

LinC 100.2L: Introduction to College Life

Fall 2009

Faculty Advisor:

Professor Lisa Fischler
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Dept. of Political Science
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Class meets each Tuesday 6b
Office hours: W 4-5:30 pm; F 9:30-11 am; and other times by appointment.

Student Advisor:

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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.

Course objectives

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

- a) understand the expectations and responsibilities of being a college student, and a participating member of the Moravian College community;
- b) comprehend the value of liberal learning for their own personal and professional success;
- c) effect strategies and tools to help them pursue and meet goals and plans for their personal education;
- d) articulate the aspects of themselves that will result in better personal well being and academic success;
- e) utilize the coping skills that work best for them in challenging situations;
- f) pursue their goals and face any challenges with greater confidence and efficacy than at the semester's beginning.

Course Guidelines

1. 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.

2. I do not accept late assignments. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on due dates marked in the syllabus (unless otherwise noted on the syllabus). You cannot pass this class without completing all assignments and requirements. For the sake of equity do not ask for special treatment.

3. In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform your professor through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

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

5. These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of the instructor's expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances the instructor reserves the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations

- 1) Respect for others' answers and views.
- 2) Equal time for opposing opinions.
- 3) Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 4) Cell phones need to be turned to OFF and put away in a purse or bookbag during class. Use of cell phones in any way during class will result in dismissal from class and be counted as an absence.
- 5) Non-alcoholic drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.
- 6) Attention to course related material only.
- 7) Necessary breaks at the discretion of the instructor.
- 8) If you arrive late, be respectful by not disrupting a class already in progress.

Required Readings:

- ❑ McKibben, Bill. *Deep Economy*.
- ❑ Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us*.
- ❑ Moravian College Student Handbook.
- ❑ Moravian College Catalog.

Course Requirements:

A. Graded Requirements:

Attendance and active participation in class:

a) Plain and simple, attendance is mandatory. You can't pass classes at Moravian College without being there. Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused.

Regardless of the reason, an absence from class is counted as an absence.

b) College professors will not be satisfied with students behaving 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 she said" is not considered a thoughtful response.

Group (In-class) Activities: all of these activities are marked on the syllabus. You will need to get involved actively in what is going on in each specific class session and be engaged to the best of your ability. Responding, asking questions, offering your views, and offering thoughtful responses is all part of being actively involved in this class. Each activity will have a self, instructor's, and student advisor's assessment attached to it.

Service Learning Project: 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 an event sponsored by the Office of International Studies

that involves refugees from the Darfur region in Sudan. Our group's project will be to a) create a series of posters about the crisis in Darfur to publicize this event and b) to work with the chef at the HUB to create an appropriate and locally-focused menu for those participating. Different tasks will be assigned to each student and they will be evaluated on effort and participation.

Create A Community Project and Roundtable: the term long project for the class as a group will be to work together to create a durable city or community for the future. Roles in this project will be discussed early in the term. It is up to each student to think over and effectively construct their piece in this project. The degree of both effort throughout the term and active participation in the roundtable session to bring this project to a close will affect how well you do.

Participation in Library orientation session: our section of ICL is scheduled to participate in a Library orientation session on September 1, 2009 at 6 pm. Armando, your student advisor, will be accompanying you to this session, and attendance will be taken. Be sure to show up to get credit.

Discussion questions: each student, except for the class sessions in which they serve as discussant or respondent, is asked to bring a discussion question drawn from the day's assigned reading to class and to incorporate that question into the day's discussion. Questions need to be typed so they can be handed in for credit. Questions with the format of "how," "why," and "in what way" are worth more than those such as "who?," "what?," "when?," and "do you agree or not?" so be careful in constructing your questions for class discussion.

Discussant/Respondent Discussions: each student will be responsible for being a discussant and a respondent in our discussions about each class session's assigned readings. On the first day of class, students will sign up for a class session in which to fill each of these roles (one session for each role, a total of two class sessions). Basically, being a discussant and respondent means guiding the class through a discussion of specific assigned readings by offering critical insights, informed opinions, supported arguments, and key points about the ideas or message the author is trying to convey.

