

Introduction to College Life
Moravian College
Fall 2008

Instructor: **Dr. Michelle Schmidt**
 Department of Psychology
 Director of Academic Leadership Programs

Email: mschmidt@moravian.edu
Office: PPHAC 230
Phone: x1606

Student Advisors: **Corey Koenig** **email:** stcck01@moravian.edu **phone: 610-295-3742**
 Ellen Williams **email:** stelw04@moravian.edu **phone: 732-330-1064**

Meeting Time: **Thursdays 2:20-3:30**

Office Hours: **TR 9:00-10:10, T 11:30-12:30**
 T 3:30-4:15 (for this class only)
 And, of course, by appointment and anytime I'm in my office and able to help!

Welcome to Moravian College! This course will serve two primary purposes: (1) to (hopefully!) provide you with a smooth transition to college, and (2) to get your leadership wheels rolling. As your academic advisor until you declare a major, I look forward to working with you. The class will meet once a week on Thursdays at 2:20-3:30. Since this course centers on the collective experience of college life, please note that attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to attend, you must contact the instructor by email or office phone before the scheduled class meeting. Please know that I am here to help you with your questions as you begin your studies at Moravian College. I always respond to emails as soon as I can. Please note, however, that it may occasionally take me up to 24 hours on weekdays, and I may or may be able to respond to emails over the weekends.

Messages from your Student Advisors:

Corey...

Welcome, Emerging Leaders! I hope that you had a relaxing summer and that you are excited to begin your first year at Moravian—living, learning, and exploring a new and exciting environment. You'll meet diverse people, develop new interests, refine leadership skills, and build academic dexterity while becoming a more self-sufficient and well-rounded person. But these feats are not automatic. In order for this journey to be beneficial, it's crucial that you're diligent, have an open mind, and take advantage of every opportunity that approaches. And remember that we're here to assist you in accomplishing these goals and any of your other personal or educational aspirations.

Ellen...

Hello everybody and welcome to the beginning of your college career! I know that freshman year can be intimidating; every single day offers a new surprise or experience. You are going to learn much more than you expect while you are here at Moravian; you will be challenged in your classes, live on your own, and even discover more about yourself than you could ever imagine. In this class, we also hope you will learn about leadership, but in more than the traditional sense as you pass into a new chapter in your life. Transitions like these are always tough, and that is why we are here. Whatever your question, worry, or concern, we will listen (no matter how silly you may think it is). We can give you tips on everything, from scheduling to the best Chinese take-out. As your student advisors, we are here for more than academics; instead we are a resource for ALL aspects of college life!

Course description:

Introduction to College Life (ICL) is a half-unit (0.5) 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.

Goal 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.

Goal 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.

Goal 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.

Goal 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, & goal setting.
- 2) pursue their educational goals with greater confidence and efficacy.

Goal 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 Texts:

Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010
Moravian College Student Handbook, 2008-2009

Fadiman, A. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*.
Loeb, P. R. (Ed.). *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*.

GRADING AND POLICIES:

GRADING:

Grading policies and workload expectations are standardized across ICL sections in order to ensure fairness. The only exception with the Emerging Leaders group is that you take part in a “leadership” component of the course to fulfill the requirements of your scholarship. While 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; that means you could earn an F in a course which should easily be “passable.” It is not possible to pass the class simply by showing up. You must attend all classes and other required events, and you must 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.

Seven components comprise the grade for the class:

Personal Reflection Papers (x6)	30% (300 pts)
Attendance and active participation in class	21% (210 pts)
Attendance and write-ups of community events (x4)	20% (200 pts)
Letter from your future self (PEP alternative)	10% (100 pts)
Participation in a speaking assignment	10% (100 pts)
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with advisor (REQUIRED, LATE OCT/EARLY NOV)	5% (50 points)
Participation in the library orientation session (REQUIRED 8/26, 8PM)	4% (40 pts)

Reflection Papers

Each of you will have **6** opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (approx. 250 words each). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments and others will be designed around other topics. Each of these assignments can earn up to 50 points. Your instructor has the right to 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 does not clearly convey that you have tried to do a good job on the write-up. If this occurs multiple times, your instructor may award only partial credit for resubmissions or not offer this option to you. Late personal reflection papers can only earn a maximum of 25 points and will not be acceptable after it is 1-day late (Friday at 5pm). Your instructor will make the specific assignments and discuss them in class before they are due.

