

Introduction to College Life

Fall, 2007

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COURSE 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.

COMMENTS FROM JUSTIN SISKO, YOUR STUDENT ADVISOR:

Welcome to Moravian College! Freshman year can be an extremely challenging time for students, as making the transition between high school life and college life is a very big step. That being said, this course is designed for the purpose of helping to ease that adjustment, while broadening your horizons to see everything that Moravian has to offer, learn more about how things work at the college, and how to get the most out of your education and the time you spend here at Moravian. A unique feature about this course is that in addition to having a faculty member instructing, you also have me, a fellow student, co-teaching the class. My primary role in this class is to be of assistance to all of you in whatever way possible. Any questions you may have outside of class, in regards to anything, whether it be questions about our class, the campus, the community, issues that may arise, or anything at all, personal or impersonal, I'm here to help in any way I can. Since entering college involves an immense amount of life changes, it was found that having a student advisor to help out was very beneficial, because it's often easier to relate to a fellow peer rather than a professor most times. Don't ever feel that you're bothering me with any question, no matter how big or how small; feel free to contact me about anything, at any time, throughout the year.

REQUIRED READINGS

Walls, Jeannette. (2005). *The Glass Castle*. New York: Scribner.

Nathan, Rebekah. (2006). *My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

College Student Handbook

College Catalog

Additional Readings handed out in class

Intended Student Outcomes

(1) Prepare for College Life at Moravian College

STUDENT OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students will:

- 1) become familiar with college policies related to their role as students and members of the Moravian College community.
- 2) 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:

- 1) identify and understand the general goals and purposes of the liberal arts and sciences tradition for individuals and within society.
- 2) 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:

- 1) articulate their specific goals, objectives, and plans for their personal education
- 2) 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) engage in a variety of coping skills that work best for them in challenging situations.
- 3) pursue their personal goals and handle the challenges of adjustment to college with greater confidence and efficacy.

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 primarily 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 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 the majority of the assignments 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. The one case where your instructor will grade your effort will be in assessing the quality of your personal reflection papers. We want you to be reinforced for putting forth high quality writing efforts, just as you will be doing in your other courses. 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 seven different components. Each of which is explained below.

<i>Completion of 6 outside of class short personal reflection papers</i>	<i>30% (300 points)</i>
<i>Attendance and participation in scheduled classes</i>	<i>21% (210 points)</i>
<i>Attendance and write-ups of community events</i>	<i>20% (200 points)</i>
<i>Development of a personal education plan or substitute assignment</i>	<i>10% (100 points)</i>
<i>Participation in a speaking assignment</i>	<i>10% (100 points)</i>
<i>Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting</i>	<i>5% (50 points)</i>
<i>Participation in the library orientation session</i>	<i>4% (40 points)</i>

Personal Reflection Papers 30% (300 points)

Each of you will have six opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 300 words). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments and your instructor will design some. Each of these assignments can earn up to 50 points. **Your instructor has the right to either turn back a submission as unacceptable or award fewer points than the maximum if the author does not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or does not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. Your instructor also 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 or not offer this option to you.** Late personal reflection papers can only earn 25 points. Your instructor will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes 21% (210 points)

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 really is no way to make it up. Each class has 14 formal class meeting times: one during fall orientation to discuss our common summer reading, and 13 seventy-minute classes, meeting once a week throughout the semester.

You will earn 15 points for each class up to a maximum 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 all classes earns you 210 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 21% of your final grade.

Community events

20% (200 points)

College offers students many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside of the classroom; most students straight out of high school, however, 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 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). Here is your first chance to communicate using the written word 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 or more of these community events will be designated as class community events that you all go to together. Your instructor may decide to designate an event as a required class community event that does not appear on this list. 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, or participate in a class discussion right before or after the event.

In addition you will be asked to choose 0, 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.

Each write-up (250 word minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event. 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. **Your instructor has the right to either turn back a submission as unacceptable or award fewer points than the maximum if the author does not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or does not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work.** Each community write-up can earn up to 35 points. If the write-up of the event is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 20 points. Attending five community events and handing in a write-up on each on time earns you up to 200 points.

