

Introduction to College Life
LinC 100.2G
FALL 2008
TUESDAY 6b (2:20pm-3:30pm)
REEVE 212

Instructor-
Office Hours-
Home Phone-
Cell-
Email-

Vince P. Ramunni
by appointment
610-882-2833
484-274-4797
mevpr01@moravian.edu

REQUIRED READINGS:

Fadiman, Anne. The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux 1997.

Emerzian, Matthew and Kelly Bozza. Every Monday Matters. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

College Student Handbook 2008-2009

College Catalog 2008-2010

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.

COMMENTS FROM JENNIFER BARNES (YOUR STUDENT ADVISOR):

Welcome, Class of 2012! You are finished with high school and are now officially college students! Get ready for a semester full of new and exciting experiences.

There is no real way to prepare yourself for the many different challenges of being a first year college student, but this class should be one that helps you along the way. For one thing, this class will be one that you look forward to every week!

As your student advisor, I am here to assist you with anything that you may need help. Feel free to contact me for any reason, whether it has to do with homework help or homesickness, I'm here to help. Freshman year is a huge step from high school, and it takes a lot of getting used to. Hope you have a memorable first year here at Moravian College!

Jennifer Barnes Cell: 484-802-2281 Email: stjlb15@moravian.edu

INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1. Prepare for College Life at Moravian College

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

a. become familiar with college policies related to their role as students and members of the Moravian College community

b. 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:
 - a. identify and understand the general goals and purposes of the liberal arts and sciences tradition for individuals and within society
 - b. 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:
 - a. articulate their specific goals, objectives, and plans for their personal education
 - b. 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:
 - a. 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
 - b. 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:
 - a. 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
 - b. engage in a variety of coping skills that work best for them in challenging situations
 - c. pursue their personal goals and handle the challenges of adjustment college with greater confidence and efficacy

COURSE POLICIES AND GRADING:

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 courses, 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.

Point Value Conversion Chart

930+ = A	730-769 = C
900-929 = A-	700-729 = C-
870-899 = B+	670-699 = D+
830-869 = B	630-669 = D
800-829 = B-	600-629 = D-
770-799 = C+	Below 600= F

These 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%
- Presentation to class (speaking in class) 10%
- Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with advisor 5%
- Participation in the library orientation session 4%

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.

The reflection papers **must** include a reference to one or more of the institution's "**Shared Values,**" reflecting on how the community event reflects/promotes/enhances that value for both the institution and the student.

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 ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CLASS (210 points):

Plain and simple, attendance is mandatory. You can't pass classes at Moravian College without being there. But being there is not enough. College professors will not be satisfied with students behaving lazily and taking notes without appearing to be fully engaged in the class. You are expected to actually respond in class, to ask questions, to volunteer opinions, and to be thoughtful about your responses. "I agree with him" or "What he said" is not considered a thoughtful response.

This is a heavily weighted component of the course. 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. Ultimately, your grade will suffer and your experience will be lacking.

ATTENDANCE AND WRITE-UPS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS (200 points):

College offers students many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside the classroom. Many students, however, are not used to taking advantage of these opportunities.

To help you develop the habit of exposing yourself to new learning experiences this course requires you to attend **four** campus community events over the course of the semester. **Within**

one week after attending an event you must write-up and submit your own short (250 word minimum) reaction to the event. While these write-ups are not actually graded, I hope that you will make them high quality submissions, typical of what one could expect from a successful college student.

The first and only community event required of the entire freshman class is attendance at the presentation by Anne Fadiman, author of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, our common summer reading. In recognition of the significance of this particular community event it is weighted more heavily (65 points) than the other three (45 points each). Here is your first chance to communicate using the written word with a college professor. Make your submission something in which you are proud. It is also the first opportunity for me to get a feeling for your writing ability and your potential as a Moravian College student.

Community Events covers a broad range of activities---lectures, concerts, plays, seminars, workshops, dance, recitals, and sporting events. Try to attend a mix of events and especially try to attend events that you might not ordinarily attend if left to your own desires.