Attendance and Participation

Plain and simple, attendance is mandatory. You cannot pass classes at Moravian College without being there. But being there is not enough. College professors will not be satisfied with students being lazy and appearing to be unengaged 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” and “what he said” are not considered thoughtful responses. Points will be assigned for each class period (16.15 to be exact!) If you are not in class or are not engaged, you will earn less than 16.15 points...working down to 0 points when appropriate.

Attendance and Write-ups of Community Events

Part of being in college is being part of the campus community. Learning takes place both in and outside of the classroom. Therefore, as part of the requirements of this course, you are required to attend at least 4 community events. As a class, we will participate in three events: Discussion with Anne Fadiman, Team Building at Dutch Springs, and the Cohen Lecture by Valerie Plake. The fourth event will be fulfilled through a service learning project to be determined by the class. Write-ups (250 words each) will be due for each event.

Letter from your future self

Each student will write a "Letter from your future self," which outlines what you hope to have accomplished by a certain time in the future. Specific guidelines will be distributed for this assignment.

Speaking Assignment

Each student will be responsible for giving an oral presentation on a reading from *The Impossible Will Take a While*. Students will sign up for specific writings to share with the class. Students will provide an overview of the reading, discuss its meaning, and share its impact on them. Specific guidelines for this assignment will be shared later in the semester.

POLICIES:

Disability Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (x1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Office of Learning Services.

Academic Honesty

You are required to read the entire Academic Honesty Policy, found in the Student Handbook. In short, you need to know that 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 an assignment 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 Academic Affairs Office. You may meet with Dean Carol Traupman-Carr to discuss the charge and the procedures for appealing, but she alone does not make a decision on whether or not to uphold the charge or the penalty.

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.

Please also note that although I will try to hold to the flow of the syllabus, it is subject to change over the course of the semester.

SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY EVENT 1: SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH, 1:30PM DISCUSSION WITH ANNE FADIMAN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 8PM: REEVES LIBRARY SESSION (REQUIRED)

Week 1:	August 28	Welcome Getting To Know Each Other Emerging Leaders...Why are we all together?? Community Event Paper 1 Due: Reflections on Summer Reading
Week 2:	September 4	Part 1: WHAT IS LEADERSHIP? WHY LEADERSHIP? Reflection Paper 1 Due: What is Leadership? Why Leadership...and Why Now? Part 2: Getting Involved On Campus—COREY Note: Organizational Fair is 9/9 (11-1)
Week 3:	September 11	Miscellaneous discussion, Catch-up Laurie Roth: Learning Services & the Counseling Center (2:45pm)
Week 4:	September 18	Servant Leadership: What is it? What can WE do? Focus on Bethlehem: Planning Service Projects Reflection Paper 2 Due: What Does It Mean to Serve? In What Capacity Do You Most Like to Serve?

COMMUNITY EVENT 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH DUTCH SPRINGS ROPES COURSE 9AM-1PM

Week 5:	September 25	Service Projects, continued Community Event Paper 2 Due: What I Learned Through Our Team Building Experience
Week 6:	October 2	Leadership Lessons—ELLEN Reflection Paper 3: Respond to an Essay in <i>The Impossible Will Take a While</i>
Week 7:	October 9	Who are WE? Discussion of Moravian College's Shared Values and the Liberal Arts Reflection Paper 4: Respond to an Essay in <i>The Impossible Will Take a While</i>
Week 8:	October 16	OPEN DAY...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?
Week 9:	October 23	OPEN DAY...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT? Reflection Paper 5: Personal Challenges and Strengths

COMMUNITY EVENT 3: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 8PM COHEN LECTURE, VALERIE PLAME

Week 10:	October 30	Registration 101! Bring registration materials to class! Advising Meetings will be scheduled for 10/30, 11/1, 11/3, and 11/4 Community Event Paper 3 Due: Reactions to Plame
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Week 11:	November 6	SCHMIDT OUT OF TOWN: Class time should be used for any last minute registration issues! Freshmen Registration for Spring 2009 Classes: November 6 and 7— Corey & Ellen on call! LETTER FROM YOUR FUTURE SELF IS DUE!
Week 12:	November 13	Speaking Assignment Group 1: <i>The Impossible Will Take a Little While</i> Reflection Paper 6: Respond to an Essay in <i>The Impossible Will Take a While</i>
Week 13:	November 20	Speaking Assignment Group II: <i>The Impossible Will Take a Little While</i> Community Event Paper 4 Due: Reflections on Service
Week 14:	November 27	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week 15:	December 4	Wrap-Up and Celebration!

Dates to pay attention to...

September 2: Last day for course changes

November 7: Last day to withdraw from classes

December 10: Last day of classe