IDS K105

First Year Experience

31794

Three Rivers Community College
Fall 2017

Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00am – 9:15am
Room D-215

Instructor: Jason M. Sheldon
E-mail: jsheldon@threerivers.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:15am – 10:00am, Room D-205E

Prerequisites

ENG 096 placement or completion of ESL 063 with a C+ or higher.

Course Description

This course is designed to engage students as active participants within the college environment. Students will have the opportunity to acquire academic skills, attributes, awareness of self as learner, and to engage with the resources and activities within the Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) community. You can expect regular reading, writing, and research assignments along with classroom discussion as you investigate how to be successful in this environment.

Course Objectives

Information covered and assigned work is intended to increase the likelihood that college is successful and rewarding for the student. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary learning strategies, life management skills, active participation in the college community, classroom discussion and other public speaking, and critical thinking skills necessary for any college student.

Students should seek to:

A. Make a positive and productive transition to college life.
B. Develop coping skills and behaviors to meet the challenges of college education.
C. Understand and improve the teaching/learning process.
D. Develop 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 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 potential obstructions to obtaining these goals.
I. 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. Participate in activities/community functions on the TRCC campus.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of IDS 105 students should be able to:

Understand, articulate, and apply the elements of reasoning
- Formulate appropriate questions and hypotheses
- Recognize assumptions and formulate premises
- Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information
- Formulate logical conclusions

Demonstrate informational literacy
- Understand how and why outside sources are utilized in academic work
- Learn and employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism

Understand and apply the fundamentals of quantitative reasoning
- Use information presented quantitatively to further academic work
- Identify, extract, and interpret numerical data from various sources

Demonstrate effective communication skills
- Use writing, reading, and speaking for inquiry, learning, and thinking in a college setting
- Understand, articulate, and apply self-assessment and decision-making skills in achieving family, educational, career, and personal goals.

Texts

Cuseo, Joseph. Thriving in the Community College & Beyond. 3rd edition. 2016. Kendall Hunt. ISBN 9781465290960.

TRCC Student Handbook 2017-2018.

There may be additional readings assigned which will be announced and available on Blackboard.

Blackboard

This course uses Blackboard which is accessible through your myCommNet account. I will use Blackboard for general announcements. Additionally, you can find copies of the syllabus, all handouts, and all homework assignments on the site. Please check Blackboard before emailing me questions about the class.

Digication Portfolios

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

More information, including tutorials, may be found at:

www.threerivers.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Digication.shtml

Attendance

Your attendance is mandatory. I will regularly take attendance. Be on time and stay for the entire class. Arriving late and leaving early from class will not be tolerated. Poor attendance will negatively impact your grade.

Title IX

Statement of Policy for Public Act No. 14-11: An Act Concerning Sexual Assault, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence on Campus: "The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) is committed to insuring that each member of every BOR governed college and university community has the opportunity to participate fully in the process of education free from acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence and stalking. It is the intent of the BOR and each of its colleges or universities to provide safety, privacy and support to victims of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS TITLE IX STATEMENT OF POLICY: "Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities in federally funded schools at all levels. If any part of a school district or college receives any Federal funds for any purpose, all of the operations of the district or college are covered by Title IX. Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. All students (as well as other persons) at recipient institutions are protected by Title IX – regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, part-or full-time status, disability, race, or national origin-in all aspects of a recipient's educational programs and activities."

If any student experiences sexual misconduct or harassment, and/or racial or ethnic discrimination on Three Rivers Community College Campus, or fears for their safety from a threat while on campus, please contact Edward A. Derr, the Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator:

Edward A. Derr
Title IX Coordinator and Diversity Officer
Admissions Welcome Center * Office A116
574 New London Turnpike, Norwich CT 06360
860.215.9255 * EDerr@trcc.commnet.edu

Technology Statement

Any student using a cell phone, laptop, or other portable device for a purpose not related to the class in progress will be asked to turn it off or leave the class.

Academic Dishonesty

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 discussions or study groups are considered plagiarism. Whether it is conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Your writing for this course, and any other course, is expected to be original; the product of your own thinking.

A student who has plagiarized will fail his/her assignment and will be reported to the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean for disciplinary action.

Disabilities Statement

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disability Service Providers
Counseling & Advising Center
Room A-116

Contact Matt Liscum at 860-215-9265 for learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, autism spectrum, and mental health disabilities.

Contact Elizabeth Wilcox at 860-215-9289 for medical, mobility, and sensory disabilities.

