

ICL – Fall 2009

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Introduction to College Life – The World with Us

Welcome to ICL. This is going to be a different class from any other one you ever took. The course is about introducing you to college life but also about introducing you to a new way of life, a new way of thinking, new ideas and lots of new people. During our weekly class we will try and make this transition as smooth as possible. Besides learning about different institutions on campus you will learn about your classmates but mainly about yourself and about ways to make sure the world is, and will stay with – not without – us.

Coming to college is about enhancing your understanding, expanding your knowledge and making you a better citizen of the world. In order to become a better citizen of the world you have to be an active participant, a contributor. Therefore as part of this course you will be working with young kids from Head Start. You will meet and get to know kids aged 1-4 and spend time with them as often as your schedule will allow. Meeting the kids, getting to know them, listening and playing with them will demand goodwill and compassion and in turn will help you grow.

This is an interactive class, hence you will have to participate on a regular basis, share your impressions, your writings and your experiences in and out of class. The course will depend greatly on your direct involvement and impassioned participation. Your own interests will be reflected in the course's agenda.

Some of the written assignments will be graded. There will be other un-graded assignments relating to reading, writing, researching and working with the kids.

The major assignments in this course will be as follows:

- A. A presentation on a topic of your choice (to be approved by the course instructor); make sure it's a subject you are passionate about.
- B. A short creative writing assignments each week (1-2 pages long), reflecting your personal perspective on the books we will be reading and discussing in class, or about the lectures we will have by guest-speakers. You will receive feedback from fellow students and the instructor, improving your skills of reflecting and analyzing. By talking in class about your chosen subjects you will improve your expressive skills as well.
- C. An informal journal of your readings, experiences and your impressions about the various presentations and interactions inside and outside the class.
- D. A midterm and a final essay about a chosen subject.

Un-graded assignments will still be submitted to the course instructor and receive feedback. Even though these items do not receive separate grades, they are required parts of the course; missing, incomplete, or late assignments will result in a lowered "written assignments" part of your grade.

Purposes

College is a major change in your life. ICL will help familiarize you with this change and help you to make the best out of your new way of life and your new way of thinking, experiencing and learning.

Goals

- Learn about the different aspects of college life.
- Experience community service.
- Turn you into an ambassador for a better world.
- Ameliorate your learning skills.
- Enhance your proficiency in reading, writing, discussing and communicating.

Expectations

You are expected to show up to every class, and on time. Unexcused absence and tardiness will interfere with your learning and hence affect your grade. For every unexcused absence beyond that, your attendance grade will be lowered by 5 pts. Please turn off your cell phones when you enter class. Please refrain from eating during class, as this interferes with your ability to participate in class discussions. All assignments will be presented in print, and in a timely manner.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to perform your academic work honestly and fairly. Since you can choose your subjects, and your writing is supposed to be personal, write it on your own. The consequences of failure to meet those expectations are outlined in the current *Student Handbook*.

Grading

- 1. Contribution in class discussion.....20%
- 2. Community service..... 15%
- 3. Journals.....10%
- 3. Presentations in class.....15%
- 4. Written assignments20%
- 5. Research papers on your chosen topics20%

Required Texts

The World Without Us by Alan Weisman
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly by Jean-Dominique Bauby

Schedule- *with possible modifications according to student topic researches*

Week I	
Tuesday September 1	Introduction
Week II	
Tuesday September 8	the world with us
Week III	
Tuesday September 15	what is community service?
Week IV	
Tuesday September 22	Head Start lecture

Week V	
Tuesday September 29	Lecture on diversity
Week VI	
Tuesday October 6	class in the library - midterm due
Week VII	
Tuesday October 13	fall Recess
Week VIII	
Tuesday October 20	the lessons of The Diving Bell
Week IX	
Tuesday October 27	Study Abroad lecture
Week X	
Tuesday November 3	choosing a major
Week XI	
Tuesday November 10	active listening
Week XII	
Tuesday November 17	coping with college stress
Week XIII	
Tuesday November 24	giving thanks
Week XIV	
Tuesday December 1	final essay due
Week XV	
Tuesday December 8	Conclusions

Notes

- 1) You can expect to dedicate 5-7 hours per week outside of class, reading, preparing assignments and doing community service.
- 2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Offices as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- 3) Do not hesitate to address me with any kind of problem you have during class or after.
- 4) This syllabus is subject to change.

