

Fall 2009
Introduction to College Life
Friday 10:20-11:10
LinC 100.2 Q

Dr. Hilde Binford

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:20-3:30

Office Hours (Brethren's House, Room 302):

Mondays – Wednesdays 8:20-8:50; Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12:45-2:15

By appointment on Thursday or Friday

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Student advisor: Danielle McGrath

Student advisor email: XXX

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:

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.

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.

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.

Goal: 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: effective study skills, time management, and goal setting.
2. pursue their educational goals with greater confidence and efficacy.

Goal: 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 confidence and efficacy.

Message from your Faculty 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 Fridays from 10:20 – 11:30. 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.

Message from your Student Advisor:

Welcome to Moravian! I am so excited to be your student advisor this year! Throughout the semester I will be here to help make the transition from high school to college as painless as possible. In taking this class I hope you all can learn a lot about Moravian and college life in general. The next couple of months are usually pretty overwhelming so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have! I look forward to getting to know all of you!

~ Danielle

Required Texts:

Moravian College Catalog, 2008-2010

Moravian College Student Handbook, 2009-2010.

Weisman, A. (2009). *The World Without Us*. HarperCollins *Publisher* (Summer reading; however, in class discussion or threaded discussions via Blackboard about the reading may be incorporated throughout the year.

The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College. By Harlan Cohen, 3rd edition.

Course Policies and Grading:

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.

Grades and Weighted Assignments

Personal Reflection Papers and Speaking Assignment	30%
Attendance and active participation in class	15%
Attendance and write-ups of community events (5)	25%
Personal Education Plan (and Career Services)	10%
Participation in Summer Reading Presentation and class Discussion	10%
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting with advisor	5%
Participation in the library orientation session	5%

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 at least 4 community events, in addition to the author's presentation during orientation. 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 to USG.

Attendance and Participation:

In order to be an active learner, class participation and attendance is a requirement. The richness of discussion that occurs among classmates and faculty cannot be replicated. Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in discussion based on course assignments or readings.

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.

Academic Honesty Policy: You are required to read the entire Academic Honesty Policy, found in the Student Handbook. In short, you need to know that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. 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 in a constructive manner about an assignment in question before it is due in a final version. You are also required to keep all note cards and rough drafts on papers and assignments until given a final grade for that course. Evidence of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with in accordance with the college policy on academic honesty found in the Student Handbook. In the event of a suspected infraction – in fairness to your peers and the standards of the college – it is my job to send the materials in question to the Academic Affairs Office. You may meet with Dean Carol

Traupman-Carr to discuss the charge and the procedures for appealing, but she alone does not make a decision on whether or not to uphold the charge or the penalty.

Personal Expressive/Reflective Papers: These papers will be sent via e-mail to Dr. Binford as assigned.

Reflective learning enables the student to think about an experience and possibly find meaning generated from the experience. The reflection papers will be assigned over the course of the semester and “prompts” and/or questions will be developed by the instructor and student advisor. Each satisfactory paper will be worth 5%. It is recommended that all required papers be electronically sent as an attachment to either the course instructor or student advisor. The instructor/student advisor has the right to award partial credit for work that does not meet the standards of the assignment. The instructor reserves the right to return an unsatisfactory paper and require revision and resubmission. Failure to submit the paper on the assigned date will result in a “zero” for that assignment.

Attendance and Written Reaction Paper for Community Events

In an attempt to encourage students to learn more about the College community as well as the local community, students are required to attend 5 community events throughout the semester. Dr. Binford and Danielle will provide a list of acceptable events, and in many cases, the class can attend as a group. The first event required of this class is attendance at the presentation by the Alan Weisman author of the common summer reading, *The World Without Us*. It is recommended that all required papers be sent as an attachment to either the course instructor or student advisor. The instructor/student advisor has the right to award partial credit for work that does not meet the standards of the assignment. They reserve the right to return an unsatisfactory paper and require revision and resubmission. Failure to submit the paper on the assigned date will result in a lower grade.

Speaking Assignment

The Learning in Common Curriculum has mandated a Speaking across the Curriculum component for every student. The instructor will attempt to create an environment that is conducive to open discussion and promotes dialogue among all. The formal speaking assignment will be an individual, brief (approximately 3 minutes) presentation modeled after the "This I Believe" essay program sponsored by National Public Radio (NPR). Information about "This I Believe" can be found at www.npr.org.

Scheduling, Preparing, and Attending Advisement Meeting

The student is responsible for scheduling an individual advising meeting prior to registration for the Spring Semester. The dates for registration vary for Add Venture students, Comenius scholars, and all other students. Students must assume accountability for the following steps:

- Review the LinC curriculum and prepare for the meeting
- Review the College Catalog for specific course requirements related to your anticipated major.

- Select 5-6 courses that you would like to register for (Most students will only enroll in four full unit courses; however, the courses you select may “close” and it is ideal to have a “back-up” plan ready.
- Design a schedule in which there are no conflicts in class times. Athletes should not schedule sixth period classes.
- Complete the pre-registration form prior to your meeting with your advisor.

Course Grade Analysis:

The grading scale is as follows:

A	= 93-100	C	= 73-76
A-	= 90-92	C-	= 70-72
B+	= 87-89	D+	= 67-69
B	= 83-86	D	= 63-66
B-	= 80-82	D-	= 60-62
C+	= 77-79	F	= <60

Notes:

Please note that it is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignments and for the course final grade.

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