

**[Fall 2008
Introduction to College Life
LinC 100.2 Section P**

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Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:45, Friday 11:30-1 & as announced	

Meeting Time: Monday 5B (12:50-2:00)
Classroom Assignment: Memorial 301

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: 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 roles as students and members of the Moravian College community.
- 2) understand the expectations and responsibilities of being college students, and members of the Moravian College community.

Goal: 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: 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: 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: 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 confidence and efficacy.

Welcome! As your academic advisor until you declare a major, I look forward to working with you. The class will meet once a week on Monday, 12:50-2:00. As 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 me 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.

Message from your Student Advisor:

Hi class of 1012! I hope your four years will be wonderful. I am your student advisor here to advise you during your four years. I have been at Moravian for only one year, but it has been a great year. I have joined many clubs and have learned to balance my social life with my study life. I have been able to attend many field trips and other events through Moravian's clubs and other organizations. I am creating my own major, which is marketing/management. I have gotten to know a lot about Moravian in my first year and can assist you in any way you need. I hope your four years at Moravian will be what you want them to be.

Blackboard:

I have set up a Blackboard site for this course. Please enroll yourself as soon as possible (blackboard.moravian.edu). There you can find contact information, the syllabus, and assignments.

Required Texts:

Cohen, H. (2007) *The naked roommate: And 107 other issues you might run into in college*. Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks, Inc.

Fadiman, A. (1997) *The spirit catches you and you fall down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010

Moravian College Student Handbook, 2008-2009.

Materials as announced on reserve in Reeves Library

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 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; 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.

Seven components comprise the grade for the class:

Personal Reflection Papers (6)	30% (300 points)
Attendance and active participation in class	21% (210 points)
Attendance and write-ups of community events (4)	20% (200 points)
PEP or alternative i.e. letter from your future self, introduction at conference, roasting speech. Due Nov. 17, 2008	10% (100 points)
Class Presentation- interview with a professor, teach the class, past/present/future items (submit typed outline day of presentation)	10% (100 points)
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with advisor	5% (50 points)
Participation in the library orientation session	4% (40 points)

Faculty members may choose mandatory community events OR a class-wide service-learning project, for which the students will provide reflection papers.

Students are required to read the values statement in the Catalog and student handbook. Instructors are encouraged to devote a class period to discussion of these values.

Personal Reflection Papers:

Each of you will have six opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers. Each of these assignments, if it is well written, follows guidelines and is handed in on time, will earn 50 points. **Late personal reflection papers are subject to a reduction in points. Your instructor 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 more than one time your instructor will award only partial credit for resubmissions.** Assignments and due dates are listed on the syllabus. Handing in six acceptable personal reflection papers on time will earn you 300 points.

Community events/Service-learning Project and Reflection papers:

Moravian College offers students many opportunities for additional learning 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 participating in various college opportunities, this course requires you to attend 5 community events over the course of the semester. One event will be the one held during orientation for all freshmen, one event will be one that our whole class attends, and the additional events will be determined by the group. Attending five community events and your written/oral discussion of each earns you 200 points. .

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). Here is your first chance to communicate using the written word with a college professor.

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. Instructors 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. Late personal write-ups will not be accepted and no more than 20 points can be received for attending the community event. The instructor will decide how you will communicate the learning you acquired through participating in the community events.

Part of being in college is being a 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 attend at least 4 community events. Community events may not include more than 1 athletic event. Students are encouraged to substitute another non-credit-bearing co-curricular experience for a community event, from among the following list: participation in a production of the MCTC; writing at least one article for *The Comenian*; participation in C³; participation in S.A.M., active participation in the Environmental Coalition; election to USG. You may ask me [the instructor] to consider other substitutions for attending a community event.

The reflection papers on community events (or service-learning project) 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.

Attendance and Participation:

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 having 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.

Much of your learning experience comes about by active participation in the classes, so you must attend class. 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. So each class has 15 formal class meeting times once a week throughout the semester.

You will earn 14 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. Your instructor may choose to award partial credit rather than all 14 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.

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

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

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 (extension 1510). 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 while I will try to hold to the flow of the syllabus it is subject to change over the course of the semester.

Class Outline for LinC 100.2 Section P

Classroom Memorial 301 (unless otherwise noted)

Class Dates	Topics	Assignments
Aug. 24 10:30 PPHAC 103 1:30 Foy Hall	Discussion of summer common reading	Read: Fadiman, A. (1997) <i>The spirit catches you and you fall down</i>
Aug. 25	Course overview, virtual tour Moravian College, continue discussion of Fadiman book	
Aug. 25 6PM Reeves Library	Required Attendance “Exploring Reeves Library”	
Sept. 1 Labor Day	No class	
Sept. 8	Discussion: Campus Life, favorite book	Read: Cohen Chapter 1 & 2 (pages 19-66) Assignment: Everyone will speak about their book Personal Reflection Paper #1 (see BB)
Sept. 15	Discussion: Academic Success, favorite book, Student Presentations	Read: Cohen Chapter 7 (pages 161-212)
Sept. 22	Guest Speaker: Ms. Laurie Roth Counseling Services & Learning Services	Personal Reflection Paper #2 (see BB)
Sept 27.	Family Day	
Sept. 29	Guest Speakers: Ms. Amy Saul Career Development Ms. Stephanie McLaughlin Financial Aid	Read: Cohen Chapter 12 (pages 347-380)
Oct. 6	No class: make-up Alumni Panel November 18 (see below)	
Oct. 13	Moravian College: Policies and Procedures Quiz your classmates Student Presentations	Read: Moravian College Catalog & Student Handbook Prepare: 4 MC Policy questions to ask your classmates
Oct. 15 (Wednesday) Sipple Lecture Time: 5:30 PM Place: Prosser Aud.	Dr. Gerard Rudy “Are You Called?” Recommended Community Event	
Oct. 19 (Sunday) Time: TBA Place: TBA	LinC 100.2P Class Dinner	
Oct. 20	Guest Speaker: Dean James Skalnik Liberal Arts Education	Read: <i>On the Uses of a Liberal Education in the hands of the Restless Poor</i> by E. Shorris (reserve Reeves Library)

Oct. 27	Guest Speakers: Club/Organization Panel	Personal Reflection Paper #3 (see BB) Read: Cohen Chapters 4, 5 & 6 (pages 103-160)
Oct. 29 (Wednesday) Cohen Lecture GET TICKETS	Ms. Valerie Plame Wilson Required Attendance	Review: TBA
Nov. 3	Discussion: Spring Registration Student Presentations	Personal Reflection Paper #4 (see BB) Schedule Advising Appointment Registration Nov. 5 & Nov. 6
Nov. 10	Discussion: Campus Life Student Presentations	Read: Cohen Chapters 10, 11 & 12 (pages 289-346, 381-416)
Nov. 17	Student Presentations	Personal Education Plan Due
Nov. 18 (Tuesday) Evening Prosser Aud.	Alumni Panel Ms. Julia Gasdaska Alumni Relations Required Attendance	
Nov. 24	Student Presentations TBA	Read: TBA Personal Reflection Paper #5 (TBD see BB)
Dec. 1	Discussion: Favorite song Student Presentations	Assignment: Everyone will speak about their favorite song. Please bring song to class to share if available.
Dec. 8	Discussion: Favorite song TBA	Personal Reflection Paper #6 (see BB)
Last day of classes Dec. 10		

TBA- Mr. Kerry Sethi- Director of International Studies.