

August 25, 2008

LINC 100.2 E: Introduction to College Life

Fall 2008

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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. The goals and student learning outcomes for this course are listed below.

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 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.

August 25, 2008

(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.

REQUIRED READINGS

Cohen, H. (2007). *The naked roommate: And 107 other issues you might run into in college, 2nd Ed.* Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc.

Moravian College Student Handbook

Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010

Fadiman, A. (2000). *The spirit catches you and you fall down.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Lori Hoffman, Nursing Faculty

Welcome! As you know, I am your Introduction to College Life (ICL) instructor and will be your academic advisor until you have formally declared your major – which you will do once you are a sophomore and have met departmental requirements for your major.

Other courses I teach are in the Department of Nursing, and I may continue to be your advisor after this year if you go into Nursing; however, if you don't...you will have an academic advisor from your major program once you've identified your major field of interest. I'm here to help you prepare for your major -- knowing what to take, where to get answers, and so on.

Kasey and I are looking forward to being your advisors as you begin your academic and personal futures here at Moravian College. We know how important and exciting it is to embrace the college experience, realizing the various people and other opportunities you have in your Moravian world. We encourage you to get involved - take the initiative to meet people, want know them, and stay in touch with what's happening at Moravian.

We have developed a good plan for addressing some of the special interests and concerns of new college students. Our hope is that you will let us know how the plan is working and that you'll tell us what you'd like or need from us as we go along. As you can see from this course syllabus and the topical outline of class sessions, there are a variety of individual (and social) activities designed to help you learn what we believe are key skills for your lives and beginning careers. Best wishes for your academic success. ~Dr. Hoffman

STUDENT ADVISOR: Kasey Lund, Senior, Business Major

Kasey Lund is a senior at Moravian College majoring in Accounting with minors in Management and Economics. She was born and raised in Bethlehem and attended SS Simon and Jude, East Hills Middle School and graduated from Freedom High School. She is involved in numerous clubs on campus which includes but is not limited to Accounting Club, United Student Government Senator and Chair of the Finance Committee, 26-Points Student Ambassadors, LeaderShape, Amrhein Investment Club, Student Advisor, ODE, ODK, and Intramural Volleyball. She is very excited to be involved in the Student Advisor program for her third and final year. She hopes you all have a great freshman year and utilize the resources to make it fantastic!

August 25, 2008

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES:

Grading policies and workload expectations are standardized across ICL sections in order to ensure fairness. Although we recognize that you are taking this course on top of four other full-unit classes, it is important that you take your coursework here seriously. By college policy, students may not withdraw from ICL unless they are withdrawing from all classes in the term; thus, students who choose not to withdraw from Moravian College entirely can earn an F in this course. Introduction to College Life should easily be “passable,” but it is not possible to pass the class simply by showing up. You must attend all classes and other required events, and be an ACTIVE participant

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.*

Seven components comprise the grade for the class:

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%

Personal Reflection Papers

This is the most heavily weighted component of the course. Each of you will have six opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers. Each of these assignments, if it is well written, follows guidelines and is handed in on time, will earn **50** points. Late personal reflection papers will not be accepted and will not receive any 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 more than one time your instructor will award only partial credit for resubmissions.** Your instructor will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates. 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.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes

Much of your learning experience comes about by active participation in the classes, so you must attend class. 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 15 formal class meeting times, one during fall orientation to discuss our common summer reading and 14 seventy-minute classes, meeting once a week throughout the semester.

You will earn 14 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 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

August 25, 2008

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

Moravian College offers students many opportunities for additional learning 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 participating in various college opportunities, this course requires you to attend 5 community events over the course of the semester. One event will be the one held during orientation for all freshmen, two events will be ones that our whole class attends, and the additional events will be determined by the group. Attending five community events and your written/oral discussion of each earns you 200 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 20% of your final grade.

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.

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. Late personal write-ups will not be accepted and no more than 20 points can be received for attending the community event. The instructor will decide how you will communicate the learning you acquired through participating in the community events.

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 will qualify. In addition, your instructor will announce other events that take place throughout the fall semester that qualify.

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. Your instructor will provide you with the details of this plan that you will be completing for this course. As long as your plan 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

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 point value for this requirement that can be earned is 100 points. Your instructor will clearly delineate what is required of you to earn the maximum number of points.

August 25, 2008

Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting

Your instructor will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with her 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. The reason for requiring you to choose six courses 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.

Although your advisor will assist you in setting up an appropriate schedule, it is your responsibility to sign up for the right courses at the right time. 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.

Participating in the Library Orientation Sessions

You are expected to attend the library orientation session during the first week of classes. This is a course requirement worth 40 points, the equivalent of earning a 100 on a test counted 4% of your final grade.

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

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

August 25, 2008

your responsibility to be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism and, in the event of uncertainty, to ask in a constructive manner about 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 – the instructor will 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 within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignments and for the course final grade.

Please note while the instructor will try to hold to the flow of the course outline, it may change over the course of the semester.