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 plan (PEP)

10% (100 points)

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 November 13th. 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 PEP that is turned in late can only earn 50 points.

Speaking assignment

10% (100 points)

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. In our section, you will prepare a speech about something that had a major impact on you during your first semester here at college. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points. Prior to the presentation, your instructor will clearly delineate what is required of you to earn the maximum number of points.

Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting 5% (50 points)

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

4% (40 points)

The reference 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 cannot 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 if they are there for the full session. There are also prizes being awarded via a raffle system, so don't miss out on this opportunity to learn about one of the most valuable resources on campus!

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

Office Hours

My office is in the library on the main floor, directly behind the Reference Desk. You are welcome to stop by any time I am working at the Reference Desk (see schedule below). My hours outside of the Reference Desk are a bit irregular, and I teach classes and attend meetings at random times, so if you can't come see me at the Reference Desk, it's in your best interest to email or call me to arrange a meeting time that is mutually agreeable.

Tuesday: 6-10pm

Wednesday: 2:30pm-5:00pm

Thursday: 8:30am-12:30pm

Friday: 12:00pm-4:00pm

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. 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.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

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

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.

**Disclaimer: 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.

Class Schedule

August 26 Assignments:	Common Summer Reading Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Event Paper on Jeannette Walls due August 28.
August 27, 8:00 p.m.	Exploring Reeves Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please report directly to the library at 8:00 p.m.
August 28 Assignments:	Introduction to College Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Community Event Paper.
September 3	NO CLASSES (Labor Day)
September 4 Assignments:	Time Management: Presentation by Ms. Angela Lutzi of the Office of Learning Services (combined class) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Reflection Paper 1. ▪ Please read the syllabus. ▪ Please read the preface, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2 in <i>My Freshman Year</i>.
September 4	LAST DAY FOR DROP/ADDS
September 11 Assignments:	How Well Do You Know Your College? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please review the Moravian Student Handbook and the Moravian College Catalog.
September 15	FAMILY DAY
September 18 Assignments:	How Well Do You Know Yourself? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Reflection Paper 2.
Sunday, September 23, 6:00 p.m.	CLASS COMMUNITY EVENT: Sunday Supper! Enjoy a home-cooked meal with the rest of your classmates.
September 25 Assignments:	Learning the Ropes & Getting Involved: Upper Class Panel & Student Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Community Event Paper. ▪ Please read the first two-thirds of Chapter 3 involving community and all of Chapter 6 in <i>My Freshman Year</i>.
October 2 Assignments:	Liberal Arts Education: Presentation by Dr. Jim Skalnik of the Academic Affairs Office (combined class); It's all Justin! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Reflection Paper 3. ▪ Please read Chapter 5 in <i>My Freshman Year</i>.
October 8-9	NO CLASSES (Fall Recess)
October 16 Assignments:	Conversations about Diversity Please turn in Reflection Paper 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please read the last third of Chapter 3 involving diversity in <i>My Freshman Year</i>.
October 20	HOMECOMING

October 23 Assignments:	Difficult Situations and Life-changing Events: Presentation by Drew and Meredith
October 30 Assignments:	Academic Integrity: Presentation by Bonnie Falla, Reeves Library (combined class) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Reflection Paper 5.
November 6 Assignments:	Registration Meetings There will be no scheduled class today; instead, I will meet with each of you individually over the course of this week to talk about your schedule for next semester. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please bring the completed Registration Worksheet with you at your meeting time.
November 8-9	REGISTRATION
November 9	LAST DAY FOR "W"
November 13	Studying Abroad: Presentation by Dr. Jennifer Creamer of the International Studies Office (combined class); Speaking Assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in your Personal Education Plan. ▪ Please read Chapter 4 in <i>My Freshman Year</i>.
November 20	Personal Growth and Development; Speaking Assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Watch video, "Seniors"
November 21-23	THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 27	Alumni Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please turn in Reflection Paper 6. ▪ Please come prepared with a question or two for our alums.
December 4	Wrap-up and Reflection; Speaking Assignment
December 12-14, 17-19	FINAL EXAMS

May, 2011 (Saturday, 10:00 a.m.) COMMENCEMENT