

# FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

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Spring 2015  
M/W 5 :00  
Room D105

## 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 help you make a smooth transition to college. Information on how to succeed in college in terms of studying, balancing family and job responsibilities with new college demands, planning for the future, and just knowing "the ropes" will be provided. You can expect regular reading and writing assignments along with classroom discussion as you investigate how to be successful in this new environment.

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

-Cuseo, J., Thompson, A., McLaughling., & Moono, S. (2010). *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt. ISBN: 978-1-4652-1314-3

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 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 (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) 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 (TRCC) campus.

## Grading

- Participation (attendance)- 10%
- Assignments- 20%- scavenger hunt – MLK paper – Last Lecture
- Test/Quizzes -25%
- Career Exploration Paper – 15% **due 4/15**
- Oral Presentation 5% **due 4/27**
- Educational Plan- 10% **due 5/4**
- TRCC Function/Volunteer Participation- 15% / **due by 5/4**

**FYE SCHEDULE** *\*Please note that this is a projected schedule. It may change during the semester.*

**Week 1 - Introductions**

1/21 – Introduce Class/ Syllabus Overview/ MLK 5 Life Lessons – Due 2/2

**Week 2 – Touching All the Bases – Read Chapter 1**

1/26– How is College Different from High School/ College Expectations

- Why FYE/ Keys to Community College Success/
- Asking Questions and where to get help (hand out)
- scavenger hunt

1/28- Volunteer Wednesday

**Week 3 –Building Relationships and Support Structures – Read chapter 2**

2/2 – 2/4 – Getting involved/Guest Speaker/TRCC Function assignment

–Student Program Speaker/ Relationships with Classmates and Instructors

**Week 4-- Goals and Motivation – Read Chapter 3–**

2/9 -2/11 – Your Goals and Motivation/ Applying Goals

-Last Lecture – [www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/index.shtml](http://www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/index.shtml)

**Week 5 – Time Management – Read Chapter 3 and Complete Time Management Plan**

**2/16 NO CLASS PRESIDENT’S Day**

2/18 – Time Management

– Beating Procrastination, Quiz

**Week 6 – Higher Level Thinking – Read Chapter 5**

2/23 – Critical and Creative Thinking

2/25 – **Volunteer Wednesday**

**Week 7 – Half Way Point**

3/2 – Midterm Exam

3/4 – Meet With Instructor /**Career Planning/ Chapter 12**

**week 8 – Educational Planning – Read Chapter 12**

3/9 - 3/11 – Choosing a Major

– Transfer Counselor Speaker/ Planning Beyond Your Major

**3/15 - 3/22 No Class Spring Break**

**Week 9 - Strategic Studying and Test Taking – Read Chapter 6&7**

3/23 – Identifying Your Learning Style/ Studying

– Note Taking/ Test Taking Strategies/ Learning From Your Exam Performance

3/25 – Volunteer Wednesday

**Week 10 — Communication – Complete Writing Center Plagiarism Tutorial and Prepare Speech**

**3/30-** types of Writing/ Writing Expectations/

4/1 – Individual Short Presentations on Where you are With Your Career Exploration Paper

**Week 11 — Financial Literacy - Read Chapter 9**

4/6 -4/8– Economic Benefits of College/ Prioritizing Your Finances and Budgeting/

– Financing Your Education/ Protecting Your Credit

-Participate in Financial Fitness Week at the College

**Week 12 — Diversity/ Social and Emotional Intelligence – Read Chapter 8**

4/13-4/15 – Diversity

– Social and Emotional Intelligence/ Career Exploration Paper Due

**Week 13 - Health and Wellness – Read Chapter 11**

4/20– Physical Wellness/ Reducing Stress

4/22 – Volunteer Wednesday

**Week 14 – Presentations to Class**

4/27-4/29 Presentations

**Week 15 –**

5/4 – Education Plan Due

5/6- Review and Letters to incoming Class

**– Final Exam Week**

5/11 *Final Exam*

# Additional Information

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## **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, the product of your own thinking.

A student who has plagiarized will receive a ZERO on that assignment, and will be reported to both the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean where disciplinary action can be taken.

## **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 and must be submitted to the Student Development offices of Student Services. Please call 383-5217 for more information or to schedule a confidential meeting with one of our disability service providers.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is expected and vital. You will be allowed two (2) absences; any additional unexcused absences will greatly hinder your ability to pass the course making withdrawing from the class recommended.

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.

## **COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

The deadline for students to withdraw is a week before classes end. Before withdrawing from any course please speak with me. I encourage you to also speak with financial aid (if you are using financial aid). *Non-attendance does not constitute dropping or withdrawing from class.*

## **TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT**

The use of cell phones, laptops, texting instruments and/or any other technological device is not permitted. **Please do not answer/make a call or answer/write a text in class during class time.** If you wish to use a laptop for note taking, please see the instructor.

- All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the (Three Rivers) College Template.