Method of Evaluation

This courses uses a 1,000 point grading system.

Participation/Discussion – Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions and group work each week. Participation in discussions and in-class work composes 50 points of your final grade.

Weekly Quizzes – There will be weekly quizzes on Blackboard covering material in the assigned readings and in class. They will be available on Thursday following class and must be completed no later than Tuesday by 8:00am. The quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. These quizzes will be timed and must be completed when started. There will be no make-ups allowed. Plan accordingly. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. Weekly Quizzes compose 100 points of your final grade.

Homework/Assignments – You are expected to complete any assigned work. Homework assignments compose 200 points of your final grade.

Reflection Papers – At specific points in the semester we will spend some time reflecting on what was covered in and outside of class. These papers will be based on guided questions. These papers must conform to specific guidelines. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation will be checked. The papers will be graded on those factors as well as organization and content. The Reflection Papers compose 150 points of your final grade.

Group Project – In groups of 4 or 5 you will make a presentation giving advice to next year's entering students. I will give groups class time to meet at a location of their choosing. These are designated on the syllabus as "Group Meeting Day." There may be an alternative Service Learning assignment offered to take the place of this project. The Group Project composes 100 points of your final grade.

Education Plan – This four part assignment will help you map your coursework, design a realistic plan for accomplishing your coursework, and learn to work with your advisor to accomplish your goals. Details of the assignment will be passed out in class. The Education Plan composes 50 points of your final grade.

Career Exploration Paper – You will create a resume and research a career you are interested in pursuing. Details of the assignment will be distributed throughout the semester. The Career Exploration Paper composes 150 points of your final grade.

Event Assignment – You will attend a TRCC-sponsored event and write a brief paper detailing your experience, including what attracted you to the event and offering your critical thoughts on it. The Event Assignment composes 50 points of your final grade.

Midterm and Final Exams – The Midterm and Final Exams will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answers questions. Questions will cover all topics discussed in class and through assigned readings. There will be no make-ups for these exams. The Midterm and Final Exam compose 150 points of your final grade (75 points each).

Grading

A /94-100
A-/90-93
B+/88-89
B / 84-87
B-/80-83
C+/78-79
C/74-77
C-/70-73
D+/68-69
D/64-67
D-/60-63
F/Below 60

Cancellation of Class

If the college is closed due to inclement weather, or for any other reason, you can find out by going to the TRCC webpage at www.threerivers.edu or calling the main phone number to the college, 860-215-9000. If I need to cancel class for other reasons, I will inform you via email and on Blackboard. Be sure to have accurate contact information in myCommNet.

myCommNet Alert

myCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, TRCC sends messages when the college is delayed or closed due to weather.

All students are encouraged to sign up for myCommNet Alert. A tutorial is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page of the web site. Please visit this link for more details:

http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/President/Policies/weather.shtml

College Withdrawal Policy

Course withdrawals are accepted up until the week before classes end. Withdrawal forms are available online or at the Registrar's Office. The withdrawal does not have to be signed by the instructor, but it is strongly advised that you speak with your instructor before withdrawing. If necessary, you can withdraw over the phone by calling the Registrar's Office at 860-215-9064. Emails and faxes are also accepted. If you are receiving Financial Aid, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing. Withdrawing from a course may affect your Financial Aid for current and/or future semester(s). It is your responsibility to confirm that the withdrawal has been received. The deadline for students to withdraw is December 11th.

Submitting Work

All assignments are due by the beginning of class. Please leave work on the corner of my desk before the start of class. No late work is accepted in this class.

If you find yourself in a situation where you anticipate that an assignment will be late then you need to inform me at least 2 days prior to the due date, explain the reasons why, and when you plan to hand in the assignment. The decision to allow extensions is done on a case-by-case basis. Simply telling me will not guarantee that I will accept your work late.

All assignments that are done outside of class are expected to be typed, printed, and stapled. Failure to do so will result in penalization and possible failure of an assignment.

I will not accept work sent via email; only hard copies of assignments will be accepted. My mailbox is located in room D-207. There may be times when I require an electronic and a hard copy to be submitted.

Microsoft Office 365, which includes helpful programs such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint is available free to all students.

For more information on Microsoft Office 365:

http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Student.shtml

Communication

For this course you will need to use your TRCC student email account. I will not read or respond to emails sent from your personal e-mail accounts. All my communications and announcements regarding the course will be sent to your TRCC student email accounts and posted on Blackboard.

