Introduction to College Life
LINC 100.2 (Sections E & P)

Fall 2005

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ICL Course Information:

Class meets each Monday from 2:20-3:30pm.
Classroom: PPHAC (Room 302)

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.
Required Readings:


Moravian College Student Handbook.

Moravian College Catalog.

## Course Outline

(Bold face print – Class meetings)  
(Standard print – Important dates and events)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td><em>Discussion of common summer reading</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td><em>Introductions, Syllabus Review, and Survival Tips from the Student Advisors</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td><em>Library Information Session 7 pm (Fluck)</em></td>
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<td>August 30</td>
<td><em>Library Information Session 7 pm (Zaremba)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td><em>No Class- Labor day</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td><em>Last Day of Drop/Add Period</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td><em>Campus Organizations: Getting Involved</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td><em>Thought Paper 1: Page 18 Select Journal Entry 1 or 2</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Organizational Fair</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
September 19  Family Ties

Readings 31, 32, 33, & 34

**Thought Paper 2:** Reflect upon the importance of your parents in your own development.

**Film:** Frosh-Home for Break

September 24  *Family Day*

September 26  Student Services Panel

Readings 10, 25 & 29

**Thought Paper 3:** Write a list of all of the things that contribute to feeling pressured at the moment. How do you plan to address these pressures? or Think of a crisis that you experienced in HS and write about all of the things you did in order to resolve it.

October 5  *Cohen Arts & Lecture event*

October 3  High Risk Behaviors: Date Rape

Reading 19 & 27

**Thought Paper 4:** Page 104 Select Journal Entry 1 or 2.

October 10 & 11  *Fall Recess*

October 17  Leadership and Community Service

Mid-Term Review

October 22  *Homecoming*

October 24  Alumni Panel

October 31  Party

November 7  Advising – No Class (Individual Appointments)
November 11  

*Last Day for “W”*

November 14  
Diversity and Tolerance: Video and Discussion  
Readings 5, 6, 12 & 36  

**Thought Paper 5:** Why study diversity and tolerance in an Introduction to College Life Class?  

**Film:** Out of the Past

November 21  
High Risk Behavior: Drugs and Alcohol  
Reading 26  

**Film:** Frosh-It’s Much too Late to Sleep

November 23, 24, & 25  

*Thanksgiving Break*

November 28  
Study Abroad

December 5  
Open Meeting – Topic to be Determined  

**Thought Paper 6:** To be determined

December 12  
Closure, Evaluations, and Party
Course Requirements

Attendance and participation in class (20pts per class) 40%
Completion of 6 thought papers (40pts each) 24%
Attendance and written descriptions of 5 community events (30pts each)* 20%
Participation and Speaking in Class (100pts) 10%
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending a course registration meeting (60pts) 6%

*with an additional 60pts for attending the Russell community event before classes begin.

Late assignments.

All late work is penalized. Late assignments automatically lose half their value (i.e., a thought paper that would have been worth 40pts can earn a maximum of 20). Naturally, assignments that are not submitted receive no credit (0 pts).

Point Conversion and Final Course Grades:

930+ = A
900-929 = A-
870-899 = B+
830-869 = B
800-829 = B-
770-799 = C+
730-769 = C
700-729 = C-
670-699 = D+
630-669 = D
600-629 = D-
less than 600 = F
Explanation of Course Requirements

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 totally 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 college. This also means that your instructor’s energy will be primarily going to trying to help you get the most out of this course and in helping you to get off to a good start in college. This should also allow you to develop a good open working relationship with your new academic advisor. This also means that you ICL instructor will not be grading, per se, each assignment that you complete for the course. With respect to grades your instructor will be functioning much like a bookkeeper and keep track of the points you have earned over the course of the semester. 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. (See Course Requirements on p. 1 of this syllabus).

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes

This is the most 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. So each class has 15 formal class meeting times, one during fall orientation to discuss our common summer reading and 14 seventy-minute classes, meeting once a week throughout the semester. Your class will not have a formal meeting the week of freshman registration for the spring semester. This is done so that your instructor will be available to have individual meetings with each of you. This special week will be announced in class during the semester.

You will earn 20 points for each class up to a maximum of 300 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. Your instructor may choose to award partial credit rather than all 20 points if
you do not meet this expectation. Attending all classes earns you 300 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 30% of your final grade.

**Thought Papers**

Each of you will have six opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 350 words). Each of these assignments, if deemed acceptable and handed in on time, will earn 40 points. Late personal reflection papers can only earn 20 points. Your instructor will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class. Handing in six acceptable personal reflection papers on time will earn you 240 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 24% of your final grade.

**Community Events**

College offers students many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside of the classroom, however most students straight out of high school 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 6 community events over the course of the semester.

The first and only community event required of the whole freshman class is attendance at the presentation by the author of our common summer reading, Mary Doria Russell. In recognition of the significance of this particular community event (50 points) it is weighted more heavily than the other five (30 points each). 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 your instructor, who is also your academic advisor, to get a feel for your writing ability and for your ability as a college student.

Your class and/or your instructor will designate the types of events that qualify as community events for this program. One or more of these community events may be designated as a class community event that you all go to together. If you have a legitimate conflict with a class community event your instructor will suggest an acceptable alternative community event for you to attend. Each write-up (250 word minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event. As long as a good faith effort is made full point values will be earned. If the write-up of the event is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 15 points. Your instructor has the right to turn back a submission as unacceptable and require you to resubmit a revision if your work doesn’t clearly convey that you have tried to do a good job on the write-up. If this occurs multiple times your instructor may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions. Attending six community events and handing in a write-up on each on time earns you 200 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 20% of your final grade.
**Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting**

Your instructor will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with her/him preceding registration for the spring semester. The dates of these individual meetings may vary depending on whether you are an Add-Venture student, a Comenius scholar, or in the general program. As part of this process it is critical that you both understand the LinC curriculum and thoughtfully prepare for this meeting with your academic advisor. This means, for example, that you check the college catalog for specific requirements for any fields that you are considering majoring in. You also need to identify six courses as possibilities to discuss with your advisor. You will also write down an explanation for why you chose each of these courses as possibilities. Your instructor will provide you with a form to help you to do this. It is your responsibility to thoughtfully fill this out and bring it to this meeting. The reason for requiring you to choose six courses even though most students will only enroll in four full unit courses (Some may also be taking Fitness and Wellness) is to ensure that you still select an optimal schedule for yourself even if one or two of the courses that you have selected are closed when it comes time for you to actually register. This planning is so crucial to your college success that you earn 60 points for scheduling, preparing, and attending these individual meetings. This is the equivalent to earning a 100 on a test that counted 6% of your final grade.

**Academic Honesty**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of someone else’s work as your own. Plagiarism includes such instances as quoting directly from a published work without proper citation, inserting another author’s words as your own, using or “borrowing” another student’s work, buying a paper from a professional service, and the like. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is and seeking guidance (from your faculty advisor, the Student Handbook) where you are uncertain. College policy requires that you keep all notes, note cards, and rough drafts for papers and assignments until a final course grade is given. Evidence of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with in accordance with the College policy on academic honesty found in the Student Handbook. The Academic Dean’s Office is immediately alerted in all cases of suspected or confirmed cheating or plagiarism.