

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Three Rivers Community College

IDS K105, CRN 12340

SPRING 2017

Instructor: Gayla Holmes
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Class Hours: 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m., MW, Room D212
Office Hours: by appointment
Required Text: Cuseo, J., Thompson, A., McLaughlin J., Moono, S. (2010, 2013). *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing (ISBN 978-1-4652-6013-0)

Course Description:

Prerequisites: ENG096 placement or completion of ESL 063 with a C# or higher. 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 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 Three Rivers Community College.
- 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 Three Rivers Community College 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

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 and initiated by the student. For further assistance, please contact Matt Liscum in the Office of Disability Services at 860.215.9265 or mliscum@threeivers.edu. Please note that an instructor cannot provide disability accommodations until a student provides the necessary paperwork from the college's Office of Disability Services.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

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 a study group 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, and the product of your own thinking. A student who has plagiarized will receive a ZERO on his/her assignment and may be reported to the Academic Dean and/or Student Services Dean for disciplinary action.

Technology Statement:

The use of cell phones or other technological devices is not permitted during class time, unless deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Electronic Learning 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.

Email:

Correspondence by email is considered a method of formal communication. Emailing an instructor is not the same as emailing or texting a friend. Please use a proper salutation, complete sentences, punctuation, proper spelling and identify yourself by name in the body of the email. **Students must use their [college issued email account](#). College issued email is the official mode of communication used by the college to contact students.**

Class Cancellation:

To determine if the college is closed, please visit the TRCC webpage at <http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/> and/or sign-up for notification through MyCommNet ALERT.

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. Withdrawal 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 last day to withdraw from the Spring 2017 semester is May 7, 2017

Class Attendance and Homework:

Class Attendance is expected and vital (see Classroom Participation below). Missing class will negatively impact your grade. You are expected to arrive on time, ready to take notes at the beginning of each class. After each class, I will post a brief synopsis of the class activities for the day with any associated assignments, handouts, etc. in Blackboard under *Course Content*.

****I do not accept late work in this class.**** If you know you are going to miss a class, please speak with me in advance to make appropriate accommodations. Your missed work will need to be turned in on the day you return to class after your excused absence. **I do not accept emailed assignments.**

“The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.”

~Attributed to both Vidal Sassoon and Donald Kendall

Evaluation Criteria:

This course demands active involvement in the learning experience accompanied by reading and writing activities that capture those experiences. The nature of the course content requires critical thinking skills to be learned, developed, and applied.

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating student performance:

- a. **Classroom participation and in-class assignments**
- b. **Weekly homework assignments**
- c. **Quizzes**
- d. **Midterm and final exams (??? Or appropriate alternate forms of assessing)**
- e. **Career Exploration Assignment**
- f. **Demonstrated participation in a college activity**
- g. **Non-academic goal**

a. **Classroom participation and in-class assignments**

Lateness and absences will have a negative impact on your grade. There will be periodic in-class graded assignments throughout the semester. If you are absent on the day of an in-class assignment, a make-up assignment will not be provided. **“80% of success is showing up...” ~ Woody Allen**

b. **Weekly homework assignments**

Reading and writing assignments are designed to provide opportunities for further exploration of ideas or for confirmation of understanding. All reading and writing assignments are due at the next scheduled class meeting (unless otherwise noted). Weekly assignments should be typed using MLA format, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

c. **Quizzes**

Required reading from the classroom text will often be assigned as homework. Students will be given a total of three (3) quizzes that specifically relate to the assigned reading assignment. The quizzes will be administered at random throughout the semester. Quizzes are to be completed in the first 20-minutes of class time. **No makeup quizzes will be given.**

d. **Midterm and final exams**

During the semester there will be a midterm and final exam. Exams will consist of (but will not be limited to) multiple choice, short answer, true/false, matching, and essay questions. Exams cannot be made up unless arrangements have been made with the instructor *prior* to the time of the exam.

e. **Career Exploration Assignment**

This multi-part assignment will help you design a realistic plan for accomplishing your coursework and educational goals. Details of the assignment will be distributed throughout the semester.

f. **Demonstrated participation in a college activity**

Each student will participate in at least one Three Rivers Community College sponsored event or function and will submit a typed paper that critiques the experience.

g. **Non-Academic Goal (NAG)**

Students will be required to set a non-academic goal to be obtained by semester-end. The project requires the student to set short, mid, and long-term goals; manage his/her time; and present a 3-5 minute oral presentation at the end of the semester. More information will be provided for this project throughout the semester.

Grade Computation:

The following is an approximate breakdown of the final grade (point values subject to change at the discretion of the instructor):

- *Attendance: 200 out of 1000 points
- *Career Research Assignment: 200 out of 1000 points
- *Mid-term: 50 out of 1000 points
- *Event Assignment: 75 out of 1000 points
- *Digication: 100 out of 1000 points
- *Diversity Assignment: 50 out of 1000 points
- *Plagiarism Assignment: 50 out of 1000 points
- *Non-Academic Goal: 75 out of 1000 points
- *Homework: 100 out of 1000 points
- *Quizzes: 50 out of 1000 points
- *Final: 50 out of 1000 points

TOTAL 1000 points

Grading Distribution:

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

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SPRING 2017 CALENDAR (See College Website or Student Handbook)

Jan 17	New Student Orientation
Feb 1	Registration deadline and last day to drop classes for partial tuition refund
Jan 19	Classes begin, Add and Drop Periods Begin
Feb 17	Lincoln's Birthday observed (COLLEGE CLOSED)
Feb 20	President's Day Observed (COLLEGE CLOSED)
Mar 13	Spring Break—Classes Not in Session
Mar 14	Spring Break—Classes Not in Session
Mar 15	Spring Break—Classes Not in Session
Mar 16	Spring Break—Classes Not in Session
Mar 17	Spring Break—Classes Not in Session
Apr 3	Continuing Degree Seeking Student Registration for Summer and Fall Advising day (classes in session)
Apr 14	Good Friday—College Closed
Apr 17	New Student and Non Degree-Seeking Student Registration for Summer and Fall
May 8	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
May 15	Last Day of Class/End of Semester
May 24	Student Grades Available on the WEB
May 24	Commencement