For more information on student e-mail accounts:

http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Student.shtml

Nota Bene

I understand other obligations (work, family, etc.) may infringe upon your ability to be present in class and to turn in assignments on time. Please contact me in advance if you anticipate problems or issues with your responsibilities (homework, tests, projects, attendance, etc.) for this course.

Schedule

This schedule is tentative. The readings, assignments, and test dates are subject to change. Any amendments will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. We will have a series of guest speakers throughout the semester and these presenters will also be announced in class and on Blackboard.

WEEK 1

8/29 – Introduction to First Year Experience / Class Overview
READING: None

TOPIC: Syllabus / myCommNet / Student Email / Blackboard / Digication / How is College Different from High School?

8/31 – College Knowledge
READING: Chapter 1, pgs. 1 – 15

TOPIC: Effective College Behavior In Class and Online

WEEK 2

9/5 – Making Connections
READING: Chapter 2, pgs. 21 – 41

TOPIC: Using Powerful Principles of Student Success and Key Campus Resources

9/7 – Digication
READING: None

TOPIC: Portfolios

WEEK 3

9/12 – Goal Setting and Motivation
READING: Chapter 3, pgs. 47 – 64

TOPIC: Moving From Intention to Action / Screening – *Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture" – Achieving Your Childhood Dreams*

9/14 – Goal Setting and Motivation
READING: None

TOPIC: Screening – *Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture" – Achieving Your Childhood Dreams*

WEEK 4

9/19 – Sexual Misconduct
READING: None

TOPIC: Title IX / Sexual Misconduct / Resources

9/21 – Time Management
READING: Chapter 4, pgs. 71 – 89

TOPIC: Prioritizing Tasks, Preventing Procrastination, and Promoting Productivity

WEEK 5

9/26 – Higher-Level Thinking
READING: Chapter 5, pgs. 97 – 120

TOPIC: Moving Beyond Basic Knowledge to Critical and Creative Thinking /
Screening – EXAMINED LIFE (Canada, 2008), Dir. Astra Taylor, Excerpts

9/28 – Writing and Research in College
READING: writingcommons.org/open-text

TOPIC: Writing Skills / Research Skills / Peer Review

WEEK 6

10/3 – Educational Planning
READING: Chapter 12, pgs. 345 – 366

TOPIC: Making Wise Choices about a College Major / College Transfer

10/5 – Career Planning and Decision Making
READING: Chapter 12, pgs. 367 – 392

TOPIC: Future Career

WEEK 7

10/10 – Review: Midterm

10/12 – Midterm Exam

WEEK 8

10/17 – No Class (Reading Day)

10/19 – Deep Learning
READING: Chapter 6, pgs. 125 – 155

TOPIC: Strategic Note-Taking, Reading, and Studying

WEEK 9

10/24 – Test-Taking Skills and Strategies
READING: Chapter 7, pgs. 163 – 183

TOPIC: What to Do Before, During, and After Tests

10/26 – Group Meeting Day

WEEK 10

10/31 – Diversity / Social and Emotional Intelligence
READING: Chapters 8, pgs. 189 – 224

TOPIC: Learning About and From Human Differences / Relating to Others and Regulating Emotions / *ENTRE LES MURS* [THE CLASS] (France, 2008), Dir. Laurent Cantet, 128 min. / Discussion

11/2 – Diversity / Social and Emotional Intelligence
READING: None

TOPIC: Learning About and From Human Differences / Relating to Others and Regulating Emotions / *ENTRE LES MURS* [THE CLASS] (France, 2008), Dir. Laurent Cantet, 128 min. / Discussion

WEEK 11

11/7 – Diversity / Social and Emotional Intelligence, continued
READING: Chapter 10, pgs. 263 – 294

TOPIC: Learning About and From Human Differences / Relating to Others and Regulating Emotions / *ENTRE LES MURS* [THE CLASS] (France, 2008), Dir. Laurent Cantet, 128 min. / Discussion

11/9 – Group Meeting Day

WEEK 12

11/14 – Financial Literacy
READING: Chapter 9, pgs. 233 – 255

TOPIC: Managing Money and Minimizing Debt

11/16 – Health and Wellness
READING: Chapter 11, pgs. 303 – 336

TOPIC: Body, Mind, and Spirit

WEEK 13

11/21 – Group Meeting Day

11/23 – Thanksgiving (No Class)

WEEK 14

11/28 – Group Presentations

11/30 – Group Presentations

WEEK 15

12/5 – Review: Final Exam

12/7 – Final Exam