

# LinC 100.2 F: Introduction to College Life

Comenius 218 Tues. 10:20-11:30

Fall 2009

(Guidelines subject to change)

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## Course description:

Welcome to Introduction to College Life (ICL)! 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. For our ICL class, we'll rely on a mix of readings, presentations, audio-visual aids, activities, short lectures, and, most importantly, discussion: *preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

## Goals and student learning outcomes for ICL:

### A. 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

### B. 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

### C. Goal: Individual Planning for Education at Moravian College and Lifelong Learning

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

### D. Goal: Academic Survival Skills

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate intellectual skills that support greater personal, professional, and academic success, including effective study skills, time management, and goal setting
2. pursue their educational goals with greater confidence and efficacy

### E. Goal: Personal Coping Skills

Student Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. identify and understand aspects of themselves (e.g., learning styles, communication styles, coping styles, personal values, and cultural values) that 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

## Message from your Faculty Advisor/Instructor:

Welcome! As your academic advisor until you declare a major in the semesters ahead, I look forward to working with you. Our ICL class will meet once a week, on Tuesday from 10:20-11:30am. As this course centers on the collective experience of college life by all members of our class, 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 keen to help you with your questions as you begin your studies at Moravian. While I always respond to emails as soon as I can, please note that it may occasionally take me up to 24 hours to respond on weekdays and that I may sometimes not be able to respond to emails over the weekend.

### Message from your Student Advisor:

First off, welcome to Moravian! Your first year is going to be scary at first but definitely exciting overall. At this time last year, I was in the exact same position you are currently in, so I know the unsettling feelings you may be having. The transition from high school to college will be everything from overwhelming to fun, but the goal of this class is to make you feel as comfortable as possible at Moravian. Dr. Black and I are looking forward to working with all of you and, with everyone's greatest efforts, I know this class will be a great benefit in helping to develop your successful self for the future.

### Blackboard:

Many of our required readings will be posted to our course Blackboard (Bb) site. Please enroll yourself as soon as possible ([blackboard.moravian.edu](http://blackboard.moravian.edu)). In addition to many of our required readings, you will also find our course description and syllabus, announcements, contact information, and assignments.

### Required texts, readings, and materials:

*Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010*

*Moravian College Student Handbook, 2009-2010*

Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009.

Additional required readings to complement session topics, as posted to Blackboard, placed on reserve in Reeves Library, or otherwise made available.

Theatre ticket to Moravian College Theatre Company's *Betty's Summer Vacation* on **Fri. Oct. 2 at 8:00pm (\$3)**

### Course policies and grading:

#### A. Overall expectations:

In order to complete ICL successfully, you must meet all learning outcomes for the course. The workload for this course has been carefully designed to take into account that you are probably also enrolled in four other courses and may be taking Fitness and Wellness. ICL requires active engagement and full participation in order to facilitate your successful transition to life at Moravian College. Your final grade is determined by your willingness to become actively involved in ICL – a course that is aimed at enhancing your college experience.

#### B. Attendance and participation:

Attendance and participation constitute significant portions of your course grade. **Be here, be prompt, be prepared, and participate.** In order to promote your growth as an active learner, attendance and participation in the class are required. Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in discussion based on course assignments, readings, or activities. The richness of discussion that occurs among classmates and faculty cannot be replicated under alternate arrangements. If you know you will be absent from class, please talk to me beforehand. If you are sick, please notify me as soon as possible. *Your tardiness or absence from more than two classes may affect your final grade. Missing more than three classes may result in your failing the course. If you are absent, it is wholly your responsibility to determine what was covered in class and what revisions, if any, were made to the syllabus in your absence.*

#### Other notes:

-One of the qualities I expect and appreciate most in students is **personal integrity**. Students who exhibit this quality are ethical and honest, are engaged in class, turn in thoughtful assignments, are responsive to the world beyond themselves, meet deadlines, and keep me informed of any difficulties or successes they have while in my class.

-Please arrange to go to the restroom before or after class.

-*Please silence and put away all cell phones, pagers, etc. before coming into the classroom.*

#### C. Learning Services 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 (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

#### D. Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism, representing someone else's work as your own, is a serious breach of personal integrity and a violation of the College's Academic Honesty Policy: consult the *Student Handbook* or

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html> **Read this policy in its entirety.**

Plagiarism includes misrepresentations such as quoting directly from a published work without giving the author credit (i.e., without providing 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. I take the provisions of the Academic Honesty Policy very seriously and am obliged to report to the Dean's Office any suspected cases of plagiarism, the consequences of which may be failure, suspension, or dismissal from the College. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse. It is your responsibility to be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism and, in the event you are uncertain about a particular use of source material, to ask in a constructive manner **before**

the assignment in question is due. If at any time you have any questions about documenting sources properly or as to whether or not the aid you are receiving is authorized, don't hesitate to ask me. The Reeves Library online research tutorial also addresses the issue: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reevestutorial/pages/index.htm>

E. Evaluation:

The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative assessments in determining grades for assignments and for the course. Final grades are calculated on 10-pt. scale: 90=A-, 80=B-, etc.

