

Introduction to College Life

LinC 100 2C

Dr. Erica Miller Yozell
Moravian College
Fall 2007
Classroom: PPHAC 330

Office: Comenius Hall 402
Email: emy@moravian.edu
Office Phone: 610.625.7782
Office Hours: M 11:15-12:15,
W 8-8:50, F 11:15-12:15, and by appt.

Student Advisor: Meredith Wertheim
Email: stmew03@moravian.edu
Phone: 732-331-2034

Course description:

Introduction to College Life (ICL) is a half-unit (0.5) 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 college community; assisting your transition to becoming a successful college student; exploring the purpose of a liberal arts education and its relation to life after college; developing specific goals, objectives and plans for your education; and assisting your engagement in college life.¹

Welcome! As your academic advisor until you declare a major, I look forward to working with you. The class will meet once a week on Mondays, from 2:20-3:30. Since this course centers on the collective experience of college life, please note that attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to attend, you should contact the instructor by email or office phone before the scheduled class meeting. Please know that I am here to help you with your questions as you begin your studies at Moravian College. I always respond to emails as soon as I can. Please note, however, that it may occasionally take me up to 24 hours on weekdays, and I may or may be able to respond to emails over the weekends.

Message from your Student Advisor:

I hope you find your transition from high school to college to be smooth and exciting. As your student advisor, I intend to serve as a mentor both in and out of the classroom. In addition to helping you schedule classes, I will be leading class discussions alongside of Dr. Yozell, answering various questions about Moravian, providing you with the skills to succeed in a college environment and most importantly, serving as an upperclassman friend. I look forward to getting to know you throughout the semester!

Blackboard:

I have set up a Blackboard site for this course. Please enroll yourself as soon as possible (blackboard.moravian.edu). There you can find contact information, the syllabus, and assignments.

¹ This portion of the syllabus was adapted from Professor Art Lyon's ICL course description for a section of a previous year's LinC 100 course.

Required Texts:

Moravian College Catalog

Moravian College Student Handbook

Nathan, Rebekah. *My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*. NY: Penguin, 2005.

Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*. NY: Scribner, 2005.

Course Policies and Grading:

Grading policies and workload expectations are standardized across ICL sections in order to ensure fairness. Most of the grade is based on participation, attendance of events and the completion of assignments. Your personal reflection papers should meet college-level writing standards and will be graded accordingly. Each student is responsible for tracking his/her grade points for the class. There will be no extra credit or extensions for deadlines. *See the attached evaluation worksheet for details and to track your progress.*

The grade is comprised of seven different components:

Personal Reflection Papers	30%
Attendance and active participation in class	21%
Attendance and write-ups of community events	20%
Letter from your future self (PEP alternative)	10%
Interview with a professor & presentation to class (speaking in class)	10%
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with advisor	5%
Participation in the library orientation session	4%

Details of the assignments will be presented in class. In the case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out any information missed in class and to come prepared to the next class.

Attendance and active participation in class: Class time will involve the discussion of Rebekah Nathan's book, informal discussions of important and timely issues, group activities, guest speakers, student presentations, and a student panel. This is not a lecture class nor is there a textbook with all the answers. Given the nature of this class, your active, informed participation is of the utmost importance. In order to earn full points for each class (15 pts per session), you should arrive on time and with the day's materials, stay the full length of the class, and engage actively and thoughtfully in the activities. If you have any questions about this portion of the grade, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor before the end of the semester. There is no way to "make up" points for being absent, but the grade format has enough flexibility that one absence will not preclude a high grade.

Campus Events: The Moravian College community offers a wide variety of events, speakers, artistic performances, athletic events, and other intellectual and social events. It is our hope that you become actively involved in your campus community. ICL requires that you attend at least five (5) events. The mandatory community events are the presentation by writer Jeannette Walls on August 26 and the Peace and Justice lecture on September 6. For the other three, only one may be an athletic event, and it must be one in which you are not participating; you are encouraged to try a variety of different types of events. For each event, you will write a 1-2 page (250-500 words, double-spaced) journal entry of your experience. The journal entries should include a few lines describing the event, but you should focus the writing on your reaction to the event. A description or summary of the event itself is not sufficient. Write-ups are due within a week of the date of the event. The write-up may be awarded fewer than the maximum of 35 points each if it is less than college-level work. What qualifies as "Campus Event"? Any program sponsored or co-sponsored by the college Arts and Lectures Committee as well as the Cohen lecture automatically qualify. We will

go over an event calendar in class, and you can always request that an event be considered by emailing the professor well in advance of the event.

