

Moravian College

LinC 101 C (aka FYS)

Notes from the Toy Department: Reading and Writing about Sport

**Dr. Joel Nathan Rosen, Associate Professor of
Sociology
PPHAC 311**

Email: rosenj@moravian.edu

**Office Hours: T & Th 3:45 – 4:30p, W 1 – 2:30p,
or by Appointment**

****Please check email and Google Drive routinely**¹**

*****Syllabus Information from the FYS Program Guide*****

Course Description and Objectives

First-Year Seminar introduces writing as a process that is central to college learning and to life. First-Year Seminar 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 section of First-Year Seminar 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.

With regard to broad academic and writing skills, by the end of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate a process approach to writing.

¹ And please email using proper grammar and etiquette. I am particularly aggrieved by such things.

- Use writing as a way to discover new information and insights—in short, to learn.
- Demonstrate competency in writing including framing questions, posing problems, and synthesizing information to write an academic paper.
- 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.

With regard to transition to college expectations, 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.
- Practice behaviors for successful learning including effective study habits, time management, goal setting and coping skills.
- Collaborate with faculty and student advisors and engage with the College community—students, faculty and staff—to promote the students' success at Moravian College.

Course Requirements

Each student enrolled in First-Year Seminar will complete several pieces of writing, formal and informal, graded and/or ungraded. Students should expect to receive suggestions from their instructor or classmates as they 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 should involve substantial use of Reeves Library. Students will develop information literacy as they learn to identify and investigate a research topic. By the time students complete First-Year Seminar; therefore, they 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

*****From Dr. Rosen's Individual Course Requirements*****

Course Description:

This course will explore the unique relationship between sport and American society by examining the best (as well as worst) of sport journalism dating back to the late 19th century through the present. Throughout, we will be reading, writing and speaking about sport while tracing the evolution of a cultural change that takes sport from its place among the fringes and into the mainstreams of contemporary life.

Required Text:

- Readings to be announced and posted throughout the term.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce college life and learning from a decidedly academic perspective
- To provide discussion of best practices in terms of studying, note-taking, engagement, and the likes in a college environment
- To think and write in an effective and focused fashion befitting the collegiate academic level
- To consider sport as a legitimate lever for understanding and interpreting the popular world

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to take write a number of papers of various lengths and types, negotiate an extended research project consisting of several components and steps, prepare presentations in both individual as well as group settings (and each with an individual writing component), and perform other tasks including taking quizzes, writing impromptu warm-ups works, as well as experiencing a range of cultural and enrichment-type activities all geared toward demystifying the collegiate environment. Fair warning will precede any due date, though quizzes are generally unannounced prior.

The breakdown of your final grade will be as follows:

Each of the five units (see below) will be worth 20% of your final tally

As I typically employ letter grades on written assignments, I offer the below list of how each letter translates numerically:

- A+=100/A= 96/A-=93
- B+=89/B=86/B-=83
- C+=79/C=76/C-=73
- D+=69/D=66/D-=63
- F=55-50 [actual score depends on the severity of the error(s)/student will be notified]
- Failure to turn in work translates into a *ZERO*

Final Grade Scale:

- A=100-95/A-=94-90
- B+=89-88/B=87-84/B-=83-80
- C+=79-78/C=77-74/C-=73-70
- D+=69-68/D=67-64/D-=63-60
- F=59...

Grade Advisory – While I respect that students have to be grade conscious, it is imperative that students understand that:

I treat evaluations as professional—not personal!

Do not ask from me anything that steps outside the boundaries of proper decorum, and do not wait until the 11th hour to inquire as to your status. It is your responsibility to keep abreast of your own grade calculations, and unless the circumstances are unique, I'll leave you to your own devices on that matter. Also, to save us all needless heartache, and in the interest of propriety and our collective mental health, I also have to insist on a twenty-four hour grace period before I will speak to you about any returned work. You may find that this cooling off period is exactly what we both need to come together rationally and in the spirit of liberal learning.

Finally, you are required to attend at least one office hour session during the semester, and it is mandatory that you appear during office hours to discuss/go over in much greater detail any assignment graded below a C-.

Classroom Decorum and Expectations:

Attendance – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but may also be

met with a lowered mark for participation.

- There are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to my attention at your first possible opportunity.

Tardiness – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one's fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter.

Deadlines – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:

- On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a one letter deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury
- Do not expect me to have to chase you down in order to turn in assignments!

Participation – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process. Your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to do so is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively.

Disruptions – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breach will not be tolerated. **This is especially true with cell phone use and the use of other electronic devices during instruction time.** Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual's ability to learn but also affects others.

Academic Honesty – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found on pages fifty-two through fifty-seven in your student handbook.

Please Note: It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same as well.

