

Introduction to College Life

Fall, 2008

PPHAC 235

LinC 100.2H

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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.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Fadiman, Anne. (1998). *The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
2. *Naked Roommate* (2007). Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc.
3. *Moravian College Student Handbook*
4. *Moravian College Catalog*

Additional Readings may be handed out in class.

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES:

To ensure fairness across different ICL sections, grading principles are standardized. 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. You should be 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.

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

1. Personal Reflection Papers

Each student will have six opportunities to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 300 words). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments. Each assignment can earn up to 50 points. Unacceptable papers will be turned back as unacceptable or awarded fewer points than the maximum. Unacceptable papers include those that do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. Papers may also be turned back for revision if they do not clearly convey that you have tried to do a good job on the write-up. If you receive a paper for revision, you must go to the writing center for assistance. Partial credit will be given for resubmissions and this offer may not be offered again. Late personal reflection papers can only earn 25 points. Each assignment will be clearly described and the due dates are on this syllabus.

2. Attendance and participation in scheduled classes:

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 it cannot be made 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 through out the semester. You will earn 15 points for each class up to a maximum of 210 points. The definition of attending is: coming to class prepared; arriving 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. You may be awarded 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.

Failure to attend a class will cause a 15 point loss in your overall grade. In addition, unless PREVIOUSLY arranged with the instructor or with a doctor's note, any assignments due that day will not be accepted (i.e. you cannot email them, pass them in late, or have a classmate pass it in for you, etc.).

3. 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 community event that you attend. This write-up (250 words minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event.

One of these community events will be designated as class community events that you all go to together. It will take place on Saturday Nov. 5 at 11am(tentative). 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. Instead of writing and passing in your reaction paper for this events – the tour of Historic Bethlehem – we will use Blackboard to hold an online discussion. To receive credit for the write-up, you must post a minimum of two hundred words total, spread over no more than three posts (while you are encouraged to post as often as you like, I am trying to prevent anyone from receiving credit for making 200+ comments comprised of only emoticons or other monosyllabic responses).

In addition you will be asked to choose 3 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 event that you attend. While these write-ups are not graded per se it is expected that you will make them high quality submissions. 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. Any program that is sponsored or co-

sponsored by the MC Arts and Lectures Committee as well as the Cohen lecture automatically qualify as a community event. In addition, other approved events that take place throughout the fall semester will qualify.

4. Personal education plan (PEP): In this assignment, you will choose a career that you think you would be interested in pursuing; e.g. Dentist. You must then trace out the route that you would need to follow to get from where you are in your first semester at Moravian to that position. This could include relevant course requirements over the next four years here, relevant advanced degrees, entrance examinations to apply for those degrees, the school or schools you would like to attend for them, any post-graduate work experience required, certification examinations or other certification requirements, or anything else that might be required to hold that profession. If you are looking at a field that does not necessarily require specific courses, try to relate your major to the requirements of the position. You should also inform us of labor market and salary trends in this field – will it be a position highly in demand in the future? Will you be well paid? Are there any physical demands of the position that you will need to consider (e.g. almost all librarian jobs state that you must be able to lift 40lbs with ease). You will be required to cite sources for this assignment. The library research session on 10/1 will help to cover this.

Note: according to the rules that govern all LINC sections, a PEP that is turned in late will only be worth 50 points, as opposed to the allotted 100.

5. Speaking assignment: For this assignment, you will need to teach the class about any topic for a total of 5-7 minutes. You must have your topic approved by your course instructor a minimum of ONE WEEK in advance to your presentation date. Presentations will be spread over two class periods in November. Check Blackboard to see which date you have been assigned. This is worth a total of 100 points towards your grade.

6. Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting:

Each student will arrange for an individual meeting with your instructor 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. You will need to 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 for the spring semester 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 60 points for scheduling, preparing, and attending these individual meetings. This is the equivalent to earning a 100 on a test that counted 6% of your final grade.

7. Library Orientation Session

The reference librarians have designed a valuable orientation session for you. If you have a conflict and can not make it to the session that is scheduled for your session, you must 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 (ipods, etc.) being awarded using a raffle system for all who attend 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

LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

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 about a writing in question. 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 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.

To help you better understand what Academic Honest really means I have scheduled our class to cover this topic. This session falls just as the first large writing assignments in your other classes are coming due. It will be led by Mrs. Beth Fuchs of the Reeves Library Staff.

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.

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: I will try to hold to the flow of the syllabus but it is subject to change over the course of the semester.

