

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

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30093, IDS K105, M07
Fall 2006
T, 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM
Mohegan Campus, RM 103

PREREQUISITES

Satisfactory reading placement test scores and/or completion of the ESL 060 and 061 courses are the only prerequisites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The content of this course is designed to assist students with their transition to college. Information covered and assigned work is intended to increase the likelihood that this transition is successful and rewarding for the student. You can expect regular reading and writing assignments along with classroom discussion/public speaking as you investigate how to be successful in this new environment. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary learning strategies, life management skills, active participation in the college community, and critical thinking skills necessary for any college student. This course is recommended for all first or second semester students and can be used as an open elective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should seek to achieve/learn the following objectives:

- A) Make a positive and productive transition to college life.
- B) The development of proactive coping skills and behavior.
- C) Understanding and improving the teaching/learning process.
- D) Development of skills that enhance planning, studying, communication and critical thinking.
- E) Assess personal strengths and limitations to set and achieve appropriate goals.
- F) Learn about and use the resources of Three Rivers Community College (TRCC).
- G) Become more confident with writing, reading and speaking in an academic environment.
- H) Establish personal, career and academic goals, with an understanding of what are the obstructions to these goals.
- I) To become aware of and develop attitudes towards tolerance and acceptance of diverse communities and their opinions.
- J) Actively and effectively participate in group assignments and discussions.
- K) Participation in activities/community functions on the Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) campus.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Learning to Think Things Through
Gerald M. Nosich, Second Edition
TRCC College Catalog
TRCC Student Handbook
Assigned Readings

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's work or ideas in your writing. It is often known as copying word for word. However, even paraphrasing without acknowledgement or using the ideas of peers garnered from class discussion or study groups is considered plagiarism. Whether it is conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Your writing for this course, and any other course at TRCC is expected to be original, the product of your own thinking. A student who is determined to have plagiarized will receive a ZERO on that assignment and may fail the course.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

Students with disabilities are guaranteed reasonable accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. Disclosure of a disability must be voluntary.

In instances where students have disabilities that are not discernible, valid and reliable documentation to verify eligibility for accommodation is required.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is expected and vital. You will be allowed one (1) absence and **credit regardless of your average will not be earned if you miss class two (2) times.**

If you miss a class, you will be responsible for getting the information/materials covered in that class and the completion of any assignments that were due, or assigned for the following week.

GRADING CRITERIA

This course demands active involvement in learning experiences accompanied by reading and writing activities that capture those experiences. The nature of the courses content requires critical thinking skills to be learned, developed, and applied. The following criteria will be used in evaluating your grade:

Team Class Project- Volunteers will represent the whole class by completing that week's assigned task. A weekly grade is earned for the whole class based on the success rate of that week's volunteers. Each member of the class must volunteer at least three (3) times during the course of the semester.

Oral Presentations- Over the course of the semester each student will make at least three (3) oral presentations. Your grade with this criteria will be determined by the Semester Goal speech that you will give at the end of the semester.

Tests/Quizzes- During the semester there will be three (3) tests all scheduled in advance, and at least one (1) unscheduled quiz. The tests and quiz will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true-false, short answer, matching, and essay questions. If for any reason your absent from class on the day of a test or quiz, you can take that test or quiz at the end of the semester during finals week.

TRCC Function Participation- Each student will participate in at least one TRCC sponsored event or function and write a reaction paper on it. **In advance, for approval,** the student must submit in writing the event/function that will be attended.

Assignments/Portfolio- All reading and writing assignments (unless told otherwise) are due one week after they are assigned. All writing assignments **must be typed**, and each assignment must be completed on time and at a satisfactory level. Unsatisfactory work will be returned and must be corrected before the following week class meeting in order to satisfy the assignment.

Career/Education Meetings- Each student will meet with the instructor outside of scheduled class time at least once during the semester to discuss his or her career/educational goals.

Attendance- See page 2.

GRADE CRITERIA VALUES

Team Class Project- 10%

Oral Presentations- 15%

Tests/Quizzes- 40%

TRCC Function Participation- 10%

Assignments- 20%

Career/Education Meetings- 5%

COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw from a class without Instructor's signature for any reason until November 4, 2006. From November 5, 2006 until November 28, 2006 a student may withdraw from a class, but only with the signature of the Instructor or an Advisor.

Not attending class is not dropping or withdrawing from a class.

December 11, 2006 is the last day of classes for the semester.