

Introduction to College Life

Fall, 2008
LinC 100.2K

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A WORD FROM CASSIDY

“Welcome to Moravian College! I hope that you find your experience here to be as rewarding, challenging, and fun as I have. Over the next few months, you will experience many new and exciting things, and I welcome you to contact me with any questions that you may have. You can call me any time at (410) 279-1945 (my phone is always on), or feel free to email me at stclt03@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.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Fadiman, Anne. (1998) *the Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giourx.
2. *Moravian College Student Handbook*
3. *Moravian College Catalog*
4. Cohen, Harlan. (2007). *The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc. 2nd edition.

Additional Readings may be handed out in class or are on reserve in Reeves Library.

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.

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

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 to be rewritten until they are up to academic standards. Unacceptable papers include those that do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. 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. Papers may be turned-in in electronic format via email (lapointe@moravian.edu) at any time BEFORE the start of the assigned class or in paper at the beginning of class. Papers must be word processed and should be double spaced.

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. This 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 you attend 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.

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 is required for each community event that you attend. This paper (250 words minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event.

In addition you will be asked to choose 2 other approved events to serve as individual community events. A written reaction paper 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. Papers may be turned-in in electronic format via email (lapointe@moravian.edu) at any time BEFORE the start of the assigned class or in paper at the beginning of class. Papers must be word processed and should be double spaced. Each community event paper can earn up to 35 points. If the event paper is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 20 points. Attending five community events and handing in a paper 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. You must discuss the event with the instructor before it will be approved. No events in which you are a participant will qualify (for example: attending a football game will not qualify as an event for a member of the marching band, the football team, or a cheerleader.)

Personal education plan (PEP):

Moravian College wants you to be aware of all the different educational, personal, and social opportunities that it 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. This assignment will consist of a resume for the graduate school or the dream job of your choice. Specific directions will be given prior to the assignment. This resume will be due **November 20, 2009**. As long as it is handed in on time and it is of an acceptable college 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 component in this course. Your speaking component will require you to interview a faculty member to discuss their area of research and other interesting information about them. You may select any of the faculty at Moravian College or Moravian Theological Seminary to interview. Once you have interviewed the faculty member you will be required to give a 5 minute presentation to the class that includes an outline to be handed in the week prior your presentation. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points. Your grade will be determined by my evaluations of your presentation, your outline and by the evaluations of your peers.

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 will vary. 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 should know 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.

Library Orientation Session

The reference librarians have designed a valuable orientation session for you. This session will attend **Monday August 28th at 8:00 PM**. If you have a conflict and cannot make it to the session that is scheduled 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 being awarded using a raffle system for all who attend so: Do not 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 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 October 2nd 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 Ms. 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 your 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

(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.

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 Thursdays, 2:20 - 3:30 PM

August 24 (Sunday)	Group discussion of <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> followed by author presentation. Mandatory Assignment due August 28st : 1. Community event write-up. This paper must follow the guide lines in section 3 and is worth 60 points.
Aug 25 8:00PM	Exploring Reeves Library Mandatory: Report to the library at assigned time. Be sure to sign-in at the end of the evening.
Aug 28	Introduction: Review of syllabus. Continued discussion of the author presentation. Questions/Comments. Welcome to “Naked Roommate” Assignment due Sept 4: 1. Read the Moravian College Handbook. 2. Read chapters 1 - 3 (Arriving on Campus, Residence Halls and Roommates) of the “Naked Roommate” 3. Personal Reflection Paper #1. Consider you first week at Moravian. Compare your experiences to the reading. This reflection paper will be a discussion drawing from the book and your own personal experiences. The paper is due before class.
Sept 2 Suggested	Last day to drop/add classes 5:42PM “Organizing the Student” presentation of the 1743 Series UBC /Air Products room in the HUB
Sept 4	College policies – Bring your Student Handbook to class. “Moravian Jeopardy” or What do you know about Moravian? Assignment due Sept 11: 1. Read Chapter 7 (Inside the Classroom) of the “Naked Roommate” 2. Bring to class (on a note card -- to be handed in) a question concerning either a roommate or a class problem. 3. Personal Reflection Paper #2: Evaluate the policies of the college and compare them to the rules of your high school. Write a reflection paper using these similarities and differences as the basis for your discussion.
Sept 11	Roommate and Attending Class discussion: A panel of upper-class students led by Cassidy will discuss the roommate/go to class issues. This is a great time to ask questions, brain storm solutions to your situation with people who have “been” there. Assignment for Sept 18th: 1. Explore AMOS and other College computing resources. Consider what you would like to know about the campus network and have questions ready to ask next week’s speaker.

