an absence because a learning opportunity has been lost. Students should come to class prepared and ready to discuss the assigned reading.

Learning Disability Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities and/or ADHD should contact Mrs. Laurie Roth, Director of Learning Services, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510)

Students who wish to request accommodations for support of other disabilities should contact Dr. Ron Kline, Director of the Counseling Center, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510)

Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of someone's work and the misrepresentation of the work as your own. Examples of plagiarism is failure to properly cite an author's work; using the author's words/thoughts as one's own; purchasing a paper from a professional service; using illustrations without citation etc. If uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, it is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the professor, librarian, or writing center. Because of the no tolerance policy, ignorance of the policy is not acceptable. If there are grounds for suspicion of plagiarism, the assignment will be forwarded to the Dean of Academic Affairs. Please review Moravian College's policy on academic honesty found in the Student Handbook. Infractions will be subject to the consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.

Course Grade Analysis

In order to facilitate fairness among all sections of Introduction to College Life (ICL), course grading principles have been standardized for all sections. The course is weighted as a 0.5 unit course. The course is designed to promote active participation and engagement. If the student is committed; attends all classes; and satisfactorily completes all assignments; the grade will reflect the effort!

Both the student advisor and instructor will review the submitted assignments and track your "earned" points over the semester.

Components of *Course Grade/Course Requirements*:

- Attendance and participation in scheduled classes 30%
- Completion of 8 short personal reflection papers 24%
- Attendance and written summary of community events 20%
- Intentional Learning Paper 10%
- Speaking Assignment 10%
- Scheduling, preparing, and attending advising meeting 6%

Descriptions of Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation Grade:

The student will earn 20 points for each class up to a maximum of 300 points. Attendance is operationally defined as completing the assignments/reading prior to the class and contributing to the class discussion. Students who arrive late or leave early will have points deducted from the possible 20 points for that day. There is no "make up" work for a missed class day.

Personal Reflection Papers

Reflective learning enables the student to think about an experience and possibly find meaning generated from the experience. The reflection papers will be assigned over the course of the semester and "prompts" and/or questions will be developed by the instructor and student advisor. Each satisfactory paper will earn 40 points. The instructor/student advisor has the right to award partial credit for work that does not meet the standards of the assignment. The instructor reserves the right to return an unsatisfactory paper and require revision and resubmission. Failure to submit the paper on the assigned date will result in a grade no greater than 20 for the assignment.

Satisfactory completion of 8 reflection papers will earn a maximum of 240 points.

Attendance and Written Reaction Paper for Community Events

In an attempt to encourage students to learn more about the College community as well as the local community, students are required to attend **5** community events throughout the semester. The first event required of this class is attendance at the presentation by the author of the common summer reading, Jennifer Finney Boylan. Since this is a significant community event, attendance and a written summary are worth 60 points. The other community events are worth 35 points each and will be assigned during the course of the semester.

Students will be required to write a reaction paper in response to the community event. The paper should be approximately 250 words and are due within 1 week of the event. It is important to convey thoughts in a clear manner. Please send the

paper as an attachment to the student advisor at stsme02@moravian.edu The instructor/student advisor has the right to award partial credit for work that does not meet the standards of the assignment. They reserve the right to return an unsatisfactory paper and require revision and resubmission. Failure to submit the paper on the assigned date will result in a grade no greater than 20 for the assignment.

Attendance at 5 community events and the submission of 5 satisfactory reaction papers will earn a maximum of 200 points.

Intentional Learning Paper

Students will explore the concept of intentional learning. In an attempt to assimilate this concept into your education at Moravian College, students will address the following questions:

What are your goals for your undergraduate education? In other words, what do you consider the essential learning outcomes of your college experience? As you respond, you might consider discussing the relative importance of gaining knowledge and skills; learning to place current problems in historical, cultural, and philosophical perspective; developing the capacity for critical and ethical judgment; and learning to act responsibly in community.

