

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE
Three Rivers Community College
IDS 105/CRN 12341
SPRING 2016

Instructor: Gayla Holmes
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Class Hours: **11:00 – 11:50 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) Room D-224**
Office Hours: **10:00 – 10:55 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) in Rm. D-205E**
Required Text: Joseph B. Cuseo, Aaron Thompson, Julie A. McLaughlin, Steady Moono
“Thriving in the Community College & Beyond” 2nd Edition
Kendall Hunt Publishing (ISBN 978-1-4652-1314-3)
THREE RIVERS 2015-2016 HANDBOOK

Prerequisite: Completion of ESL *060 and ESL 061* (if applicable).

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 learners, 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 class room 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 attending college becomes a successful and rewarding experience 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.

Learning 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.
- 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.

Method of Evaluation:

Attendance is EXTREMELY critical to successful completion of the course; therefore 20% of the final grade will account for attendance points:

- **Attendance: 200 out of 1000 points**
- **Career Research Assignment: 200 out of 1000 points**
- **Mid-term Essay: 100 points out of 1000**
- **Event Assignment: 75 out of 1000 points**
- **Digication Portfolio: 100 out of 1000 points**
- **Plaigarism Workshop: 50 out of 1000 points**
- **Diversity Assignment: 50 out of 1000 points**
- **Self-Evaluations: 50 out of 1000 points**
- **Homework Assignments: 100 out of 1000 points**
- **Non-Academic goal: 75 out of 1000points**

Participation/Discussion – Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions and group work each week. A detailed breakdown of participation structure will be explained and a handout will be provided. Participation in-class in combination with attendance will comprise **20%** of the final grade.

Homework/Assignments – Students are expected to complete all assigned work. Homework assignments will comprise another **10%** of the final grade.

Digication Portfolio – You will make a PowerPoint presentation in the form of your personal autobiography. Your autobiography should encompass your life experiences that brought you to the decision to attend Three Rivers Community College. This presentation will represent another **10%** of your final grade. A draft must be submit in advance of the final project, due date forthcoming; it will account for half of the final grade.

Career Exploration Paper – You will have an opportunity to research three occupations of interest to you. You will use multiple resources to compose you career research paper. Your selections must be associated with occupational themes that you’re leaning towards. You must include the descriptions, the educational preparation, the future projections in that field, the salary ranges, the advantages and the disadvantages, the work environment, the opportunities for advancement, professional organizations associated with that profession, and the reason you would decide that career or investigate another field based on your research. **In addition, you must interview someone working in at least one of the occupations that you have chosen and write a detailed summary of that interview.** This assignment will account for another 20% of your final grade. This paper is worth **20%** of your final grade.

Midterm and Final Exams (Other interim assignments will be implemented in lieu of the traditional final.) – The Midterm and Final Exams will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true/false, short answer, matching and essay questions. The questions will be based on topics discussed in class and through assigned readings. **There will NOT be any make-ups for these exams. These exams will make up an additional 30% of the final grade.**

Grading:

A = 94 – 100

A- = 90 – 93

B+ = 89 -- 90

B = 84—88

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 <http://trcc.commnet.edu> or calling the main telephone number to the college, 860.215.9000. If I need to cancel class for other reasons, I will inform you via e-mail. Please be sure you have accurate information in MyCommNet. Also, please make sure you provide me a good contact telephone number. If necessary, I'll send a text in case of an emergency class cancellation.

MyCommNet Alert

My CommNet 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 website. Please visit the link for more details:

College Withdrawal Policy

The deadline to withdraw from classes this semester is **May 9, 2016**. I encourage you to speak with me prior to withdrawing from this course. Please be aware that **Financial Aid recipients** should most definitely speak with the **Financial Aid Department** before withdrawing a course.

Student Conduct

Demonstrate respect for others by: refraining from conduct that constitutes a danger to the personal health or safety of one's self or other members of the College community and guests or licensees of the College, including intentionally causing or attempting to cause injury; refraining from conduct that obstructs or seriously impairs or attempts to obstruct or seriously impair College-sponsored or College-authorized activities; and refraining from harassment, which is defined as conduct that is abusive or which substantially interferes with a person's pursuit of his or her customary or usual affairs.

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

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean and may result in the failure of an assignment or the entire course.

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 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.

Disabilities Statement

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

Three Rivers Disability Service Providers:

Counseling & Advising Office

Room A- 119

Contact: Matt Liscum at 860.215.9265 for physical, sensory, medical, and mental health services.

Contact: Chris Scarborough at 860.215.9289 for learning issues, ADD/ADHD, and autism spectrum services.

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, handouts, and homework assignments on the site.

Digication Portfolios

As a student you will maintain an online learning portfolio using a college-designed template in Digication (<https://digication.ct.edu/>). Through this electronic tool you will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning. It may even help you determine a major that is best suited to you. You will be able to keep and maintain your learning portfolio after graduation. A three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. If your work is selected and reviewed for assessment purposes, it will remain anonymous and private. Digication provides a “place” where you will connect your learning from the classroom, college, and life in general. Sometimes when you review all of the work you have done and think about it, you end up learning something different and perhaps unexpected. Please review your course outlines to determine what assignments to upload into the TRCC Digication template and please post your own choices as well.

More information, including tutorials, may be found at:

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

Responsibilities

- You should attend and participate in every class. Missing class will certainly affect your ability to learn and it will almost certainly affect your grade in a negative way. By contrast, attending and participating in all classes will enhance your learning experience and almost certainly improve your grade.
- You are responsible for reading the entire assignment before class. For example, if you are assigned a chapter in the book and a handout, please have all material read before class.
- This class will consist of lectures, small group work, and class discussion. Let me assure you that this course is designed to help you develop your best assets. Therefore, if you have any questions about the material please feel free to ask me immediately.

Attendance

Your attendance is mandatory. I will allow up to 3 excused absences; however, subsequent absences will drop your final grade significantly as a result of a decrease in the percentage points earned for attending class. Two or more unexcused lateness to classes will also result in a decrease in percentage points towards attendance.

