

**Introduction to College Life 100.2T
Fall 2006**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The primary goals of this half unit (.50) course 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.

REQUIRED READING:

Boylan, Jennifer Finley. (2003). *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*. New York: Broadway Books.

Albom, Mitch. (2003). *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. New York: Hyperion.

College Student Handbook

College Catalog

Additional Readings handed out in class

COURSE CALENDAR*

Class meets on Tuesdays, 6:45-7:55pm

Aug. 27	Week 1	Welcome & Introduction	Memorial 301
		<i>Monday, August 28, 7:00pm: LIBRARY ORIENTATION</i>	Reeves Library
<i>Monday, September 4: No classes – Labor Day</i>			
<i>Tuesday, September 5: Last Day for Drop/Add</i>			
Sept. 5	Week 2	Liberal Arts Education Guest Speaker: Dean Jim Skalnik	Comenius 5
Sept. 12	Week 3	Campus Computing Guest Speaker: Stephen McKinney	PPHAC 112
<i>Saturday, September 16: Family Day</i>			
Sept. 19	Week 4	Campus Safety/IMPACT Guest Speaker: Sean Tallarico	Comenius 5
Sept. 26	Week 5	Careers Guest Speaker: Nicole Snyder Personal Reflection Paper 2 due Oct. 3	Comenius 5/ Comenius 218
<i>Tuesday, October 3: Cohen Lecture – MANDATORY – GET YOUR TICKET AT THE HUB!</i>			
Oct. 3	Week 6	Study Abroad Guest Speaker: Jennifer Creamer	Prosser Auditorium
<i>Monday & Tuesday, October 10 & 11: No Classes – Fall Recess</i>			
<i>Friday, October 13: Alumni Awards Ceremony</i>			Payne Gallery
Oct. 17	Week 8	Academic Honesty Personal Reflection Paper 3 due Oct. 24	Comenius 5
Oct. 24	Week 9	Moravian College Alumni Panel	Comenius 5
Oct. 31	Week 10	Counseling & Learning Services Guest Speaker: Angela Lutzi Personal Reflection Paper 4 due Nov. 14	Comenius 5
Nov. 7	Week 11	NO CLASS! Make Appointment with Wendy Juniper for Registration!	Reeves 191

Thursday & Friday, November 9-10: Freshman Registration

Nov. 14	Week 12	Speaking Assignment Personal Reflection Paper 5 due Nov. 21	Comenius 5
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Nov. 21	Week 13	TBD	
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Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 11/22, 11/23, & 11/24: No Classes – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 28	Week 14	Seniors Panel Personal Reflection Paper 6 due Dec. 5	Comenius 5
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Dec. 5	Week 15	“Prepare for College Life”	TBD
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*Please note: While I will try to hold to the flow of the syllabus, it is subject to change over the course of the semester.

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES

To ensure fairness across different LINC 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. As long as you commit to becoming involved and meet the expectations for the course you can guarantee yourself a superior grade in at least this one course in your first semester at college: this one. This also means that your instructor's energy will be primarily going 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. This should also allow you to develop a good open working relationship with your new academic advisor. This also means that your ICL instructor will not be grading, per se, each assignment that you complete for the course. With respect to grades your instructor will be functioning much like a bookkeeper and keep track of the points you have earned over the course of the semester. It is suggested that you track your performance over the course of the semester as well so that you know exactly how you are doing in this course. 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.

<i>Attendance and participation in scheduled classes</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Completion of 6 outside of class short personal reflection papers</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Attendance and write-ups of community events</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Development of a personal education plan or substitute assignment</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Participation in a speaking assignment</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Scheduling, preparing for, and attending an individual meeting</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Participation in library orientation</i>	<i>4%</i>

Attendance & participation in scheduled classes

This is a 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 is no way to make it up. So each class has 15 formal class meeting times, one during fall orientation to discuss our common summer reading and 14 seventy-minute classes, meeting once a week through out the semester.

You will earn **15 points** for each class for a total of **210** points. The operational definition of attending is coming to class prepared, on time or early, participating, and staying to the end of class. In other words *simply showing up is not enough effort to earn full credit*. Your instructor may choose to award partial credit rather than all 15 points if you do not meet this expectation. Please note that if you miss a class the points for that class cannot be earned. The grading format has enough flexibility built into it that even if you have to

miss a class you can still earn a superior grade. Attending and participating in all classes earns you 210 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted **21 %** of your final grade.