Out of Class Submission Requirements (non-negotiable and subject to major negative impact)²:

² Watch out for additions to this list throughout the term.

- a title page with a suitable title, your name, the course, section, and my name all spelled correctly
- 12 font (Times New Roman in black) with default margins and double-spaced
- page numbers
- a *References* section (if necessary) at the end of the work done in the most recent citation form of your choice (depends on your major and other factors)³
- for every unedited internet site there must be at least *two* published sources
- with few exceptions, single & two-digit numbers (zero *through* ninety-nine) are to be spelled out; three digits are to be written numerically
- All writing assignments require the use of Oxford commas.
- Please limit (or omit altogether) the use of the passive voice as well as clauses/sentences that end in prepositions.
- be wary of overuse of abbreviations and/or contractions
- a staple in the upper left-hand corner (no frilly covers)

****Please Note that any in-class work must be done in blue or black ink****

Notes on Writing and Research:

As this instructor is particularly driven by written expression, you should expect that there will be an emphasis placed on written expression in this course. I should also like you to know from the start that I spend a great deal of time poring over your writing and expect that you will read and explore my commentary on all things ranging from content to grammar, punctuation, and syntax. Please try to check your ego at the doors and realize that this is a learning experience while convincing yourself that blips and missteps are all part of the process.

You should also note that where applicable, this instructor expects his students to deal directly with all matters relating to the citation process. Failure to do so will be dealt with harshly with penalties ranging from a zero on work not properly documented to a formal report to the proper academic disciplinary committee.

A Note on Academic and Disability Support:

Moravian College encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the event sponsor at least one week prior to the event. Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Academic and Disability Support at 610/861-1401 (office located on the first floor of

³ Work not properly cited will not be graded and could be brought to the Academic Standards Committee under a charge of plagiarism. If you have questions, please seek me out. Also, *Wikipedia* and other types of non-academic encyclopedias will under no circumstances be considered legitimate sources!

Monocacy Hall). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support Office.

The Academic Support Center also houses Greyhound Tutoring, which provides course-specific tutors to Moravian students, free of charge. If you would like to work with a Greyhound Tutor to boost your academic success, please request a tutor through <http://bit.ly/NeedTutorMC> (case-sensitive). Plan ahead as it takes 2-3 business days to connect you with a tutor.

Please contact Dana Wilson (wilsond@moravian.edu), Tutor Coordinator, for more information about tutoring or Laurie Roth (rothl@moravian.edu), Director of Academic and Disability Support, for more information about disability support.



Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as Famine, Pestilence, Destruction and Death. These are only aliases. Their real names are Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden. They formed the crest of the South Bend cyclone before which another fighting Army football team was swept over the precipice at the Polo Grounds yesterday afternoon as 55,000 spectators peered down on the bewildering panorama spread on the green plain below.
-Grantland Rice, *New York Herald Tribune*, 18 October 1924

Course Agenda⁴

Early Innings:

Pretest and Other Diagnostic Moments

College Writing and Expectations (aka ‘this isn’t the 13th grade!’)

The Tool Box: Phrases, Clauses, and Paragraphs

- The Five Paragraph Essay (is competition misanthropic?)

⁴ This schedule is for Tuesday/Thursday sessions. Each unit will last approximately three weeks. Friday events will be announced throughout the term (see below).

Settling In:

The Toy Department, and Its Greatest Voices

Thinking before Writing about Sport

Muscular Christianity and Americanization

- Covering the Super Bowl in 1000 Words

*****Midterm Grades Due to Registrar*****

Middle Relief:

Interrogating Geertz's assertion ('sport is a story we tell about ourselves')

My Team, Your Team: the Challenge of Rivalries

Keeping Objectivity Alive (in a subjective environment)

- Writing the Op/Ed (with Roundtable Discussion)

Late Inning Turbulence:

College Level Research

Managing Fact and Fiction

Analytics: Behind and Beyond the Numbers

- Annotated Bibliographies and Source Reviews (Choosing Topics Aloud)

Ninth Inning Heroics:

Beyond the Working Thesis

Crafting the Drafts

Putting it All Together

- The Term Paper (with Formal Presentation)

A Note on the Friday Events Schedule:

I have cobbled together what I hope you will find a usual schedule for our Friday 'Events Day.' It will consist of a range of academic, social, and even cultural activities that will coincide with opportunities to further your progress in fitting both *in* and *out* here at Moravian College. Among my plans will be opportunities to engage with speakers of various types and backgrounds, tutorial sessions, times for us to meet as individuals, and, weather permitting, a group outing to a sporting event (not on a Friday). This schedule will be released as plans are firmly cemented. Please consult Google Drive and group emails I'll be sending to this effect.

Friday Attendance Addendum:

Failure to attend these sessions could result in your final grade being lowered by one letter for every two absences. Consider yourself advised as such!