

Introduction to College Life

Fall, 2006

LINC 100 M.
TR 10:20-11:30 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Donald P St. John, Ph.D.
Professor of Religion

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a half course requirement for graduation. The primary goal of the course is to introduce first-year students to the intellectual life of Moravian College, promote a smooth transition to college life, and to help students develop a coherent plan for their education. In addition, we hope that you will be stimulated and motivated to consider the principles by which you might live. Upon completion of the course, you should have a greater understanding of who you are, your responsibilities as a student, and your role as citizens in the College community and in the larger society. You should also possess the necessary skills for maximizing your academic performance, as well as an appreciation for the relevance and importance of a liberal arts education.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. All entering day program freshmen are required to enroll in the course. Given the special nature of the course a student may not withdraw from the course. In the event of a medical emergency or other special circumstance a student may appeal for a special exception to this policy to the director of the introduction to college life program. If the appeal is approved the student would be granted a "W" for each semester enrolled in the course.
2. Passing the course is a requirement for graduation. In the event that a student does not earn a passing grade in either term of LinC 100, there will be a mandatory second year no credit experience, LinC 200, that will be graded on a Pass/No Credit basis that must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement. The Director of the Introduction to College Life, in consultation with the students instructor, will generate the requirements for this experience.
3. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. This includes such instances as quoting directly from a published work without giving the author credit (i.e. proper citation), inserting the author's words as your own, using or "borrowing" another student's work, buying a paper from a professional service, etc. Evidence of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with in accordance with the college policy on academic honesty found in the Student Handbook. In the context of this course, fictitious reports of events attended will be considered as constituting an academic honesty issue.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

	Percentage of Grade	Maximum Points
Journal	15%	150 pts.
Personal Reflection Papers (5)	25%	250 pts.
Attendance/Write Community Events (6)	25%	250 pts.
Personal Education Plan	10%	100 pts.
Class Participation	25%	250 pts.

Personal Reflection Papers

Each of you will have six opportunities over the course of a semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 300 words). Some of these will be related to the reading and your instructor will design some. Take them seriously! Points will be taken off for sloppy work, whether in the intellectual lassitude displayed or the poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The instructor will permit one rewrite per person if it is evident that the individual misjudged college level expectations.

Late assignments: The instructor will reduce your grade depending on how late it is turned in.

Community Events: Attendance and Write-Ups.

As with the personal reflection papers, you must produce a product of college-level quality. It must be clear that you attended, that you made sense out of the program, and that you were able to write about it according to acceptable standards. Each essay, except the first, must be 300 words or more. The first essay will be on the talk by Jennifer Boylan, your impressions and how it related to the reading. This paper will be worth 50 points and each of the others will be worth 40 pts. Other suggestions/limitations:

One sporting event permitted for credit.

Arts & Lectures Programs

Films Relating to College Life and/or Identity Issues

Theatrical Performances; Musicals

Public Lectures

Art exhibit of special significance

Journal

The journal will be used to take notes on readings, in-class discussions, presentations, films, lectures as well as do in-class writing. You may also use it to raise questions about your college experience or note events that you find exciting, perplexing, etc. Journals will be collected twice.

Personal Education Plan (PEP)

The instructor will explain the reason for and significance of this assignment as well as how to develop it. It is intended to help you think through what courses you might like to take, especially your non-major courses. These are your choices and should be based on your interests, curiosities, desired goals in life.

Attendance/Participation.

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions. Every unexcused absence will lower the semester final course grade by a full letter unit. Participation is expected and if not forthcoming will be encouraged through special assignments meant to promote public speaking.

REQUIRED READINGS

Lawry, John *College 101. A First Year Reader*

The professor may assign and/or provide additional readings.

COURSE SCHEDULE

FALL semester

DATE

TOPIC(S)&ASSIGNMENTS

8/27 Common Summer Reading Discussion & Community event.

8/31-Week One: Discussion of the Course, College Life and Identity Issues

9/4 No Classes—Labor Day

9/7-Week Two: The Liberal Arts Tradition
Dr. Jim Skalnik, Assistant Dean
Reading: William Cronon, “‘Only Connect...’ The Goals of a Liberal Education”

September 11: 7:00 p.m. Prosser Auditorium, the HUB. Jay Friedman conducts a discussion of sexual decision-making: what you should know. You are **strongly encouraged** to attend and write up your reflections in your journal.

9/14-Week Three: Student Panel
Reading: TBA
For 9/21 Write a reflection paper on the importance of participating in college organizations and why or why not you feel inclined to do so.

9/21-Week Four: Group Discussion
Reading: TBA
“Best Ways to Fail a Class”
“10 Tips You Need to Survive College”
Activity: Ethical Dilemmas on Academic Honesty
Think of a reflection paper on insights gained from the readings or class

9/28-Week Five: Personal Inquiries
Discussion: Differences Between H.S. & College
Common Pitfalls of the First Year
Reflection Paper Possible: Advice to a first-year student

10/5-Week Six: Safety, Sex, and STDs
Reading: TBA
Personal Conduct: Ethical Dilemmas
Good topics for a reflection paper. Might also relate accounts of people you know who should have heeded advice

Monday & Tuesday, 10/9 & 10/10 Fall Recess

10/12-Week Seven: Study Abroad
Dr. Jennifer Creamer, Director, Study Abroad
Reading: TBA

October 18 7:30 p.m. Prosser Auditorium. A Play: "Platanos and Collard Greens" One of the Intercultural Awareness Programs

10/19-Week 8 Taking Care of Your Mental Health: Stress and De-stressing
Dr. Ron Kline, Counseling Center

10/26-Week 9 Thinking About Life after College
Christine Rander, The Career Center

11/02-Week 10 Personal Ed. Phil. and Catalog Review
Handout on PEP

Friday, 11/10 Last Day for "W"

Week 11 First-Year Student Advising is M-T-W, Nov. 6,7,8

At Advising Session:

***Personal Education Plan
draft due.***

Registration days are TR, F Nov. 9, 10

11/16-Week 12 "Seniors" Film and Discussion
Readings: "The First Year's the Hardest" and "Your Legacy"

11/23-Week 13 Thanksgiving

11/30 Week 14 Alumni Panel
Penni Zimmerman, Alumni Relations, and Guests

12/07-Week 15 Final Class

Final Exams December 13-16; 18-19.

Commencement-Saturday, 10:00a.m., May 15, 2010 !!!!!!!

