

SYLLABUS
LinC 100.2R – Introduction to College Life
MORAVIAN COLLEGE

Discussion Leader:

John D. Rossi III, MBA, CPA/PFS, CMA, CFM, CFP®, CVA
Economics & Business Department
Comenius Hall; 2nd Floor; Room 208
E-Mail: mejdr01@moravian.edu
College Phone: (610) 861-1380
College Fax: (610) 625-7919
Home Phone: (610) 502-0674
Home Fax: (610) 502-1460

STUDENT ADVISOR:

Jackie Blazier
Campus Box # 0107
stjeb08@moravian.edu
Phone:570-242-6884
AIM: Jackie21687

Course & Title:

LinC 100.2R – Introduction to College Life

Required Text / Reading:

Cuddy, Dennis Laurence. (2003) *Cover-Up Government Spin or Truth?* Hearthstone Publishing.

Boylan, Jennifer Finney. (2003). *She's Not There*. New York: Broadway Books

College Student Handbook

College Catalog

Catalogue 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.

Student Advisor:

The role of your Student Advisor is to attend all LinC classes and meetings throughout the semester and to support, guide, and ease the transition to college for you. Jackie will help to minimize anxiety, encourage positive attitudes, and inspire the excitement of learning.

I am confident that Jackie will offer reassurance, objectively and assist you in making decisions, promote involvement in campus life, share experiences, and make available information about campus resources and services. She is available to answer questions as the semester proceeds, and to refer you to services and resources on campus. In addition she will assist you in adjusting to your new home.

Class Participation:

Successful completion of this class will require extensive class participation. Class members are expected to read all of the assigned materials be prepared for class, and complete assignments as requested. The discussion leader will adjust the final grade upward based on the nature of each student's involvement. Higher participation grades will be given for insightful comments or questions that relate to class material, minimal grades will be assigned for simple questions of clarification, and deductions will be distributed for students attempting to confuse, delay, or embarrass the discussion leader or student advisor.

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES:

To ensure fairness across different sections the course grading principles are standardized for all sections. The workload expectations for students will also be comparable across sections. The course is graded and is weighted as a half unit course. The final grade is totally determined by your willingness to become actively involved in this course that is aimed at enhancing your college experience. Please make sure that you understand what you have to do in order to earn a superior grade in the course. This also means that your Discussion Leader's and Student Advisor's energy will be primarily to trying to help you get the most out of this course and in helping you to get off to a good start in college. With respect to grades your Discussion Leader will be functioning much like a bookkeeper and keep track of the points you have earned over the course of the semester. Final grades will be calculated by summing up the points at the end of the semester and comparing them to the various point values for each grade.

The workload for this course has been carefully designed to take into account that you are probably also enrolled in four other courses as well as possibly taking Fitness and Wellness this semester. It is composed of six different components. Each of which is explained below.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes	36%
Attendance and write-ups of 6 community events	24%
3 Group & 3 Individual	
Reflection Paper -- <i>Cover-Up Government Spin or Truth?</i>	12%
Completion of 2 outside of class assignments	10%
Development of a personal education plan	10%
Reflection Paper – <i>She's Not There</i>	<u>8%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes:

This is the most heavily weighted component of the course. This reflects our hope that much of your learning experience comes about by active participation in the classes. Some classes will involve group activities, while others will have guest speakers and or panels sharing information and important insights about college. Unfortunately if you miss a particular class you have missed that learning experience and there really is no way to make it up. We have 12 formal seventy-minute classes class meeting times, plus one during fall orientation to discuss our common summer reading.

You will earn 2 points for each class (26), plus the three group events (6), plus the library information session (2), plus freshman advising / registration (2) up to a maximum of 36 points. The definition of attending is coming to class prepared, participating, and staying to the end of class. In other words simply showing up is not enough effort to earn full credit. Your Discussion Leader may choose to award partial credit rather than full points if you do not meet this expectation. **Attending class is so important that this is the one component of the grading system that also has a potential negative consequence built into assessing your effort. If you have more than two unexcused absence you automatically lose 2 points from the total that you earn throughout the semester. Each additional unexcused absence also causes you to lose 2 additional points.** Attending all classes earns you 36 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 36% of your final grade.

Community events:

College offers students many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside of the classroom, however most students straight out of high school are not used to taking advantage of such opportunities. To help you develop the habit of exposing yourself to new learning experiences this course requires you to attend 6 community (**3 group / 3 Individual**) events over the course of the semester. The three will be individual events are your choice and can be any organized campus activity including a sports event. Each event or activity must be different, for example two meetings involving the same club will count only once.

For each event, I need a write-up (150 word minimum) within one week of the date of the event. The write-up should outline the event and state your reaction or impression. While these write-ups are not graded per se it is hoped that you will make them high quality submissions, typical of what one could expect from a successful college student. As long as a good faith effort is made full point value will be earned. Your Discussion Leader has the right to turn back a submission as unacceptable and require you to resubmit a revision if your work doesn't clearly convey that you have tried to do a good job on the write-up. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 24 points (4 per Assignment), or 24% of your final grade.

Reflection Paper – Cover-Up Government Spin or Truth?:

As part of our Learning in Common Curriculum the college has mandated a Speaking Across the Curriculum component that every student should experience. In our class you will have the opportunity to do this in every time we meet. In addition, it is important that you learn to develop both skepticism and critical thinking skills. To achieve these goals, you will read “Cover-Up Government Spin or Truth?” and be prepared to discuss in class on November 7th. In addition, I want a reflection paper summarizing your reaction to the book. In support of your reaction, I would like you to identify at least three points made by the author and your conclusion. The paper must be a minimum of three pages. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 12 points, or 12% of your final grade. The paper is due on December 5th

Outside Class Assignments:

Each of you will have two opportunities over the course of the semester to complete outside assignments. Each of these assignments, if deemed acceptable and handed in on time, will earn 5 points.