The only restriction is that **you may attend and submit a write-up for only one sporting event that you attend as a spectator**. You may not count a sporting event that you participate in as a player. Check with me if you have a question as to whether something meets the requirement of an acceptable "community event."

You are encouraged to substitute another non-credit bearing co-curricular experience for a community event, to include:

- Participation in a production of the MCTC
- Writing at least one article for *The Comenian*
- Participation in C³
- Participation in S.A.M.
- Participation in the Environmental Coalition
- Election to USG

Each write-up is due within one week of the date of the event. If the write-up is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 20 points. I reserve the right to turn back a submission as unacceptable and require you to submit a revision if your work doesn't clearly convey that you have done a good job. Attending four campus community events and handing in a write-up for each on time earns you 200 points.

PERSONAL EDUCATION PLAN (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 insure 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.

I will provide you with the details of this plan at a later time. It is due when we have our individual meeting for spring registration in early November. As long as it is handed in on time and I deem it of acceptable quality, you will earn 100 points for completing the plan. A PEP that is turned in late can only earn 50 points.

INTERVIEW AND PRESENTATION TO CLASS (100 points):

As part of our Learning in Common Curriculum, the college has mandated a Speaking in Class component that every student should experience.

In our section, you will conduct a personal interview. Then, you will give an oral presentation to the class, summarizing of your interview. (Details to be announced later)

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 (50 points):

I will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with me 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 regular general education program.

As part of this process it is important that you understand the LinC Curriculum (or in the case of Add-Venture students, their specific curriculum) and thoughtfully prepare for this meeting. This means, for example, that you check the *Moravian College Catalog* for specific requirements for any fields that you are considering majoring in and become aware of LinC course requirements that you still need to complete. This meeting will earn you 50 points.

LIBRARY ORIENTATION SESSION (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 present 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!

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 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.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office, 1307 Main Street (x1510) as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Learning Services Office.

NOTES:

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.

Also, please note while I try to hold to the flow of the syllabus, it is subject to change over the course of the semester.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

August 26

CLASS #1

- Community Events Paper #1 Due
- Review of Syllabus

September 2

CLASS #2

- How Well Do You Know Your College?
- Review Student Handbook
- Reflection Paper #1 Due

September 9

CLASS #3

- Speaker- Laurie Roth- Counseling Center
- Conversations about next week

September 16

CLASS #4

- How Well Do You Know Yourself?
- Reflection Paper #2 Due

September 23

CLASS #5

- TBA
- Community Events Paper #2 Due

September 30

CLASS #6

- Speaker- Christine Rander- Career Center
- Reflection Paper #3 Due

October 7

NO CLASS- FALL BREAK

October 14

CLASS #7

- Movie Time- *Stranger Than Fiction* (Jen is in charge!!)
- Reflection Paper #4 Due

October 21

CLASS #8

- *Stranger Than Fiction*- the ending
- Community Events Paper #3 Due
- Conversations about Personal Education Plan

October 28

NO CLASS- REGISTRATION MEETINGS

- Individual Meetings- times TBA during the week
- Please have completed Registration Worksheet with you at your meeting

- Personal Education Plan Due at meeting
- November 4 CLASS #9
 - Speaker- Bonnie Falla- Academic Honesty
 - Conversations about Speaking Assignment
 - Reflection Paper #5 Due
- November 6 and 7 SPRING REGISTRATION DATES
- November 11 CLASS #10
 - Speaker- Julia Gasdaska- Alumni Panel
 - Please come prepared with one or two questions for the panel
- November 18 CLASS #11
 - Speaking Assignment- presentations
- November 25 CLASS #12
 - Speaking Assignment- presentations
 - Reflection Paper #6 Due
- December 2 CLASS #13
 - Community Events Paper #4 Due
- December 9 CLASS #14
 - Wrap-up and reflections
- December 12-19 FINAL EXAMS