

Introduction to College Life
Fall, 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Angela Colon

Office Phone #:

Cell Phone

Office:

E-Mail:

STUDENT ADVISOR: Ellen Williams

Phone #:

AOL Screen Name:

E-mail:

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.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR: 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 Mondays 1:10 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. 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 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.

STUDENT ADVISOR:

Hey everybody!

Your freshman year at college is unlike anything else you have ever encountered. You will learn more than you ever imagined, both inside and outside of class. You will have more **fun** and more **questions** than you could ever imagine. As your student advisor, I am here to help you with those questions, since I was in your shoes not that long ago. Not only will we cover great study habits, but we can also talk about the best Chinese takeout in Bethlehem, and how to create your own cafeteria cuisine.

More than anything, my goal for our LinC class, is to help all of you have the most successful freshman year possible. No matter what the question, no matter what the time, feel free to reach out to me whenever you need help. If I can't answer the question myself, you can be sure that I will be able to tell you who can. Moravian is full of opportunities, and this is the year to see how all of these options can make your future soar.

I can't wait for our semester together!

Ellen Williams

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES:

In order to successfully complete Introduction to College Life, the student must meet all learning outcomes of the course. Although faculty recognize that you are taking this course in addition to four other full-unit classes, it is important that you take your coursework 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 requires active engagement and full participation in order to facilitate a successful transition to life at Moravian College.

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 in at least

this one course in your first semester at college. This also means that your instructor's energy will be primarily going to trying to help you get the most out of this course and in helping you to get off to a good start in college. We want you to be reinforced for 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.

<i>Completion of 6 outside of class short personal reflection papers</i>	30%
<i>Attendance and participation in scheduled classes</i>	15%
<i>Attendance and write-ups of community events</i>	25%
<i>Development of a personal education plan or substitute assignment</i>	10%
<i>Participation in a speaking assignment</i>	10%
<i>Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting</i>	5%
<i>Participation in the library orientation session</i>	5%

Personal Reflection Papers

Each of you will have five 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. I reserve the right to turn back a submission as unacceptable if the author does not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or does not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. If a submission is deemed unacceptable, you may be required to resubmit a revision if your work doesn't clearly convey that you have tried to do a good job on the write-up. Late personal reflection papers will lose .5 a letter grade each day that it is late.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes

In order to be an active learner, class participation and attendance is a requirement. 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 there really is no way to make it up. 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. 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.

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 to attend at least 5 community events. A written reaction paper (250 words minimum) is required for each individual community event that you attend due within one week of the event. The reflection papers on community events 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. 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. This particular community event is weighted more heavily than the other four. Here is your first chance to communicate using the written word with a college professor. Make your submission something that you are proud of. It is also the first opportunity to demonstrate your writing ability. If you have a legitimate conflict with a class community event I will suggest an acceptable alternative community event for you to attend.

What qualifies as a community event that an individual can attend? 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 USG. You may contact me to consider other substitutions for attending a community event.

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. The details of this plan will be provided to you for completing the assignment; it is due 11/2.

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. Students have the option of choosing one of five formats (a group presentation, nominating the most memorable person of the class of 2010, an exercise that involves personal self-disclosure, an exercise that involves interviewing a faculty member, or developing a speech about something that had a major impact on you during your first semester here at college.) for helping you to meet this requirement.

Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting

Each student will be required to arrange for an individual meeting with their advisor 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. It is critical that you understand the LinC curriculum and thoughtfully prepare for this meeting. 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 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. A signup sheet will be available outside of my office in Colonial Hall room 223, this planning is so crucial to your college success.

Library Orientation Session

The reference librarians have designed a valuable orientation session for you. Our session will take place 8/31 at 6pm at Reeves Library. Attendance will be taken and students will only earn credit if they are there for the full session. There are also prizes 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

95+	=	A	76-79	=	C+
90-94	=	A-	75	=	C
86-89	=	B+	70-74	=	C-
85	=	B	60-69	=	D
80-84	=	B-	less than 60	=	F

Office Hours

Monday – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday thru Friday – by appointment

LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

Students who have any learning disabilities or specific accommodations that need to be made are advised to consult with Learning Services (Ext. 1510). Students are also encouraged, yet not required, to inform course faculty of those situations that are affecting academic performance.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The rules of the college as they apply to withdrawal from the course and plagiarism will be strictly followed. Students are encouraged to consult the college handbook for details of these policies.

REQUIRED READINGS

Canfield, Jack; Hansen, Mark; Kirberger, Kimberly; Clark, Dan; and Malinchak, James. (1999). *Chicken Soup for the College Soul*. Health Communications, Inc.
Moravian College Student Handbook, 2009-2010
Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010
Weisman, A. (2009). *The World Without Us*. HarperCollins Publisher.

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, announcements, and assignments.

Note:

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

9	October	- Guest Speaker: Laurie Roth;	*Class Dinner	Read: <i>LOVE 101</i>
Week	Date	Topic	Assignment	Reading for Week
1	August 31	Reviews Syllabus Course Discussion: Setting goals & time management	BB: Weisman, A (2007) "The World Without Us"	
10	November 2	Discussion/Exercise No Class- Each student must sign up to Review PEP plan and Spring	*attend meeting with advisor/student advisor	Read: ACTS OF KINDNESS (p.177-198)
		Schedule with advisor. Required Attendance:	*arrive to Reeves	None
11	November 9	Team Building Exercise - Exploring Reeves Library - Discussion: <i>Fear in a Hat</i>	library for 6 p.m. Personal Education Plans (PEP) are due!	None
2	September 7	No Class- Labor Day <i>November 9th (Monday) & 10th (Tuesday) Spring Registration</i>	*9/8 Final day for course changes	None
12	September 16	Guest Speaker: Steven McKinney Club/Organization presentations Director: Center for Information Technology -Intro/Why I selected Moravian College	Personal Reflection Paper #4 due Topic can be found on Black Board website	Read: TOUGH STUFF (p. 34-66) (p.223-248)
13	November 4	Free Topic Day "Free Topic Day" with your student advisor!	None	Read: MIND OVER MATTER (p.249-292)
14	November 30	Public Speaking Assignment- Favorite Song	Personal Reflection Paper #5 due Topic can be found on Black Board website	Read: CLASSROOM GRADUATION (p.293-314)
5	September 28	Bring in favorite song, if available Guest Speakers: Amy Saul; <i>Career Development Office</i> Discussion: "a reflection of you"	Personal Reflection Paper #2 due Topic can be found on Black Board website	None
15	December 7	Stephanie McLaughlin: Financial Aid -Last Day of Class -Wrap up public speaking assignment Discussion: Managing your money and credit cards Discussion: "How do you study?"	None	None
16	December 14-19	FINAL EXAMS- Good Luck!!		
6	October 5	Guest Speakers: -Kerry Sethi; <i>Director of International Studies</i> - Rachel Kleiner, <i>Student guest speaker on traveling abroad</i>	Personal Reflection Paper #3 due Topic can be found on Black Board website	Read: LESSONS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM (p. 115-148)
7	October 12	No Class- Fall Recess	None	None
8	October 19	- Guest Speaker: Sharon Brown; <i>Director of Institutional Diversity</i> - Discussion: Value of Diversity on a college campus	*req. to attend diversity program on 10/21 and write a reaction. (will count as a community event)	Read: FRIENDS (p.199-222)
		Wednesday, October 21st: Native American Program Featuring recording artist Michael Jacob	Place: 7:30- 9 p.m. HUB-Prosser Auditorium	

