

Introduction to College Life (LINC 100) Spring 2016

Instructors

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Course start/end dates: January 21, 2016 - May 5, 2016

Course meeting time: Thursdays 6:30 – 7:45 pm & Study Hall: 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Required Text:

Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

by Anna Deavere Smith

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.

Intended Student Outcomes

STUDENT OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students will:

Prepare for College Life at Moravian College through:

- 1) becoming familiar with college policies related to their role as students and members of the Moravian College community.
- 2) understanding the expectations and responsibilities of being a college student, and a member of the Moravian College community.

Get Introduced to Liberal Education through:

- 1) identifying and understanding the general goals and purposes of the liberal arts and sciences tradition for individuals and within society.
- 2) articulating the value of liberal learning for their own personal and professional success.

Acquire Academic Survival Skills through

- 1) demonstrating 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) pursuing their educational goals with greater confidence and efficacy.

Develop Personal Coping Skills through

- 1) identifying and understanding aspects of themselves (learning styles, communication styles, coping styles, personal values, cultural values) that will affect personal well being and academic success.
- 2) engaging in a variety of coping skills that work best for them in challenging situations.
- 3) pursuing their personal goals and handle the challenges of adjustment college with greater confidence and efficacy.

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 and ultimately in the college community since the course 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. 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:

Writing three personal reflection papers	15%
Campus involvement and bi-weekly study hall sessions	15%
Service project and reflection	20%
Assigned book reading and quizzes	20%
Group Research Project & Presentation	20%
Class participation and Attendance	10%

Personal Reflection Papers (15% total - 5% each)

Each of you will have three opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 300-500 words). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments and your instructor will design some related to attending college events. Each of these assignments can earn up to 100 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 will not be accepted. However, you will get a chance to make up one assignment. I will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class.

Campus Involvement and Study Hall with the Center for Academic Support (15 % total)

The study hall will meet after class every other week starting January 28th, from 8:00 pm till 9:00 pm. On the weeks when we do not have a study hall, you are required to take advantage of the campus resources or be involved in campus activities. For example, you can meet with the Tutoring Coordinator from the Academic Support Center to ensure you are doing well in classes and getting any guidance you may need, or you can attend a play, lecture, basketball game, club meeting, ... etc. The Coordinator and/or tutors will be taking attendance during the study hall, so be there and when you attend a campus event, you need to provide a proof of attendance. You can use those events to write the reflection papers required for this class.

Community Service Project and Personal Reflection Paper (20%)

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 participate in one Moravian College community service event in collaboration with the Civic Engagement Center. If you have a legitimate conflict with a class, I will suggest an acceptable alternative community event for you to attend. Attending the reflection session, participating in the discussion and writing a reaction paper (write-up) is required for the community service event that you attend.

Each write-up (300-400 word minimum) is due within one week of the date of the reflection session held in class with the Director of the Civic Engagement Center. 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 service and write-up can earn up to 100 points. If the write-up of the event is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 50 points.

Twilight Los Angeles, 1992 - Book reading and quizzes (four quizzes) (20%)

Here is your first chance to communicate academic content with a college professor. Make your participation something that you are proud of. It is also the first opportunity for each of us to get a feel for your reading and speaking ability and for your ability as a college student. We will require occasional quizzes or 100 word reflections but at the end of the semester you will be required to show your understanding of the book through an assignment that you and your professor will agree on, it could be a paper, a role play, a poem or any other form .

Group Research Project and Presentation (20%)

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. See Google Document for further details.

Class participation and attendance (10%)

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 10 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 10 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.

If you miss 4 or more class sessions, you will receive an F for the semester.

Extra Credit

You can attend any program that is sponsored or co-sponsored by Student Affairs or MAC and get extra credit for. To receive the extra credit, you will need to write a reflection piece. In addition, I will announce other events that take place throughout the fall semester that qualify.

Grade Conversion Chart

93% + =	A	76% =	C
90 - 92% =	A-	72% =	C-
87- 89% =	B+	69% =	D+
84- 86% =	B	67% =	D
80 - 82% =	B-	64% =	F
77 - 79% =	C+		

LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

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](tel: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 of 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 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.

Tentative Course Schedule

1/21: First Meeting

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

1/28 (Study Hall):

- **Guest Speaker Lynn Noble - Local Photographer and Book writer**
- **Chinese Student Group Visit.**

Study Hall:

- Bring syllabus for all your courses. Any questions?
- Calendar Presentation During Study Hall- Dana

2/4:

- How to Study and get organized - study time - Dana Wilson, Tutoring Coordinator, Center for Academic Support
- If time allows: Group work:
 - Groups of 4 to review first week of classes
 - What did you learn your first week? Discuss in the group and come up with challenge and solutions.

Reflection I: (Due Friday 2/11/2016)

- Submit your first reflection explaining what you consider your biggest challenge here at Moravian College and your solution to this challenge.

2/11 (Study Hall):

- Civic Engagement and Service Projects (6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)
- Student Development and Conduct presentation
- Guest speaker: Dean Chris Hunt (starting 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm)

Study Hall:

Tutors will come to study Hall - Econ, Computer Science

2/18:

- Reading Difficult / long text (with Dana Wilson)

- Reflection II (Due Friday 2/26/2016):

You will be given a long text as homework. Try to read it over the weekend, and write a 500-word reflection on your experience. How many pages did you read, how long it took you, how difficult it was, the strategies you used to understand the text, what you understood, and how you felt at the end.

2/25 (Study Hall):

- Black History Month Presentation 7:00 pm to 9:00 (Extra credit reflection paper) (Foy Hall)
- Meet at 6:15 in front of the HUB and take the Shuttle to South Campus.

For extra credit you can submit a 500-word reflection on Activism: Then and Now.

HW: Read prologue and time line at the end of “Twilight”

3/3:

- Twilight Discussion
- **Quiz 1**
- Discuss group presentation topics.
- Group project pyramid discussion. Finalize groups. Theme: Education.

3/10:Spring Break - No classes**3/17 (Study Hall):**

- Twilight Discussion
- **Quiz 2**
- Discuss group presentation details.
- Each team presents their plan for the presentation.
- Questions on group presentations?

Study Hall

- Discuss Mid term reports

3/24:

- Searching academic sources using Reeves Library website.
- Pick a theme from your research project, find an academic or news article, documentary, any scholarly related

documentation related to the topic and share with the group and instructor.

3/31 (Study Hall):

-Twilight Discussion

- Quiz 3

- Academic article or documentary from your project is due

- Group discussion - project article(s)

- Progress report - summary of all articles as one group document; include in the report where you are at in the process and if you have any challenges. To be submitted by email to instructors at the end of the class.

Study Hall

- Workshop on - communication group work, group dynamics, teamwork - Possible guest Dr. Tracy Hill

4/7:

-Twilight Discussion

- Quiz 4

- Service Project : Community presentations; details to follow.

4/14 (Last Study Hall):

- Working on your resume

- Possible Guest speaker - Michael Hertel

Study Hall:

Last day of study Hall - reflections.

4/21:

- Final Project Group Presentations

- Index cards back to be used for Reflection III.

Reflection III (Due Thursday 4/28/2016)

Write a 500-word reflection paper on your work this spring semester. Use the notes from your index card to help you structure your paper.

4/28 Last Day of Classes.

- Submit group project paper

- Submit Final Reflection III