

Introduction to College Life
LINC 100
Spring 2015

Instructor: Melissa Labrie
Office: Colonial Hall
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Office Hours: By appointment only
Course will meet Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:45
Comenius Hall, 105
January 20, 2015 - May 5, 2015

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.

COURSE POLICIES and GRADING PROCEDURES:

To ensure fairness across different sections the course grading principles are standardized for all sections. 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 that is aimed at enhancing your college experience. 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 in at least this one course in your first semester at here at Moravian College. We want you to be reinforced for 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.

Breakdown of course requirements:

Three short personal reflection papers	25%
Weekly session at learning center/tutor	20%
Attendance and participation in class	35%
Participation in speaking session in class	10%
Attendance and write-ups of Moravian	10%

College community events	
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Personal Reflection Papers (50 points each)

Each of you will have three opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 250 words). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments and your instructor will design some. Each of these assignments can earn up to 50 points. I may either turn back a submission as unacceptable or award fewer points than the maximum if you do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or do not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. I also have the right to turn back a submission as unacceptable and require you to resubmit a revision if your work does not clearly convey that you have tried to do a good job on the write-up. If this occurs multiple times I may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions or not offer this option to you. Late personal reflection papers can only earn 25 points. I will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes (15 points each class session)

If you miss 5 or more class sessions, you will receive an F for the semester.

This is a heavily weighted component of the course. This reflects our hope that much of your learning experience comes about by active participation in the classes. 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 there really is no way to make it up.

You will earn 15 points for each class up to a maximum of 120 points. The operational definition of attending is coming to class prepared, 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. I may choose to award 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 120 points. Each class you will be given an index card with your name and date on one side. On the other side you will write what you have learned, experienced, would like to know about the prior week(s) with your life here at Moravian College.

Learning Center/Tutoring Sessions (15 points each)

On your 'off' weeks from meeting in the class, you are required to meet with the Learning Center/Tutoring. They will be taking attendance to ensure you are attending and getting any guidance you may need. Each of these sessions is worth 15 pts – there are 8 of them you will be required to attend for a total of 120 possible points.

Community events (50 points each event and write-up)

Moravian College offers students many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside of the classroom, however most students are not used to taking advantage of such opportunities. To help you

develop the habit of exposing yourself to new learning experiences this course requires you to attend 4 Moravian College community

events over the course of the semester.

Here is your first chance to communicate using the written word with a college professor. Make your submission something that you are proud of. It is also the first opportunity for each of us to get a feel for your writing ability and for your ability as a college student. If you have a legitimate conflict with a class, I will suggest an acceptable alternative community event for you to attend. In order to receive credit this alternative must be arranged with me before the date of the class community event. I will assign one of three methods of assessing your participation in a class community event. You may be asked to do a write-up as explained below, participate in a class discussion, or participate in a class discussion right before or after the event.

In addition you will be asked to choose 1 other approved events to serve as individual community events.

A written reaction paper (write-up) is required for each individual community event that you attend.

Each write-up (250 word minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event. While these write-ups are not graded per se it is hoped that you will make them high quality submissions, typical of what one could expect from a successful college student. I have the right to either turn back a submission as unacceptable or award fewer points than the maximum if you do not use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation or does not clearly demonstrate acceptable college level work. Each community write-up can earn up to 50 points. If the write-up of the event is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 25 points. Attending four community events and handing in a write-up on each on time earns you up to 200 points.

What qualifies as a community event that an individual can attend? Any program that is sponsored or co-sponsored by Student Affairs or IMPACT. In addition, I will announce other events that take place throughout the fall semester that qualify.

Speaking assignment (100 points)

In our ICL course you will have the opportunity to do this. We will choose as a class how to choose this exercise (a group presentation, an exercise that involves personal self-disclosure, an exercise that involves interviewing a faculty member, or developing a speech about something that had a major impact on you during your first semester here at Moravian College.) The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points.

Grade Conversion Chart

93% = A

90% – 92% = A-

87% – 89% = B+

83% – 86% = B

80% – 82% = B-

77% – 79% = C+

73% – 76% = C

70% – 72% = C-

67% – 69% = D+

65% - 67% = D

Below 64% = F

LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities and/or ADHD, should contact Elaine Mara Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support, 1st floor of Monocacy Hall or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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 a writing

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 Dean's Office at which time you are given the chance to provide your perspective on the matter.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The consequences of assignments being handed in late are spelled out in the grading procedures section of the syllabus.

Note:

Please note that it 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.

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.

(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 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.

(3) 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.

(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 college with greater confidence and efficacy.

Course Flow and Assignments

Counseling Center, Health Center and Religious Life

Academic Support Center

International Education & Center for Intercultural Advancement & Inclusion

Career Center

Student Involvement & Leadership

1/20: First Meeting

- Introductions. Tell us all a little bit about yourselves!
- Setting the expectations for the course.
- Review LINC 100 Syllabus

1/27:

- Bring syllabus for all your courses. Any questions?
- What did you learn your first week?
- Rubie Ghazal, Coordinator of Global Inclusion will be introducing herself to the class and how she is here to help you.
- Groups of 4 to review what Rubie talked about.
 - o Email Rubie a letter with the following:
 - o Each student will discuss in the group and each student will come up with their own challenge and their own solution.
 - o Email to Rubie ghazalr@moravian.edu and Melissa labriem@moravian.edu by Friday 1/30/2015
 - What did you expect Rubie to talk about?
 - What do you consider your biggest challenge here at Moravian College?
 - What is your solution to this challenge?

2/3:

- Ashley Forsythe from Career Center, presentation and Q&A.

2/10:

- Discuss Week 2 Group Findings as a class

- Review Google Education Apps as a class

2/24:

Health Center Video, class discussion to follow.

- **Exploring the differences between your home and Bethlehem, PA/Moravian College.** This first reflection paper is due no later than 6:30 pm 9/30 or 3/3 (depending on YOUR required class meeting date).

- Personal Reflection paper #1 due Tuesday 3/3 by 6:30 pm via email or Google Drive

3/3:

- EVERYONE is required to attend a campus wide from the prior week and submit paper via Google Drive by 6:30 pm Tuesday 3/17/2015

- Submit personal reflection paper #1 via blackboard no later than 6:30 pm on YOUR designated class meeting date.

3/3:

- Attend third campus event, STUDENT CHOICE. Must be sponsored by Student Affairs, IMPACT or Athletics. Submit required paper no later than 6:30 pm Tuesday 3/17.

3/10:

- No class. Spring break.

3/17:

- Discuss group presentation topics

3/24:

- Discuss group presentation topics
- Reflection paper #2: Reflect upon the first two months here at Moravian College.

3/31:

- Questions on group presentations?
- Review article assigned by Professor Labrie
- Work in groups to write 1-2 page summary

4/7:

- Group summary on article due Tuesday 4/7/2015 by 6:30 pm via email or Google Drive
- Class discussion on assigned article

4/14:

- Assign final reflection paper due Tuesday May 5 by 6:30 pm via email or Google Drive

4/21:

- Begin Group Presentations

4/28:

- Finalize Group Presentations