

## **LINC 100 2I: Introduction to College Life**

### **Fall 2008**

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Welcome to Moravian College!

I wish I had a great story to tell you about how I was lost and found my way here at Moravian, but I don't, and not everyone does. Furthermore, I don't want to drone about how different college is from high school because, though it's true, I know you've all heard it before.

Instead, I want to advise you to make the most of your college experience because your time here in college is what you make of it. In other words, college is a fresh start, so don't limit yourself by saying, "I'm awful at math, so I'm not going to major in anything having to do with it," or, "I can't join the theater club because, well—what would people think?!" By attending Moravian College, your education has been placed in your hands, as well as your own well-being.

And this is where Steph and I come in. We are here to help you become more "college aware," in a manner of speaking. Steph knows her stuff, and I've been in your guys' shoes. So when you have a question about how Cash Equiv and Dining Dollars work, *we're here for you*. You want to know about clubs and organizations? *We're here for you*. You need to know about the counseling center and learning services? *We're*—Well, you get the point...

I just want you to understand that our jobs as Faculty and Student Advisors are not to get you guys in trouble, but to be available for you when you have any questions. And don't be afraid to contact either of us after class, via email, or even over the phone. Like I said, we're here to help.

Enjoy your freshman year, and avoid trouble.

Elizabeth Parsels

### **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.

## **Grading:**

<i>Completion of 6 Personal Reflection Papers</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Attendance and active participation in class</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Attendance and write-ups of community events</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Personal Education Plan</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Speaking Assignment</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Individual advising sessions</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Participation in the library orientation session</i>	<i>4%</i>

## **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 and others I will design. Each of these assignments is worth 50 points. I may either turn back a submission as unacceptable or award fewer points than the maximum if you do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or the submission does not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. Additionally, I may also 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, I 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. I will make specific assignments and let you know of their dates in class.

## **Attendance and active participation in class**

This is a heavily weighted component of the course. This reflects my 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 the 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. I 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

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 the lecture by Anne Fadiman, the author of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*.

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, this paper submission is worth 60 points. Other community event write-ups turned in during the remainder of the semester will be worth 35 points. This assignment is your first chance to communicate using the written word to me. Make your submission something that you are proud of. It is also the first opportunity for me to get a feel for your writing ability and for your ability as a college student. This will help me to provide you guidance throughout the semester and as your academic advisor throughout the year.

The write-up for Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, community event (250 words minimum) is due on Thursday, August 28, 2008 during our class meeting time. The write-up should be a high quality submission, typical of what one could expect from a successful college student. Your submission may be turned back to you for additional work if you do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or the paper does not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work.

Two or more of these community events will be designated as class community events that we will go to together. I 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 I will suggest an acceptable alternative community event for you to attend. In order to receive credit this alternative must be arranged with me before the date of the class community event. I 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 2 other approved events to serve as individual community events. 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 should be typical of what one could expect from a successful college student I may 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 qualifies. In addition, I may 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. I will provide you with the details of this plan that you will be completing for this course. **It is due December 4th.** As long as it is handed in on time and I deem 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. In our section, you will prepare a 3-5 minute speech about something that had a major impact on you during your first semester here at college. Create an effective introduction and conclusion with sound transitions to connect the major points of the presentation. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points.

## **Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting**

In October, I will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with me preceding registration for the spring semester. As part of this process it is critical that you both understand the LinC Curriculum and thoughtfully prepare for this meeting with me. 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 during our meeting. You will also write down an explanation for why you chose each of these courses as possibilities. I 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 equivalent to earning a 100 on a test that counted 5% 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

## Office Hours

Tuesday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

I am available by appointment anytime. Please call my office to schedule an appointment. My office is in Colonial Hall on the main floor, directly down the hall from Admissions.

## 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 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 my purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignments and for the course final grade.

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.

**Please turn cell phones off or on vibrate during class time.**

## **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.

## Class Schedule

Class Date	Assignment
Sunday, August 24, 2008	Common Summer Reading Discussion & <b>Community Event</b> with Author Anne Fadiman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Writing Assignment – Community Event</li> </ul> Reflection Paper is due on August 28th
Tuesday, August 26, 2008	Exploring Reeves Library – Meet the librarians and learn about the resources available to you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Please report directly to Reeves Library at 6:00 pm, and remember to sign in!</li> </ul>
Thursday, August 28, 2008	Welcome to Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Anne Fadiman Community Event paper</li> <li>○ Introductions</li> <li>○ Review Syllabus, assignments and class schedule</li> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 9/4:</b> Page 63-71, Lessons from the Road</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, September 2, 2008</b>	<b>LAST DAY FOR DROP/ADDS</b>
Thursday, September 4, 2008	Time Management Presentation by Mrs. Laurie Roth, Director of Learning Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Reflection Paper #1 Subject: Your First Week of College Life</li> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 9/11:</b> Page 141-144, Lessons from the Road</li> </ul>
Thursday, September 11, 2008	Computer Information Technology Presentation by Mr. Stephen McKinney, Director of CIT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 9/18:</b> Page 89-93, Lessons from the Road</li> </ul>
Thursday, September 18, 2008	Living College Life and Weekend Challenge Presentation by Mr. Sean Tallarico, Chief of Police at Moravian College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Reflection Paper #2 Subject: Write about a time that you had an “ah-ha” moment</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, September 24, 2008</b>	<b>Community Event: Nancy Red: Body Drama 8 pm in Foy Hall (We will discuss in class)</b>
Thursday, September 25, 2008	Liberal Arts Education Presentation by Dean Jim Skalnik
Thursday, October 2, 2008	It’s Elizabeth! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Reflection Paper #3 Subject: How are things going for you?</li> </ul>
<b>October 6-7</b>	<b>NO CLASSES (Fall recess)</b>
Thursday, October 9, 2008	Diversity Presentation by Ms. Sharon Brown, Director of Institutional Diversity and Multicultural Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 10/23:</b> Page 159-180</li> </ul>



Thursday, October 16, 2008	<p>Registration Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There will be no class scheduled for today; instead, I will meet with each of you individually over the course of this week to discuss your schedule for the Spring semester</li> </ul>
Thursday, October 23, 2008	<p>Career Services Presentation by Ms. Amy Saul, Director of Career Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Reflection Paper #4 Subject: What brings you happiness and fills your spirit? What do you want? Why do you want these things? How do you want them?</li> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 10/30:</b> Page 209-212, Lessons from the Road</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, October 29, 2008</b>	<b>Community Event: Cohen Lecture – Valerie Plame Wilson Time and place TBA (We will discuss in class)</b>
Thursday, October 30, 2008	Academic Integrity Presentation by Ms. Amy Dumouchel, Reference & Electronic Resources Librarian.
Thursday, November 6, 2008	<p>Alumni Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Reflection Paper #5 Subject: Academic Integrity, should Moravian have an honor code?</li> </ul>
Thursday, November 13, 2008	<p>Individual Speaking Assignments Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 11/20:</b> Page 21-39, Lessons from the Road</li> </ul>
Thursday, November 20, 2008	<p>Individual Speaking Assignments Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Writing Assignment Due:</b> Turn in Reflection Paper #6 Subject: Reflect on a time when you made a difference in someone else's life and/or when someone else made a difference in your life</li> <li>○ <b>Reading Assignment for 12/4:</b> Page 241-249</li> </ul>
Thursday, November 27, 2008	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS!
Thursday, December 4, 2008	Personal Education Plan due; Breakfast party