Personal Reflection Papers: You will write six (6) personal reflection papers (1-2 pages). Some will be written during class, and others will be written outside of class and due at the beginning of the class section. Those written outside of class should be typed and double-spaced. The due dates are listed on the syllabus calendar; late papers can only earn up to half the possible reflection paper points. The instructor may award fewer points than the maximum (50 pts) if the paper does not demonstrate acceptable college-level work, including proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. I do not accept emailed submissions except by prior arrangement.

Interviewing a Faculty Member: In order to fulfill the Speaking Across the Curriculum requirement, students must do a 5-minute individual presentation in front of the class. You will select and interview a faculty member in the major that most interests you right now. In the interview, find out about the professor's research and teaching interests, his/her background, the reasons s/he decided to pursue this area of interest, and perhaps what s/he would like to work on next. Find out what inspired this faculty member to become interested in that major as an undergraduate. What were his or her experiences like at that college or university? (What university or college did she or he attend? What graduate school?) Has he or she worked outside academia? What were the biggest challenges faced during school? Each professor within a major focuses his or her research on different sub-disciplines. What are his or her specific sub-disciplines? Have his or her interests changed over time? Ask any other questions you have related to the faculty member's professional life. You will give a 5-minute presentation of your findings to the class. Please do *not* read! Presentations are on October 1. Let me know by 9/17/07 the name of the faculty member you plan to interview.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Any student with a disability who would like to request accommodations under the ADA must meet first with someone to evaluate the case and give recommendations to the professor. For learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD, see Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services; for all other disabilities, see Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center.

Academic Honesty:

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty at Moravian College. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own) and cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Homework is assumed to be done individually unless otherwise specified.

For detailed information, see the website:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

Course Calendar

*Don't forget to schedule in your campus events. Reaction papers are due at the next class time after the event, and no later than one week after the date of the event.

**Please note that we may sometimes meet at other locations. They will be announced in advance.

***Calendar is subject to modifications.

8/26 (Sunday) Common Summer Reading Discussion and Community Event

- Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle*.

8/27 Welcome! First day of classes.

- Bring any questions you may have.
- Read Chapter 1, "Welcome to AnyU" of Rebekah Nathan's *My Freshman Year. What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*.
- Turn in Community Event Paper #1, on Walls.

8/28 Exploring Reeves Library. Mandatory session for this ICL section is at 8:00 p.m. at Reeves.

9/3 No classes. Labor Day.

9/4 Last day to drop or add classes

9/6 Peace and Justice Lecture, "Free Minds, Free People: Teaching and Learning in a New Age" (community event). Dr. Bill Ayers will speak at 7:00 p.m. in Prosser Auditorium

9/10 Nuts & Bolts of College

- Familiarize yourself with the Student Handbook and bring it to class.
- Bring **all** syllabi, lists of other important events (sports, performances, trips, whatever), and a calendar or agenda.
- Read Chapter 2, "Life in the Dorms"
- Turn in Reflection Paper #1

9/15 Family Day

9/17 Communities, Bethlehem walk

- Read Chapter 3, "Community and Diversity." Bring the book, paper and pen.
- Write Reflection Paper #2 in class.
- Wear shoes you can walk in. (*Let us know if you need an alternative to walking.*) If the weather is poor, we'll change plans.
- Let Dr. Yozell know the name of the faculty member you plan to interview (see 10/1).

9/24 Scheduling Today, Planning for the Future

- Read Chapter 6, "The Art of College Management"
- Turn in Reflection Paper #3

10/1 Meet a Professor

- Give a 5-minute presentation to the class about your interview with a faculty member.

10/6 - 10/9 Fall Break

10/15 Individual Registration Meetings

- We will not meet as a group this week, but make sure you have signed up for an individual meeting.
- Bring completed registration worksheet, your options, interests and questions.

10/22 Current Issues

- Read Chapter 4, "As Others See Us."
- Write Reflection Paper #4 in class (bring paper and pen).

10/29 Managing Time and Stress—Presentation and Conversation with Angela Lutzi

- Note change in class meeting place.

11/5 Outside Perspectives—Presentation on Study Abroad by Dr. Jennifer Creamer & students

- Combined class, note change in location.
- Read brief reflections from time abroad (handout, TBA)
- Turn in Reflection paper #5

11/9 Last day for withdrawal with "W"

11/12 Upper-class Student Panel, discussion

11/19 What is a Liberal Arts Education?--Presentation by Dr. Jim Skalnik

- Reflection Paper #6 in class (bring materials).
- No more November blues—Meredith

11/21 - 11/25 Thanksgiving Break

11/26 Academic Integrity — Presentation by Beth Fuchs

- combined class, note possible change in location

12/3 Preparing for the End: You *can* survive finals week.

- Turn in letter from your senior self (Alternative to Personal Education Plan)

12/10 Final Class Meeting

12/11, 12/16 Reading Days

12/12- 12/15, 12/17-12/19 Final Examinations