Introduction to College Life
Fall, 2005

INSTRUCTOR: Angela Lutzi, M.S.       STUDENT ADVISOR: Teriane Johns
Office Phone: 610.861.1510       Campus Phone: 610.625.6275
Home Phone 610.756.3001       AOL Screen Name: TA0418
Office: Counseling Center, 1307 Main Street         E-mail: sttrj02@moravian.edu
E-Mail: angela@moravian.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a half unit (.50) course requirement. The primary goals of this course are to:

- introduce first-year students to the intellectual life and culture of Moravian College
- promote a smooth transition to college life
- 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
- assisting your engagement in college life.

STUDENT ADVISOR:

I am extremely happy and privileged to be working with all of you this semester. As your student advisor, I want you to know that throughout this semester and your entire college career I will be at your side whenever you need me. Please do not ever hesitate to call, email, or IM me anytime you need help or have a question.

In this LinC class, my goals may seem very broad, but they are very important. I want to help each of you learn the so-called “ropes” of Moravian College. I want you to learn how to succeed academically and socially. By the end of this semester, Moravian College should feel like your home, and your classmates your family members.
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 determined by your willingness to become actively involved in this course. Please make sure that you understand what you have to do in order to earn a superior grade in the course.

The workload for this course has been carefully designed to take into account that you are probably also enrolled in four other courses. Some of you may also be enrolled in Fitness and Wellness this semester. This course is composed of six separate components.

Evaluation Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation in scheduled classes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of 6 personal reflection papers</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and write-ups of community events</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of a personal education plan or substitute assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a speaking assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Attendance/Participation

Attendance will be taken in class. It is essential that you attend each and every class (unless in the case of illness or emergency) because of the nature of the course. The final grade relies heavily on class discussion and interpretation of the course material. All reading is to be done outside of class and students should come to class prepared to discuss what they have read.
Some classes will involve group activities, while others will have guest speakers and/or panels sharing information and important insights about college. If you miss a particular class, then you will have missed an important learning experience without the opportunity to make it up.

You will earn 20 points for each class up to a maximum of 300 points. Please come to class prepared. You should arrive on time, actively participate, and stay to the end of class. Simply “showing up” is not sufficient and points will be deducted for tardiness or failure to participate. Please note that if you miss a class, you will not have the opportunity to earn back those points. The grading format has enough flexibility built into it that even if you must 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 six opportunities over the course of the semester to generate personal reflection papers (minimum of 250 words). Topics will vary and will be assigned a week ahead of time. 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 has the right to turn back a submission as unacceptable and require you to resubmit a revision. If this occurs multiple times, your instructor may decide to award only partial credit for resubmissions. **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**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities for additional learning that occur outside of the classroom. It is strongly recommended that you begin to expose yourself to new learning experiences that are offered throughout the course of the academic year. This course requires you to attend 5 community events during the first semester. The first event will occur during freshmen orientation (author of freshman reading, Maria Dora Russell) and the others will be spread out over the semester.

**Because the entire freshman class is required to attend the common summer reading presentation, this event is weighted more heavily (60 points) than the other four events (35 points each).**
Two or more community events will be designated as class community events that will be attended as a class. Community events will be discussed and assigned as the semester progresses. If there is a legitimate conflict with a class community event, an acceptable alternative community event will be assigned. In order to receive credit, the alternative event must be arranged with your instructor before the date of the class community event. Instructors will assign one of three methods of assessing your participation in a class community event. You may be asked to write an additional reflection paper based on the event, or to participate in a class discussion that focuses on the attended event.

Each reflection paper (250 word minimum) is due within one week of the date of the event. If you are expected to participate in a classroom discussion in lieu of a reflection paper, no paper will be required. The reflection paper/participation in classroom discussion will be worth 35 points. Attending five community events and handing in a reflection paper or participating in a classroom discussion for each event is worth 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, your instructor may announce other events that take place throughout the fall semester that qualify.

**Personal Education Plan (PEP)**

It is essential that you are made aware of all the different educational, personal, and social opportunities that Moravian College offers its students. One way to ensure that this occurs 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. The Personal Education Plan will help to inspire you set some important personal, educational and career goals. Your instructor will provide you with the details of the plan. As long as the plan is handed in on time (due date to be determined) and your instructor deems 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.

**Speaking assignment**

As part of the Learning in Common curriculum, the college has mandated a Speaking Across the Curriculum component that every student should
experience. Students will be assigned a short speaking assignment at some point during the semester that will be presented to classmates. The total point value that can be earned for this component of the course is 100 points.

**Scheduling, preparing for, and attending individual meeting**

Your instructor will ask you to arrange for an individual meeting with her 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 that you should read the college catalog and have an understanding of the specific requirements for any major that you are considering. You also need to identify six courses as possibilities to discuss with your advisor. Provide your instructor with a written explanation for your choices. Your instructor will provide you with a form to help you to do this. It is your responsibility to thoughtfully complete the form and bring it to your individual meeting. It is important for you to select **six possible** courses in case one or more of the classes you have chosen close early. **This planning is crucial to your college success and will earn you 60 points. This is the equivalent to earning a 100 on a test that counted 6% of your final grade.**

**Point Value Conversion Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>930+</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 – 929</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>870 – 899</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>830 – 869</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 – 829</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>770 – 799</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>730 – 769</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 – 729</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>670 – 699</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630 – 669</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 – 629</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 600</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LEARNING DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities and/or ADHD, should contact Mrs. Laurie Roth, Director of Learning Services, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510).

Students who wish to request accommodations for support of other disabilities, should contact Dr. Ron Kline, Director of the Counseling Center, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510).

Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

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

Policy on Academic Honesty

Recognized standards of honesty are part of the foundation on which the integrity of an academic community rests. Accordingly, the Moravian College Faculty in 1986 adopted a statement on academic honesty, the standards of which will be strictly applied in this course. You are encouraged to read carefully the description of this policy which is printed in your Student Handbook. If you are unsure about the propriety of a given procedure or approach for completing assigned work in this course, please consult with me before completing the assignment. Any breach of the College’s honesty code will constitute grounds for the assignment of a failing grade in the course.

REQUIRED READINGS


College Student Handbook

College Catalog

Additional Readings handed out in class

*Please note while I will try to hold to the flow of the syllabus it is subject to change over the course of the semester.

Reading and Topic Schedule
Fall, 2005

Sunday, August 28: Book discussion/lecture
Tuesday, August 30: Introduction, Overview, and Procedures
Ice breakers/getting to know you
Tuesday, September 6: Managing time effectively
Tuesday, September 13: Adjusting to College Life
Tuesday, September 20: Potential mishaps, slip-ups and hazards
Tuesday, September 27: Student Advisor – free reign!
Tuesday, October 4: TBA
Tuesday, October 11: No Class, Fall Break
Tuesday, October 18: Study Abroad presentation
Tuesday, October 25: Are you an ENFP, too? Personality plus!
Tuesday, November 1: very special community event
Focus on diversity!
Tuesday, November 8: class discussion/community event
Tuesday, November 15: Alumni panel
Tuesday, November 22: TBA
Tuesday, November 29: TBA

Tuesday, December 6: Final class! Time to wrap up.....