Planned Assignments:

1. Scavenger Hunt
2. Election 2006

Your instructor will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 10 points (5 per Assignment), or 10% of your final grade.

Personal Education Plan (PEP) – Crystal Clear Goals:

We want your college experience to be positive. We also want you to be aware of all the different educational, personal, and social opportunities that Moravian College offers its students. One way to ensure that this happens is to ask each of you to take personal responsibility for your educational plan and to have you spend some time during your first semester in college thinking about your future. That is what this assignment is intended to do. You are expected to develop a written plan for the next four years. Your Discussion Leader will provide you with the details of this plan that you will be completing for this course. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 10 points, or 10% of your final grade. Your personal Education Plan is due on November 28th

Reflection Paper – She's Not There:

As part of our Learning in Common Curriculum the college has mandated a Speaking Across the Curriculum component that every student should experience. In our class you will have the opportunity to do this in every time we meet. Everyone is expected to write a reflection paper on “She's Not There.” I would like to know your reaction to the book and the author. The paper must be a minimum of three pages in length. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 8 points, or 8% of your final grade. The paper is due on October 31st.

Scheduling, Preparing for, and Attending Individual Meeting:

Your Discussion Leader will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with her/him preceding registration for the spring semester. The dates of these individual meetings may vary depending on whether you are an Add-Venture student, a Comenius scholar, or in the general program. As part of this process it is critical that you both understand the LinC curriculum and thoughtfully prepare for this meeting with your academic advisor. This means, for example, that

you check the college catalog for specific requirements for any fields that you are considering majoring in. You also need to identify six courses as possibilities to discuss with your advisor. You will also write down an explanation for why you chose each of these courses as possibilities. Your instructor will provide you with a form to help you to do this. It is your responsibility to thoughtfully fill this out and bring it to this meeting. The reason for requiring you to choose six courses even though most students will only enroll in four full unit courses (Some may also be taking Fitness and Wellness) is to ensure that you still select an optimal schedule for yourself even if one or two of the courses that you have selected are closed when it comes time for you to actually register.

Point Value Conversion Chart:

A+	96 to 100
A	93 to 95.9
A-	89 to 92.9
B+	87 to 88.9
B	83 to 86.9
B-	79 to 82.9
C+	76 to 78.9
C	72 to 75.9
C-	68 to 71.9
D	58 to 67.9
F	BELOW 58

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

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. It is your responsibility to be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism and, in the event of uncertainty, to ask in a constructive manner about a writing in question before it is due in a final version. You are also required to keep all note cards and rough drafts on papers and assignments until given a final grade for that course. 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 event of a suspected infraction – in fairness to your peers and the standards of the college – it is my job to send the materials in question to the Dean's Office at which time you are given the chance to provide your perspective on the matter.

LinC 100.2R – Introduction to College Life
Class Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Notes</i>
August 27	Welcome & Introduction	C-213
	Discussion: <i>She's Not There.</i>	
August 28	Library Information – 6PM	Library
August 29	Q&A / Discussion – Your Moravian Experience	C-213
September 5	Stephen McKinney (Computing at Moravian)	PPHAC - 113
September 12	James Skalnik (Understanding Liberal Arts Education)	C-213
September 16	Family Day (Optional)	
September 19	Sean Tallarico (Campus Safety)	C-005
September 26	Nicole Snyder (Career Center)	C-005
October 3	Jennifer Creamer – Study Abroad <i>Group Event – Cohen Lecture Series (8PM)</i>	C-005 Johnston Hall
October 10	No Class – Fall Break	
October 13	<i>Group Event – 7th Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony</i> <i>Reception: 6:00PM; Program 7:30PM</i>	Payne Gallery & Peter Hall
October 14	Homecoming (Optional)	
October 17	Open Discussion: Jackie Blazier	C-213
October 19	4 th Period Group Lunch – Optional (11:30 to 12:30pm)	HUB
October 24	Alumni Panel	C-005
October 31	A. Lutzi (Learning Services / Counseling Services)	C-005
November 5-7	Freshman Advising	C-208
November 7	Class Discussion: Cover-up	C-213
November 9-10	Freshman Registration	Registrar
November 14	<i>Group Event – 5th Annual Student-Alumni Career Networking Reception (5-7PM)</i>	HUB
November 21	Crystal Clear Goals – Personal Education Plan	C-213
November 28	Guest Speaker – Nancy H. Bernstein	C-213
December 5	Crystal Clear Goals – Personal Education Plan	C-213
	Class Discussion: Cover-up / Evaluation of the Course	
December 12	NO Class – Reading Day	
Dec 13- 19	Exams – Good Luck	N/A
	NO EXAM FOR THIS COURSE	

This schedule is preliminary and the exact dates assigned to each topic may vary depending on the pace of the class discussion.

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STUDENT SURVEY

NAME: _____

HOW CAN YOU CAN BE REACHED?

CAMPUS: _____; HOME: _____; CELL: _____

E-MAIL (S): _____

Any special limitations or Accommodations required for this course:

Suggestions to Enhance this Experience

Expectations of this Course:

ANY SPECIAL INTEREST OR AREAS YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO EMPHASIZE:

COMMENTS: