

Introduction to College Life

Fall, 2009

LinC 100.2P meets PPHC 302 Thursday 2:35 to 3:45PM

INSTRUCTOR: Linda LaPointe

STUDENT ADVISOR: Jamie Skidmore

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Office: Library: Room 111

Office Hours

Mon-Wed 2-4:00PM

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. Additionally, we will work together on a service project with the Bethlehem Area Public Library's children's room.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Wiseman, Alan. (2007). *The World Without Us*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books.
2. *Moravian College Student Handbook*
3. *Moravian College Catalog*
4. Cohen, Harlan. (2009). *The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc. ISBN: 9781402219016.
5. Additional Readings as assigned.

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES:

To ensure fairness across different ICL sections, grading principles are standardized. The workload expectations for students will also be comparable across sections. The course is graded and is weighted as a half unit course. **The final grade is primarily determined by your willingness to become actively involved in this course.** 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. You should be 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. Final grades will be calculated by summing up the points at the end of the semester and comparing them to the various point values for each grade.

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| 1. Completion of 6 outside of class short personal reflection papers | 30% |
| 2. Attendance and participation in scheduled classes | 21% |
| 3. Attendance and write-ups of service event | 20% |
| 4. Service at the Bethlehem Area Public Library | 10% |
| 5. Participation in a speaking assignment | 10% |
| 6. Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting | 5% |
| 7. Participation in the library orientation session | 4% |

1. Personal Reflection Papers:

Each student will be responsible for a paper centered on the community reading ***The World Without Us***. This paper is worth 60 points and will be a reflection on the book; the author presentation; as well as the group discussion prior to the presentation. A minimum of 500 words for this paper is required. This paper may be turned in electronic format via email (lapointe@moravian.edu) at any time BEFORE the start of class, Sept 3 or in printed format at the beginning of class. Papers must be word processed and should be double spaced. Unsatisfactory papers will be returned as unacceptable. You will be expected to rewrite the paper until it is up to academic standards. Unacceptable papers include those that do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. Partial credit will be given for resubmissions.

During the semester, there will be six other personal reflection papers. Each assignment can earn up to 50 points. These papers will be individually assigned. Each assignment will be clearly described and the due dates are on this syllabus. Papers may be turned in electronic format via email (lapointe@moravian.edu) at any time BEFORE the start of the assigned class or in paper format at the beginning of the assigned class. Papers must be word processed and should be double spaced and meet academic standards.

2. Attendance and participation in scheduled classes:

Attendance is a heavily weighted component of the course. 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 it cannot be made up. This class has 14 formal class meeting times, through-out the semester (Sept. 3 -Dec. 10). You will earn 15 points for each class you attend up to a maximum of 210 points. The definition of attending is: coming to class prepared; arriving 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. You may be awarded partial credit rather than all 15 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. Attending all classes earns you 210 points.

3. Service event:

College offers students many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside of the classroom. To help you develop the habit of exposing yourself to new learning experiences this course requires you to participate in a service/learning project with the Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) over the course of the semester. During this project we will consider the place of the public library in the community. This project will require that the class, as a group, develop and execute a service project in conjunction with Melanie Fiske, the Youth Services Librarian at BAPL. This project will include a trip to BAPL as well as a group and/or individual activity at the library. Ms Fiske will address our class on September 17th.

A written reaction paper is required in relation to the service project. Additionally we will provide a service to the library including a minimum of 3 hours of service at the library to complete the project. The paper portion of this project must be at least 500 words. On this paper you will be expected to outline the goal of the project, describe the execution of the project and add your own personal reflection on the overall experience. It is due just after the Thanksgiving vacation (Dec. 3rd) and the three service hours must also be completed at that time. Papers may be turned in electronic format via email (lapointe@moravian.edu) or at the beginning class. Papers must be word processed and should be double spaced and meet academic requirements. The paper is worth of 100 points, community service is worth 100 points and our planned event is worth 100 points.

4. **Speaking assignment:**

As part of our Learning-in-Common Curriculum the college has mandated a speaking component in this course. Your speaking component will require you to interview a faculty member. During this interview you should plan to learn about her/him; learn about their academic achievements; and discuss their area of research. You may select any of the faculty at Moravian College or Moravian Theological Seminary to interview. Once you have interviewed the faculty member you will be required to give a 5 minute presentation to the class. This may be a power point presentation (but it is not required to be a power point presentation). You will be required to hand in a word processed outline to be handed in at the time of your presentation. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points. Your grade will be determined by your instructor's evaluations of your presentation, your outline and by the evaluations of your peers evaluations.

5. **Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting:**

Each student will arrange for an individual meeting with Ms LaPointe preceding registration for the spring semester. The dates of these individual meetings will vary. As part of this process it is critical that you both understand the Link curriculum and thoughtfully prepare for this meeting. You will need to 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 for the spring semester to discuss with your advisor. It is your responsibility to thoughtfully complete your registration form **prior** to attending 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. This planning is so crucial to your college success that you may earn up to 60 points for scheduling, preparing, and attending these individual meetings.

6. **Library Orientation Session:**

The reference librarians have designed an orientation session for you. This section is **Mandatory**. This class is scheduled to attend on Tuesday Sept 1st at 7PM. If you have a conflict and cannot make it to the session that is scheduled you can attend one of the other seven sessions (Monday Aug 31 at 6,7,8PM or Tuesday Sept 1 at 6 or 8PM). **Attendance will be taken and students will only earn the full 40 points if they are there for the full session.** Do not miss this opportunity to learn about one of the most valuable resources on campus!

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

LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities and/or ADHD should contact Mrs. Laurie Roth, Director of Learning Services, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Students who wish to request accommodations for support of other disabilities should contact Dr. Ron Kline, Director of the Counseling Center, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class or anywhere in the academic community. 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. It is campus policy that you keep all note cards and rough drafts on papers and assignments until given a final grade for a course. Evidence of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with in accordance with the college policy on academic honesty found in the Student Handbook. We will have a guest speaker to explain and accept your questions. This session falls just as the first large writing assignments in your other classes are coming due. It will be led by Ms. Beth Fuchs of the Reeves Library Staff. In the event of a suspected infraction it is my job to send the materials in question to the Dean's Office at which time you are given the chance to provide your perspective on the matter.

Intended Student Outcomes

(1) 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 role as students and members of the Moravian College community.
- 2) Understand the expectations and responsibilities of being a college student, and a member of the Moravian College community.
- 3) Understand acceptable academic standards including Academic Honesty.
- 4) Understand how and where to find assistance when it is needed.

(2) 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 a Liberal Arts and Sciences tradition for individuals and for life within society.
- 2) Articulate the value of liberal learning for personal and professional success.
- 3) Understand the relationship between education and community service to the overall person.

(3) Individual Planning for Education at Moravian College and Beyond

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

- 1) Begin to articulate their specific goals, objectives, and plans for their personal education
- 2) Become aware of the many opportunities available for education in class as well outside of class.
- 3) Execute strategies and tools to help them renew and revise these plans in the future.

(4) 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, and goal setting.
- 2) Pursue their educational goals with greater confidence and efficacy.
- 3) Become familiar with the faculty and the resources available on campus

(5) 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 greater confidence and efficacy.

COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change as needed)
 Class meets on Thursdays, 2:35 - 3:45 PM in PPHC 302

August 30 (Sunday)	Group discussion of <i>The World Without Us</i> , followed by a presentation by the author, Alan Weisman. Assignment due September 3rd: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The World Without Us</i> paper: This is the first paper you will turn in and it should demonstrate college level work. It must follow the guide lines in section 1 and the handout. The paper is worth 60 points. • Read articles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. “Philadelphia Rising” <i>The Nation</i>, March 30, 2009 (p.22-24). b. “Philadelphia Story: 11 City Libraries Fight Closure.” <i>Information Today</i>, March 2009. (p.1, 46) c. and “Judge overrules Philly Branch Closings.” <i>American Libraries</i>, March 2009. (p.21)
Tuesday 7PM Sept. 1	Exploring Reeves Library --Report to the library. <u>You must sign in to get credit.</u> This short visit is worth 40 points.
September 3	Introduction: Review of syllabus and course expectations. Continued discussion of the author presentation as needed, questions??? Welcome to the text book, <i>The Naked Roommate</i> . Introduction and discussion of class project. Assignment due Sept 10: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the <i>Moravian College Handbook</i>. 2. Read chapters 1-3 of <i>The Naked Roommate</i> 3. Reflection Paper #1: Consider your first week at Moravian. Compare your experiences to the readings. This paper should incorporate the readings and your experiences. The paper is due by the beginning of class, Sept 10th.
Sept 10	College policies – Bring your Student Handbook to class. <i>Moravian Jeopardy</i> – What do you know about Moravian? Group game. Group meetings to consider possible projects for Bethlehem Area Public Library. Assignment due Sept 17: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-read the articles about public libraries. 2. Bring to class (on a card to be handed in) a question concerning the status of public libraries plus one idea you would have on how YOU can make a change using the instrument of our group service project at BAPL.
Sept 17	Presentation of Mrs. Melanie Fiske, Youth Services Director at BAPL Discussion of possible service projects. Assignment for Sept 24th: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapter 13 (Things not mentioned in the college brochure) in <i>the Naked Roommate</i>. 2. Personal reflection Paper #2. Use the reading above as spring-

	board to explore your thoughts concerning campus life in general. Consider the ideas in the reading and your own impressions on the reality of campus life.
Sept 24	<p>Introduction to the campus life</p> <p>a. Guest Speaker: Mr. Rick Subber. Moravian College Alumni, to address issues concerning campus living, possible majors, course requirements, life after Moravian and anything else you may have wondered about.</p> <p>b. Work on group project.</p> <p>Assignment due October 1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 4-6 in the <i>Naked Roommate</i> 2. Personal Reflection Paper # 3: What do you think of Moravian now? Consider that you have lived here about a month. What has been the most challenging and what has been the most valuable lesson learned? For this paper you can be creative. You could present a picture/photo with a description; a well thought out drawing and description; or some other medium – WOW ME!
Oct 1	<p>a. Library Research: What does the library home page have to offer you? Guest Speaker: Ms Amy Dumouchel, librarian</p> <p>b. Meet Campus leaders.</p> <p>Panel and discussion led Jamie. Discuss registration for classes and courses in general. Now is the time to ask questions!!!</p> <p>Assignment for Oct. 8th:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapter 7 in the <i>Naked Roommate</i>. 2. Reflection Paper # 4: What will your academic career at Moravian be like? Think about the next four years. What are your expectations? Discuss courses you will have to take, you want to take and maybe even wish you could take; your plans; possible majors; in other words, what do you expect from the academic Moravian?
Oct 8	<p>Academic Honesty: Bring student handbook to class.</p> <p>Guest speaker Ms. Beth Fuchs, Reeves Library.</p> <p>Assignment due week of Oct. 15th:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflection Paper #5 is on your understanding of Academic Honesty. Consider your position before this presentation and how you understand the concept as it relates to Moravian. What can you do to assure you don't end up in one of the tricky pit falls.
Oct 15	<p>Study Abroad: Presentation and discussion Seth Kerry, Director of the Study abroad program at Moravian.</p> <p>We will finalize plans for our group activity at BAPL</p> <p>Assignment for Oct 23rd:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select one of your professors and make an appointment to meet with him/her to discuss their research area for your oral presentation. Submit name and appointment time. An outline for the presentation will be due either Nov 19 or Dec 3 at the time of your presentation.

	2. Complete reading the <i>Naked Roommate</i>
Oct.22	BAPL activity and individual appointments for registration
Oct 29	BAPL activity and individual appointments for registration
Nov 5	<p>What is a Liberal Education? Presentation by Dr. James Skalnik, Dean. Assignment due either Nov.19th or Dec 3. Oral Presentations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review chapters 8-11 in <i>the Naked roommate</i> 2. You will need to prepare an outline of your oral presentation. The outline could be a copy of a power point presentation or a traditional outline. You will need to hand this in at the time of your presentations.
Nov. 12	<p>SID. Party in AfterWords Café, Reeves Library. Socially Safe! Also, Draw lots for speaking assignment dates. Assignment due Nov. 19th</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflection paper #6. This paper should comment on STDs, the party and what this means to you at Moravian and beyond. Use the <i>Naked Roommate</i> or any other sources that might enrich this paper. (Use citations! If needed)
Nov. 19	<p>First Group of speaking presentations Assignment due Dec. 3rd.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service Learning Project paper (see handout for instructions). 2. All service hours completed at BAPL
Dec. 3	Second Group of speaking presentations
Dec. 10	The rest of your Career: meet in the Afterwords Café, Reeves Library. Class evaluations and class wrap-up.
Dec. 18	GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!!!!!!