Introduction to College Life
Fall, 2005

INSTRUCTOR: Doug Pollard
Office Phone #: 610-861-1568
Home Phone 610-258-1588
Office: ARC
FAX #: 610-625-7954
E-Mail: medlp@moravian.edu

STUDENT ADVISOR: Julia Gasdaska
Campus Phone #: 610-625-6838
E-mail: stjegO3@moravian.edu

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:

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 Coach Pollard’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 me, This also means that I will not be grading, per se, each assignment that you complete for the course. With respect to grades I 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.

The workload for this course has been carefully designed to take into account that you are probably also enrolled in four other courses as well as possibly taking Fitness and Wellness this semester. It is composed of six different components. Each of which is explained below.

Attendance and participation in scheduled classes                                    30%
Completion of 5 outside of class short personal reflection papers                   24%
Attendance and write-ups of community events                                        20%
Development of a personal education plan or substitute assignment                  10%
Participation in a speaking assignment                                             10%
Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting                         6%

**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 regularly scheduled classes, meeting once a week through out 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. I may choose to award partial credit rather than all 20 points if you do not meet this expectation. Please note that if you miss a class the points for that class can not 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 300 points, the equivalent of a 100 on a test that counted 30% of your final grade.
Personal reflection Papers

Each of you will have five opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 300 words). Some of these will be related to the reading assignments and I will design some. 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. I have 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 I may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions. I will make the specific assignments and let you know of their due dates in class. Handing in five 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 5 community events over the course of the semester. The first will occur during freshmen orientation and the others will be spread out over 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. In recognition of the significance of this particular community event (60 points) it is weighted more heavily than the other four (35 points each). Here is your first chance to communicate using the written word with me. Make your submission something that you are proud of. It is also the first opportunity for me, your academic advisor, to get a feel for your writing ability and for your ability as a college student.

Several of these community events will be designated as class community events that you all go to together. I may decide to designate an event as a required class community event that does not appear on this list. If you have a legitimate conflict with a class community event 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 0, 1, or 2 other approved events to serve as individual community events, depending on how many class community events are designated. A written reaction paper (write-up) is required for each individual community event that you attend.

Each write-up (300 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. As long as a good faith effort is made full point value (35 points) will be earned. If the write-up of the event is handed in late the maximum point value that can be earned is 20 points. I have 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 I may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions. Attending five 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.

What qualifies as a community event that an individual can attend? Any program that is sponsored or co-sponsored by the M.C. Arts and Lectures Committee as well as the Cohen lecture automatically qualify. In addition, I will announce other events that take place throughout the fall semester that qualify.

Personal education plan (PEP)

We want your college experience to be positive. We also want you to be aware of all the different educational, personal, and social opportunities that Moravian College offers its students. One way to ensure that this happens is to ask each of you to take personal responsibility for your educational plan and to have you spend some time during your first semester in college thinking about your future. That is what this assignment is intended to do. I will provide you with the details of this plan that you will be completing for this course. As long as it is handed in on time and I deem it of acceptable quality you will earn 100 points for completing this component of the course. A PEP that is turned in late can only earn 50 points.

(3) Individual Planning for Education at Moravian College and Beyond
STUDENT OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1) articulate their specific goals, objectives, and plans for their personal education
2) execute strategies and tools to help them renew and revise these plans in the future.

Speaking assignment

As part of our Learning in Common Curriculum the college has mandated a Speaking Across the Curriculum component that every student should experience. In our ICL course you will have the opportunity to do this. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points.

Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting

I will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with me 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 me. 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 me. The reason for requiring you to choose six course— 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.