Personal reflection Papers

Each of you will have six opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 250 words). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments and your instructor will design some. Each of these assignments, if deemed acceptable and handed in on time, will earn up to **50 points**. Late personal reflection papers can only earn **25 points**. To be counted on time, papers must be handed in at the time the instructor collects them. **Your instructor 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. If this occurs multiple times your instructor may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions.** Your instructor will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class. Handing in six acceptable personal reflection papers on time will earn you 300 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 30% 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 **5** community events over the course of the semester. The first will occur during freshmen orientation and the others will be spread out over the semester.

The first and only community event required of the whole freshman class is attendance at the presentation by Jennifer Boylan, the author of our common summer reading. In recognition of the significance of this particular community event (**60 points**) it is weighted more heavily than the other four (**35 points each**). You will submit a write-up of this event to your instructor (explained below). This will be your first chance to communicate your ideas in writing with a college professor. Make your submission something that you are proud of. It is also the first opportunity for your instructor, who is also your academic advisor, to get a feel for your writing ability and for your ability as a college student.

Two of these community events will be designated as class community events that you all go to together. One of the two class community events is the Cohen Lecture on October 3. Over the course of the semester, your instructor may decide to designate a second event as a required class community event that does not appear here. If you have a legitimate conflict with a class community event your instructor will suggest an acceptable alternative community event for you to attend. In order to receive credit, this alternative must be arranged with your instructor before the date of the class community event. Instructors will assign one of three methods of assessing your participation in a class community event. You may be asked to do a write-up as explained below, participate in a class discussion during the regularly scheduled class, or participate in a class discussion right before or after the class community event.

In addition you will be asked to choose 1 or 2 other approved events to serve as individual community events, depending on how many class community events are designated. A written reaction paper (write-up) is required for each individual community event that you attend individually.

Each write-up (250 word minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event you attend. 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 (35 points) will be earned. If the write-up of the event is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 20 points. **Your instructor 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.** If this occurs multiple times your instructor may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions. Attending five community events and handing in a write-up on each on time earns you 200 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted **20%** of your final grade.

What qualifies as a community event that an individual can attend?

Any program that is sponsored or co-sponsored by the M.C. Arts and Lectures Committee as well as the Cohen lecture automatically qualify. In addition, your instructor may announce other events that take place throughout the fall semester that qualify.

Personal Education and Career Plan

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. Your instructor will provide you with the details of this plan that you will be completing for this course. It is due by 5:00pm on the day of our last class meeting, December 6th. As long as it is handed in on time and your instructor deems it of acceptable quality you will earn **100 points** for completing this component of the course. A plan that is turned in late can only earn 50 points.

Speaking assignment

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 ICL course you will have the opportunity to do this. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is **100 points**.

Scheduling, Preparing For, and Attending an Individual Meeting

Your instructor 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. This planning is so crucial to your college success that you earn **50 points** for scheduling, preparing, and attending these individual meetings. This is the equivalent to earning a 100 on a test that counted **5%** of your final grade.

Library Orientation Session

The librarians have designed a valuable orientation session for you. The schedule of dates and times is in your fall orientation booklet. If you have a conflict and can not make it to the session that is scheduled for our ICL class, please make sure that you attend one of the other seven sessions. Attendance will be taken and students will only earn the full **40 points (4%** of the total grade) if they are present for the full session.

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-
less than 600	=	F

Note:

Please note that it is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignments and for the course final grade.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The consequences of assignments being handed in late are spelled out in the grading procedures section of the syllabus.

OFFICE HOURS

I am available most days and times to meet with you. However, I teach classes in the library at random times. Your choices are: (1) you can just stop by my office (in the back of the library periodicals section, downstairs) any of the below times and if I am in, I can meet with you; or (2) you can call, email or IM me, and chances are very good that I will be available to meet with you at the time you need.

Monday 2-5pm, 6-10pm (at night, I am at the reference desk)
Tuesday 8:30am-11:30pm
Wednesday & Thursday 8:00am-11:30pm, 12:30pm-4:30pm
Friday 8am-12pm

LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

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

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. Plagiarism includes such instances as quoting directly from a published work without proper citation (essentially, giving the author credit for his or her work), inserting the author's words as your own, using or "borrowing" another student's work, buying a paper from a professional service, and other activities like this. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is and seeking guidance (from your faculty advisor, the Student Handbook) where you are uncertain *before* your work is due in a final version. *College policy requires that you keep all note cards and rough drafts on papers and assignments until given a final grade for a 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 as instructor 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.