Attendance and active participation in class.....	15% (150pts)
Personal Reflection Papers (x6).....	30% (300pts)
Participation in first-year reading presentation and class discussion; write-up.....	10% (100pts)
Attendance and write-ups of four additional Community Events (x4).....	20% (200pts)
Personal Education Plan (PEP).....	10% (100pts)
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with Advisor.....	5% (50pts)
Participation in the "Exploring Reeves Library" orientation session (Aug. 31 or Sept. 1).....	5% (50pts)
Speaking assignment.....	5% (50pts)
	<b>100% (1000pts)</b>

**You must complete all these requirements in order to be eligible to pass the course.**

F. Final grade scale:

930+ pts	=	A	730-769	=	C
900-929	=	A-	700-729	=	C-
870-899	=	B+	670-699	=	D+
830-869	=	B	630-669	=	D
800-829	=	B-	600-629	=	D-
770-799	=	C+	less than 600	=	F

**Assignments**

It is recommended that papers be sent electronically as an email attachment to the instructor or student advisor (as appropriate). When you email a paper, be sure to check that you receive an email confirmation from the instructor or advisor regarding the successful receipt of your paper. The instructor and student advisor may award partial credit for work that does not meet the standards for the assignment; the instructor reserves the right to return an unsatisfactory paper and require revision and resubmission.

A. Personal Reflection Papers

Reflective writing enables us to learn from a reading, experience, etc. by thinking richly about it and generating meaning from the experience. The ICL reflection papers (minimum of 250 words each) ask you to consider the significance of the topic/content of the assigned reading and your experiences related to the topic. You are welcome (but not required) to use the discussion questions accompanying each reading as prompts for your response. The reflection papers are distributed over the course of the semester (refer to syllabus). Each of the six reflection papers, if deemed acceptable, constitutes 5% of your course grade, for a total of 30%.

B. Attendance and write-ups of Community Events

Learning takes place both in and outside the classroom. To encourage students to learn more about the richness of the College community and local community, ICL students are required to attend at least five community events during the semester and to follow up with a write-up (minimum of 250 words) within a week of attending an event. The write-ups on community events must relate the event to one or more of Moravian's mission statements as found on p. 3 of the *Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010*, reflecting on how the event reflects/promotes/enhances the particular value/vision for both the institution and the student. (These values/vision statements may also be found in the online *Moravian College Student Handbook, 2009-2010*, where they are described as "Community Standards" <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/standards/standards.html>). The first community event required for ICL (and the only community event required of the whole first-year class) is the presentation by Alan Weisman, author of the first-year reading, *The World Without Us*. For the other four events, students are encouraged to consult the Office of Institutional Diversity's listing of Cultural Awareness Programs. Participation in other non-credit-bearing co-curricular experiences (e.g., writing at least one article for *The Comenian*, election to USG, or active participation in organizations such as the Moravian College Theatre Company, C3, S.A.M., Environmental Coalition, IMPACT, Amnesty International, Habitat for Humanity, International Club, The Learning Connection, Spectrum, etc.) offers other good options. In addition, you may confer with me regarding other possibilities that interest you, but please note that alternatives must be **arranged in advance** of the event. The WWU write-up constitutes 10% of your course grade. Each of the other four write-ups constitutes 5% of your course grade, for a total of 20%.

C. Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with Advisor

You are responsible for scheduling and preparing for an individual advising meeting prior to registration for the Spring Semester. The dates for registration vary for AddVenture students, Comenius Scholars, and other students. You must assume accountability for the following steps:

- Reviewing the LinC curriculum and preparing for the meeting
- Reviewing the College Catalog for specific course requirements related to your anticipated major
- Selecting 5-6 courses that you would like to register for (these include a couple of 'back up' courses)
- Designing a written schedule in which there are no conflicts in class times. Athletes should not schedule 6<sup>th</sup> period classes.
- Complete the pre-registration form prior to meeting with your Advisor.

D. Personal Education Plan (PEP)

Moravian wants your college experience to be rich, engaging, and rewarding. In order for this to happen, you must make yourself aware of all the different educational, personal, and social opportunities that the College and community offer students. One way to ensure that this happens is to ask each of you to develop an individualized PEP, which will require you to take personal responsibility for planning your educational experience and to devote some time and attention during your first semester to thinking about your future. The PEP is due toward the end of the semester on Nov. 17; I will provide further details for the assignment in advance.