Class meets on Wednesdays, 2:20-3:30pm

August 24 th (Sunday)	Group discussion of book <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall</i> meet in HURD 302 followed by author presentation. Mandatory Assignment due Aug 27th: Community event write-up.
Aug 25	Exploring Reeves Library Mandatory: Report to the library at 6:00 PM
Aug 27	<p>Introduction to College Life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please turn in Community Event Write Up • Please read the syllabus • Please read the Moravian Student Handbook and p. 3-55 of the Moravian College Catalog • Please read Ch. 1 of <i>Naked Roommate</i> <p>How well do you know your college?</p> <p>Assignment for next class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read tips #52(p.203), & Ch. 2 in <i>Naked Roommate</i>. • Bring in Course syllabi & day planner/calendar or laptop or blackberry/ palm/ipod
Sept 1st (Monday)	No Classes Labor Day
Sept 2	Last day to change courses
Sept 3	<p>Blackboard demo Time Management exercise</p> <p>Assignment for Sept 10th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Reflection Paper #1 on what you plan to do to stay organized this fall, due Sept 10. • Please Read Ch. 3 of <i>Naked Rommate</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Please bring to class (on a note card) one discussion point on the reading assignment.
Sept 7	Dinner @ the DogHouse; your instructor's cooking 7:30pm
Sept 9	<p>Campus Organization Fair (11am-1pm) PPHAC Patio (HUB in case of rain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out student clubs and organizations! • Qualifies as community event (250 word paper due Sept 26, if you choose this.)
Sept. 10	<p>CIT presentation with Tom Mondschein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please turn in Reflection Paper #1 <p>Assignment for Sept 17th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Naked Roommate</i> Ch. 7 • Personal Reflection Paper #2 on readings due 9/17. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bring to class 1 discussion point (on a note card) on the reading assignment.
Sept. 16	Computer Lab-warming party @ Reeves Library; counts as a community event
Sept. 17	<p>Presentation on Academic Integrity by Mrs. Beth Fuchs of Reeves Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please turn in Reflection Paper #2 <p>Assignment for Sept 26th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Reeves Library Tutorial for Sept 26th. • Read tip #105 on p. 411 in <i>Naked Roommate</i>. • Reflection paper #3 – your experiences with the tutorial; due 9/24.
Sept. 24	<p>Diversity: <i>A Class Divided</i> & discussion of <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please turn in Personal Reflection Paper #3
Sept. 27	Family Day
Oct. 1	<p>Library Research Project: Learn how to do college-level research online. We will meet in the Lab on the Lower Level with Bonnie Falla, Reference Librarian.</p> <p>Assignment for Oct. 5th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch. 6 in <i>Naked Roommate</i>
Oct. 3	<p>Midterm</p> <p>Possible community event -- X-C meet @ Lehigh University (write up would be due Oct. 15)</p>
Oct. 8	<p>Dean Skalnik will be a guest speaker to discuss liberal education</p> <p>Assignment for Oct. 15</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take the TypeFocus free assessment at http://www.typefocus.com/s_complimentary.html (registration required) & bring in your code next class
Oct. 15	<p>Amy Saul from the Career Center will come discuss the results of your TypeFocus test and the services offered by the Career Center.</p> <p>Assignments Due Oct. 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Naked Roommate</i> Ch. 8 (p. 203-238) Read <i>Naked Roommate</i> Ch. 12 Reflection Paper #4 on what the TypeFocus said about you and if you feel that it is accurate.
Oct. 18	Homecoming
Oct. 22	<p>Guest Speaker: Financial Management Presentation from Stephanie McLaughlin from Financial Aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please turn in Reflection Paper #4 <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Naked Roommate</i> Ch. 9 & tips #97-100, pp. 383-397
Oct. 29	<p>Halloween Party in Reeves Cafe -- Socially Safe!</p> <p>Assignment due Nov. 5th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 1 -- Outline for oral presentations due by email by 2:20pm on Nov. 5. Community Event(from Nov. 1) discussion posts must be on Blackboard by 2:20pm on Nov. 5. Please bring completed Preparation for Registration Worksheet with you at your meeting time. <p>Assignment due Nov. 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal reflection paper #5 on Halloween event/readings. Read <i>Naked Roommate</i> Ch. 10
Saturday Nov. 1 11am	TENTATIVE: MANDATORY COMMUNITY EVENT WITH CLASS: Tour of historic Bethlehem w/ Dawn Ketterman -- Reflection Paper due Nov. 5
Nov. 5	<p>REGISTRATION MEETINGS</p> <p>There will be no scheduled class today; instead, I will meet with each of you individually over the course of this week and next to talk over your schedule for next semester. Email me at dumouchel@moravian.edu to set up an appointment.</p> <p>My schedule can be seen at: http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=amydumouchel%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Montreal</p> <p>Assignment due Nov. 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 2 Presentation Outlines Read <i>Naked Roommate</i> Ch. 11

Nov. 12	<p>First Group of Student Presentations (1-##)</p> <p>Assignment due Nov. 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 2 Presentation Outlines
Nov. 19	<p>Second group of Student Presentations (##-##)</p> <p>Assignment due Dec. 3rd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare PEP
Nov. 25-Dec. 1	<p>Thanksgiving Recess</p>
Dec. 3	<p>Discussion of <i>Naked Roommate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please turn in your PEP <p>Assignment due Dec. 10th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tip #107 p. 421 -- write your own tip Reflection Paper #6
Dec. 10	<p>The rest of your career:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of your personal education plan and Class wrap-up.