The student's intentional learning paper is one that is unique and individualized. This assignment is worth 100 points and will be submitted on September 20, 2006. A paper that is submitted late will be awarded 50 points. The paper should be a minimum of 750 words and written in Times Roman, 11 point font. Please spell and grammar check prior to submission.

Speaking Assignment

The Learning in Common Curriculum has mandated a Speaking Across the Curriculum component for every student. Initially, the instructor will attempt to create an environment that is conducive to open discussion and promotes dialogue among all. The instructor/student advisor will select a format to help the student meet this requirement. The total point value that can be earned for this requirement is 100 points. The instructor will provide the student with a rubric for this assignment.

Scheduling, Preparing, and Attending Advisement Meeting

The student is responsible for scheduling an individual advising meeting prior to registration for the Spring Semester. The dates for registration vary for Add Venture students, Comenius scholars, and all other students. Students must assume accountability for the following steps:

- Review the LinC curriculum and prepare for the meeting

- Review the College Catalog for specific course requirements related to your anticipated major.
- Select 5-6 courses that you would like to register for (Most students will only enroll in four full unit courses; however, the courses you select may "close" and it is ideal to have a "back-up" plan ready.
- Design a schedule in which there are no conflicts in class times. Athletes should not schedule sixth period classes.
- Complete the pre-registration form **prior** to your meeting with your advisor.

Sixty points will be awarded to students who schedule, prepare for, and attend this meeting.

Dr. Scholtz's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00 am-11:00 am
 Tuesday: Off Campus
 Wednesday: 9:00 am-11:00 am
 Thursday: By Appointment
 Friday: 9:00 am-11:00 am

In the event an appointment is needed, please do not hesitate to call me. I will arrange to meet your scheduling needs.

Point Value Conversion Chart

930+	=	A
900-929	=	A-
870-899	=	B+
830-869	=	B
800-829	=	B-
770-799	=	C+
730-769	=	C
700-729	=	C-
670-699	=	D+
630-669	=	D
600-629	=	D-
< 600	=	F

Required Readings:

Albom, M. (1997). *Tuesdays with Morrie*. New York: Doubleday.

Boylan, J. F. (2003). *She's not there: A life in two genders*. New York: Broadway Books.

Class Schedule

Date	Planned Event/Topic/Assignment
August 27	Summer Common Reading Discussion and Community Event /Author Jennifer Finney Boylan, <i>She's not there: A life in two genders</i> .
August 30	Introduction to ICL and Course Expectations First Year ICL Bingo /Any Old Bag Will Do Tips for Success at Moravian College ~Scott
September 5	Last Day for Drop/Add
September 6	Reaction Paper to Jennifer Finney Boylan Presentation and <i>She's not there: A life in two genders</i> due Speaking Assignment : Any Old Bag Will Do As assigned
September 11	Community Event : Presentation by Jay Friedman, certified health educator. Meet @ 7:00 pm in Prosser Auditorium
September 13	CIT, Stephen McKinney
September 20	Healthy Relationships/Turning Point Representative/Educator
September 23 11:00 am - 2:00 pm	Community Event : "How Would You Run the World?" Sponsored by "The Leadership Center" Visit: http://www.osearth.com
September 27	Read: <i>College Pressures</i> , Author: William Zinsser in <i>College 101: A first year reader</i> . On reserve in Reeves. "Helicopter Parents": Relationships between Parents and their College Students"
October 4	Stressors within the College Life Dr. Ron Kline, Director of Counseling, Moravian College

October 11	Personal Education Planning
October 18	Book Discussion 1: <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>
October 25	Book Discussion 2: <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>
November 1	Liberal Education
November 8	"Facebook, Myspace, AIM, Xanga" Friends or Foe" Assistant Dean of Student Life Tim Poirer
November 15	Alumni Panel/Evening
November 22	Thanksgiving Recess
November 29	Study Abroad (Panel) <i>Scott Ehrenburg, Student Advisor, Facilitator</i>
December 6	Course "Wrap Up"