

Course Syllabus

Time/Day:	M,W,F from 11:45 – 12:55
Location:	Comenius Hall room 218
Instructor:	Gordon Weil
Email:	gweil@moravian.edu
Phone:	610-861-1349 or 1348
Office:	Monocacy Hall room 202
Office Hours:	Mondays 10:30 – 11:30 Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 And By Appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

The First Year Seminar (FYS) introduces writing as a process that is central to college learning and to life. Each FYS, no matter what the topic, focuses on college-level reading and writing so students will begin to sharpen the critical reasoning skills needed for success in any academic discipline at Moravian College. The subject area focus of each FYS section entails reading and discussing ideas and styles from various academic disciplines, but all sections are the same in their general approach: students will practice both speaking and writing and will work collaboratively in workshop settings. You learn to write by writing and reading, so your teacher will be mostly a facilitator in class, not a lecturer or test-giver. We will write a lot!

By the end of this course students will:

- Articulate an understanding of liberal education as it affects one's life now and prepares the individual for the future.
- Use writing as a way to discover new information and insights, in short, to learn. Demonstrate a process approach to writing.
- Demonstrate competency in writing including framing questions, posing problems, and synthesizing information to write an academic paper.
- Demonstrate an ability to write effectively for a variety of audiences.
- Gather information for assignments through the use of appropriate technology and evaluate the credibility of sources needed to write an academic paper.
- Read critically and comprehensively to integrate others' ideas with their own.
- Demonstrate behaviors for successful learning including effective study habits, time management, goal setting and coping skills.
- Collaborate with faculty and student advisors to engage with the college community.

Students will complete several pieces of writing, formal and informal, graded or ungraded, this semester. Expect to receive suggestions from your instructor or classmates as you develop writing assignments through multiple drafts. Individual conferences, written comments, small group workshops, the College Writing Center—all may be used to help you as you plan, draft, revise, and edit a piece of writing. At least one writing assignment will involve substantial use of Reeves Library. You will improve your information literacy as you learn to develop and investigate a research topic. By the time you complete your FYS, you should be proficient in the following “**basic competencies**” of information literacy:

- Define a research need
 - Formulate a research topic
 - Determine an information need
- Plan and execute a search for information
 - Identify key terms and concepts
 - Identify the most appropriate sources of information
 - Use Boolean operators and truncation where appropriate
 - Impose limiters (e.g., scholarly vs. popular, date, language)
 - Modify the search based on search results
- Know how and where to find the sources discovered in the search process
 - Determine which sources the library owns or provides access to and retrieve them
 - Request material not owned by the library on Interlibrary Loan
 - Locate material faculty may have put on reserve in the library
- Understand the obligation to credit sources and be able to do so in an appropriate citation style

Subject Matter:

The subject that provides the framework within which we hone our writing skills is poverty in a global context. We will examine what poverty is, and what its dimensions are in the world today. Then we will study the principle economic policy that is being implemented across the globe as a way of combating it – globalization. In the course we will also investigate the impact of globalization on poverty and on environmental sustainability

Course Components:

There are several components of this course:

- Seminar format: readings, discussions, short essays, in-class writing
- Country Studies: oral presentations, group research project
- Student Affairs Fridays & Advising: student life presentations and reflection papers
- Service learning; active work in the Lehigh Valley and journals

The requirements, deadlines, and explanation of all parts of the course can be found on the Blackboard site under Course Components. Please refer to these documents for assignments, deadlines, and grading procedures.

Required Text:

Reading Rhetorically 4th Ed., Bean, John C., Virginia A. Chappell, Alice M. Gillam, Longman. Can be purchased in the Bookstore.

You should expect to make photocopies of many articles and book chapters that are required reading for the course.

Attendance Policy:

All students come to all classes on time.

Should you not be able to attend a class notify the instructor **prior** to the class meeting. Should you be unable to notify the instructor prior to the class you better have a good reason.

Unexcused absences earn a zero for class participation for that day. Too many unexcused absences will result in failing the class.

Late Homework Policy:

All students turn in all homework on time.

Should you be unable to meet your deadline consult with the instructor **before** the deadline.

Unexcused late homework loses one grade (eg A to A-) for each day late. After five class days the assignment receives an F.

Academic Honesty Policy:

See the student handbook on line at:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

Grade Determination:

See "Course Components: Grading" for the way course grades will be calculated.

Disabilities Statement:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Writing Center:

The Writing Center is located in Zinzendorf Hall on the 2nd floor, and is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center please call 610-861-1392.

All course material is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.