Registration Prep and Registration: it is to your advantage to schedule, prepare for, and attend both the pre-registration evening session with your student advisor and your individual meeting with your faculty advisor. Both meetings are to assist you in registering. Be sure to engage in these meetings and show up prepared in order to both get credit and to be able to find the classes you want for Spring term.

B. Grade Components:

Attendance, participation, effort:	21% (210 points)
Get Involved (In-class) Activities:	15% (150 points)
Participation in Library orientation:	4% (40 points)
Service Learning Project:	15% (150 points)
Create a Community Project and Roundtable:	20% (200 points)
Discussion questions:	10% (100 points)
Discussant/Respondent Discussions:	10% (100 points)
Registration Prep and Registration:	<u>5% (50 points)</u>
	100% (1000 points)

C. Final Grade Scale

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

Note: It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the course final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such), and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; advance notice will be given)

Course Schedule

Date	Topic or Event	Assignment
August 30, 2009 Sunday 10:30 am PPHAC 302	Common Summer Reading & Community Event (Meet Alan Weisman author of <i>The World Without Us</i> , 1:00 pm)	Completion of <i>The World Without Us</i> Discussion, prepare questions for the author
Sept. 1, 2009 (Tuesday) Period 6b Week 1	Introduction: Expectations, Survival Tips, and Who are you?	group activity
Sept. 1, 2009 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm	Library Information Session (Reeves Library)	Group with Armando meet at Reeves Library
Sept. 7, 2009 (Monday)	Labor Day	No classes Last day for add/drops
Sept. 8, 2009 (Tues.) Week 2	Cooperation in Competitive Environments (Think-Pair-Share; Create a Community Project discussion)	<i>DE</i> , pp. 1-25 group activity
Sept. 15, 2009 (Tues.) Week 3 **class meets from 4-5 today	Learning to Relax (Prof. Don St. John, MoCo Religion Dept. faculty)	<i>DE</i> , pp. 25-44 group activity
Sept. 22, 2009 (Tues.) Week 4	Getting Involved-Campus Organizations & Time Management	<i>DE</i> , pp. 46-66 group activity

	(Armando and student club representatives)	
Sept. 29, 2009 (Tues.) Week 5	Memory and Strategy (Prof. Sarah Johnson, MoCo Psychology Dept. faculty)	<i>DE</i> , pp. pp. 66-94 group activity
October 6, 2009 (Tues.) Week 6	Listening to Hopes and Dreams (Prof. Kelly Denton-Borhaug, MoCo Religion Dept. faculty)	<i>DE</i> , pp. 95-112 group activity
October 10-13, 2009	Fall Recess	No classes
October 20, 2009 (Tues.) Week 8	Enviroscape (Wildlands Conservancy)	<i>DE</i> , pp. 112-128 group activity
October 27, 2009 (Tues.) Week 9 *class may meet outside of regular hours (TBD)	Create a Community Project working session	<i>DE</i> , pp. 130-155 group activity
November 3, 2009 (Tues.) Week 10 *class may meet outside of regular hours (TBD)	Global Communities Locally-Darfur Refugees (Kerry Sethi, MoCo International Studies Director)	group service learning project
November 6, 2009	Last Day for “W”	
November 4, 2009 (Wed.) (evening)	Pre-Registration	Meet with Armando in dorms- Pizza Night
November 4-6, 2009	Registration Preparation: Set up schedules	Meet with Dr. Fischler in Comenius 104 outside of class (sign up for time slot on office door)
November 9, 10 (Mon., Tues.)	Registration	Go register
November 10, 2009 (Tues.) Week 11	If you had to choose, what would you do?	<i>DE</i> , pp. 155-176 group activity
November 17, 2009 (Tues.) Week 12	Creating a Community	Roundtable/Presentation Session
November 24, 2009 (Tues.) Week 13	What Makes You Happy? or Is More or Better better? (“What’s In the Sack?” or “Who Do You Want to Become?”)	<i>DE</i> , pp. 176-198 group activity
November 25-29	Thanksgiving Break	No classes
December 1, 2009 (Tues.) Week 14	“Life After Humans” (movie and discussion)	<i>DE</i> , pp. 199-226 group activity
December 8, 2009 (Tues.) Week 15	Green/Local Food Community Celebration	group activity
Final Exams		