	<p>2. Read Chapter 13 (Things not mentioned in the College Brochure) of <i>Naked Roommate</i>.</p> <p>3. Personal reflection Paper #3. Use this paper to explore your thoughts concerning campus life in general. Consider the ideas in the readings and your own impressions on the reality of campus life as you now know it.</p>
Sept 18	<p>Introduction to the campus network: Guest Speaker: Mr. Thomas Mondschein, CIT Discussion on advising. Assignment for Sept 25th: 1. Review the <i>Spirit Catches you ...</i></p>
Wednesday Sept 24 th Suggested	<p>Nancy Reid: Body Drama – former Miss America contestant on body image. 8:00 PM in Foy Hall, Hurd Campus</p>
Sept 25	<p>Diverse Perspectives <i>The spirit catches you and you fall down</i> View the movie <i>The Eye of the Storm</i> Assignment due October 2: 1. Reflection paper #4 In this paper you should consider diversity at Moravian College. What are the college’s strong points, where are we lacking and what could you do to improve the culture?</p>
Sept 28 @7:00PM	<p>Lasagna in the library café</p>
Oct 2	<p>Academic Honesty: Bring student handbook to class. Guest speaker Ms. Beth Fuchs, Reeves Library. Assignment due week of Oct. 9th: 1. Reflection paper #5 is a discussion of your understanding of Academic Honesty. Consider your position before this presentation and how you now understand the topic.</p>
Oct 2 Suggested	<p>Common Reading follow-up event with Lily Moua, Hmong graduate student. Time and place to be announced. Replaces our October 9th class.</p>
Oct 10	<p>No class: Use this time to work on your advising assignment</p>
Tuesday Oct 14 7:42 Suggested	<p>“Ethical Decision-Making” from the 1742 Series in the UBC</p>
Oct 16	<p>What is a good presentation? Presentation and discussion led by Cassidy Assignment due Oct 16th. 1. Select one of your professors and make an appointment to meet with him/her to discuss their research area or some interesting facts about their academic life for your oral presentation. Submit the name and appointment time as well as a brief list of questions. The oral presentation will be Nov 13th or Nov 20th. 2. Read chapters 5 & 6 (Getting involved in campus and Greek Life) in the <i>Naked Roommate</i>. 3. Prepare for your advising session. You will need to review your courses and be prepared to provide a list of possible courses.</p>

Oct.23	<p>Meet the Greeks / Meet community leaders Discussion and panel led by Rey Benschop. Review assignments remaining. Assignment for Oct. 30th.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 8-11 (Dating, Sex, Drinking and Drugs) in the <i>Naked Roommate</i>.
Tuesday Oct 28 th	<p>Suggested” End of Faith? ... or not? An Interfaith Roundtable. 4:00-5:00 in the Hub</p>
Oct 30	<p>Halloween party. Socially Safe! Party in AfterWords Café, Reeves Library. We will meet in the library. Assignment due Nov. 6th</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal reflection paper #6 This paper should be a review and personal comment on STD’s, the readings and on the Halloween event. 2. Read a “Liberal Education” on reserve in the library
Nov 6	<p>What is a Liberal Education? Presentation by Dr. James Skalnik, Academic Dean Assignment due either Nov. 13 or 20th. (at the time of your presentation)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline of your oral presentation. This outline could be a copy of a power point presentation or a traditional outline. You will need to hand this in at the beginning of the class in which you give your speech. 2. Cover Letter (PEP) is due November 20th
Tuesday Nov. 11 th Suggested	<p>Suggested: Alumni Career Networking Reception Hub 5:00 to 7:00</p>
Nov 13	<p>First Group of Student Presentations</p>
Nov 20	<p>Second Group of Student Presentations Assignment due Dec. 4th.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your resume (PEP) as outlined on handout.
Nov27	<p>Thanksgiving Recess – No Class</p>
Dec 4	<p>The rest of your life at Moravian: Discussion of your personal education plan, evaluations, and Class wrap-up.</p>