

LINC 100 2P: Introduction to College Life

PPHAC Room 330, 12:50 – 2:00pm, Fall, 2007

Instructor: Mary Beth Spirk
Office Phone #: 610-861-1424
Office: Johnston Hall 130
FAX #: 610-625-7954
E-Mail: memas01@moravian.edu

Student Advisor: Jasmine DeFranco
Cell Phone #: 610-297-1943
E-mail: stjed01@moravian.edu

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.

Aug. 26: Community event – Jeanette Walls

Aug. 31: Review of semester; icebreaker

Sept. 7: Time management – Angela Lutzi

Sept. 14: Awareness and Prevention – Sean Tallarico

Sept. 21: Leadership – Warren Hilton

Sept. 28: Diversity – Sharon Brown

Oct. 5: Library meeting

Oct. 12: Walking Tour of Bethlehem

Oct. 19: Individual speaking assignments

Oct. 26: Individual speaking assignments

Nov. 2: Study Abroad session – Jennifer Creamer

Nov. 9: Career Paths - Alumni Panel

Nov. 16: TBA – Jasmine

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving break!

Nov. 30: Spring class registration

Dec. 7: Personal Education Plan due; Pizza party

GRADING:

<i>Attendance and participation in scheduled classes</i>	30%
<i>Completion of Personal Reflection Papers</i>	20%
<i>Attendance and write-ups of community events</i>	20%
<i>Interview faculty with oral report</i>	20%
<i>Individual advising sessions</i>	5%
<i>Participation in the library orientation session</i>	5%

Personal Reflection Papers

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. Each of these assignments can earn up to 50 points. Late personal reflection papers can only earn 25 points. Topics will be given to you in class with due dates given accordingly.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes

This is a heavily weighted component of the course. 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. So 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 through out 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. 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 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 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).

A written reaction paper (write-up) is required for each individual community event that you attend.

Each write-up (250 words 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. 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.

Personal education plan (PEP)

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. It is due **December 7th**. (A handout will be given to you to assist you with your plan.) As long as it is handed in on time 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

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. You will

bring in one item/article/media outlet to share with the class. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points.

Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting

Library Orientation Session

Tuesday, August 28th at 8:00pm you are schedules for the library orientation session. 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.

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

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. 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.

REQUIRED READINGS

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

College Student Handbook

College Catalog

Lawry, John. (1999). *College 101: A First-Year Reader*. McGraw-Hill College

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 college with greater confidence and efficacy.