E. Speaking assignment

As part of our LinC curriculum, the College has mandated a Speaking Across the Curriculum component for every student. As part of ICL, each student participates in one activity that requires a brief, formal speaking before a group. In our ICL class, you have two options to choose from for this assignment: (1) serve as moderator for a panel of papers at Moravian's Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies on Sat. Dec. 5, or (2) a presentation (roughly 3 minutes) in class on Tues. Oct. 6 modeled after the "This I Believe" program sponsored by National Public Radio. Information about "This I Believe" can be found at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4538138>. In the coming weeks, I will ask you to confirm with me the option you have chosen.

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Aug.	28-30	F-Sun	Orientation program events, including activities related to <i>The World Without Us</i> (Sun. Aug. 30) (Refer to orientation packet and schedule)
	31	M	<b>7:00pm</b> "Exploring Reeves Library" orientation session
Sept.	1	T	<u>Preparing for College Life</u> Introduction to course; policies; syllabus Follow-up discussion on <i>The World Without Us</i> (WWU); <b>write-up on WWU due</b> Review, Q&A on <i>Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010</i> and <i>Moravian College Student Handbook, 2009-2010</i> Read and discuss Meiland, "High School and College" (on Blackboard - Bb); Gordon, "The Developing College Student" (Bb); and Finster, "Freshmen Can Be Taught to Think Creatively, Not Just Amass Information" (Bb)
	8	T	<u>Technology and Learning</u> Presentation and discussion led by CIT specialist Read McDonald, "Virtual Legality: An Overview of Your Rights and Responsibilities in Cyberspace" (Bb) and Dertouzos, "Human-Centric Issues in the Information Marketplace" (Bb) <b>Reflection Paper #1 due</b>
	15	T	<u>Academic Success</u> Presentation and discussion led by Learning Services specialist Read Rich, "Passive Versus Active Studying" (Bb); Siebert and Gilpin, "Learning Styles: They Can Help or Hinder" (Bb); and Twining, "Active Learning" (Bb) <b>Reflection Paper #2 due</b>
	22	T	<u>Academic Integrity</u> Presentation and discussion led by Reference Librarians Read section in <i>Student Handbook</i> on "Academic Honesty" and O'Hanlon "The Right Stuff: Research Strategies for the Internet Age" (Bb) <b>Reflection Paper #3 due</b>
	29	T	<u>Liberal Arts Learning</u> Presentation and discussion led by Dean Jim Skalnik Read Moravian College "Mission Statement" and Burtchaell, "Major Decisions" (Bb) <b>Reflection Paper #4 due</b>
Oct.	2	F	<u>Theatre and Learning</u> MCTC performance of <b>Betty's Summer Vacation</b> and discussion following; <b>8:00pm</b> in Arena Theatre (lower level, HUB) Reading - TBA
	6	T	<u>Public Speaking</u> <b>Student oral presentations (first of two options)</b>
	13	T	Fall Break - no class

20	T	<u>Career Planning</u> Presentation and discussion led by Career Services specialist Read Boldt, "Doing the Work You Love" (Bb); Ballard, "Job Search: Chance or Plan?" (Bb); and Sherry, "Postgraduate Paralysis" (Bb) <b>Reflection Paper #5 due</b>
27	T	<u>Living and Learning at Moravian</u> Panel presentation and discussion led by upperclassmen Read Bell, "Trouble with Parents" (Bb); Raspberry, "College Major Doesn't Mean All That Much" (Bb); and Krutch, "The New Immorality" (Bb)
Nov. 3	T	Advising for Spring '10 Pre-registration No class meeting; arrange to meet with Student Advisor this week. Read Bennett, "The Lure of Learning" (Bb) and Minnick, "Fourteen Ways of Looking at Electives" (Bb)
10	T	Pre-registration for Spring '10 No class meeting; arrange to meet with Instructor/ Advisor this week.
17	T	<u>Global Learning</u> Presentation and discussion led by International Studies specialist Reading - TBA <b>PEP due</b>
24	T	<u>Life and Learning After Moravian</u> Panel presentation and discussion led by Moravian College alumni Read Pellegrino, "Having a Degree and Being Educated" (Bb) and Reeve, "To the Graduates" (Bb)
Dec. 1	T	<u>Learning Beyond the Classroom</u> Panel presentation and discussion led by representatives of various organizations from Moravian College and the community Reading - TBA
8	T	<u>Learning and our Diverse Community</u> Workshop and discussion led by Ms. Sharon Brown, Director of the Office of Institutional Diversity Read and discuss Takaki, "A Different Mirror" (Bb) <b>Reflection Paper #6 due</b> Course review