

## **First Year Experience Three River Community College**

Rosemarie A. Payne  
Phone: 860-917-2310  
Office Hours: By appointment-  
½ hr before/after class (Adjunct offices D wing)  
[Mrstpayne@aol.com](mailto:Mrstpayne@aol.com) and [RPayne@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:RPayne@trcc.commnet.edu)

IDS K105 First Year Experience  
Spring, 2015  
**Friday: 2:00 – 4:45 PM**  
Room D 212

### **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 and successful 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 for you. You can expect regular reading and writing assignments along with classroom discussion as you investigate how to be successful in this new environment. It is an opportunity to take an introspective look at yourself and your personal growth as a student and individual.

### **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.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Information covered and assigned work is intended to increase the likelihood that this transition 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/public speaking, and critical thinking skills necessary for any college student. Students should seek to achieve/learn the following 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.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

-Cuseo, J., Thompson, A., McLaughling, & Moono, S. (2013). *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

ISBN: 978-1-4652-1314-3

- access TRCC College Catalog on line

-TRCC Student Handbook

-Assigned Readings

-Organizational tools, 3 ring binder, pocket folders etc

## **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 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 may be taken.

## **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

Students with disabilities are guaranteed reasonable accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. 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.

<b>TRCC Disabilities Service Providers</b> Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
<b>Matt Liscum</b> (860) 383-5240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Sensory Disabilities</li> <li>• Medical Disabilities</li> <li>• Mental Health Disabilities</li> </ul>
<b>Chris Scarborough</b> (860) 892-5751	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disabilities</li> <li>• ADD/ADHD</li> <li>• Autism Spectrum</li> </ul>

### **EXPECTATIONS OF YOU**

a. 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.

b. 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 that class.

c. This class will consist of lectures, small group work, and class discussion. Let me assure you that this course is designed for you to learn and grow. Therefore, if you have any questions about the material please feel free to ask me immediately.

**\*\*Each student must sign up for a before or after class meeting with me for a brief introduction. All meetings must be completed on or before February 13<sup>th</sup>. It is your responsibility and will be noted as part of the class participation grade.\*\***

### **EXPECTATIONS OF ME**

a. While I expect you to prepare on a daily basis, let me assure you that I will be there to help you. Please feel free to come and see me during my office hour times or email me. My door is always open.

b. I work to the best of my ability to make this an enjoyable learning experience as long as you read the material before class, attend class, participate, and work hard.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT**

*(From the Student Handbook)* 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**

Cell phones and beepers are allowed only if they are turned off or turned to silent mode in classrooms, academic support areas, and the Library. *Under no circumstances are phones to be used in class.* If there are extenuating circumstances, the student is to make specific arrangements with their instructor before the class begins. Texting is not allowed during class unless we are on a break. *Use of cell phone during class may result in student being excused from the class and receiving a zero for the day.*

### **CANCELLATION OF CLASS DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER REASONS**

If the college is closed due to inclement weather, you can find out by going to the TRCC webpage at <http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/>. If you wish to have a text message alert of college closings then I would encourage you to enroll myCommNet Alert. This sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency or when the college is delayed or closed due to weather.

A tutorial for signing up for myCommNet Alert is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page

([http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/div\\_it/educationaltechnology/Tutorials/myCommNetAlert/MIR3.html](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/div_it/educationaltechnology/Tutorials/myCommNetAlert/MIR3.html))

If I need to cancel class for other reasons, I will do my best to inform you by TRCC email prior to the start of class.

### **College Withdrawal Policy**

The deadline for students to withdraw is a week before classes end. Before withdrawing from any course, speak to the professor to discuss the positive and negative consequences of that action. Students must withdraw from a class in writing at the Registrar's Office. (I encourage you to also speak with financial aid if you are using financial aid). *Not attending class is not dropping or withdrawing from a class.*

### **Attendance Policy**

Class participation, in-class writing, speaking, and activities determine part of each student's grade; therefore, each student is expected to attend all classes and to participate in all class discussions. This may not be easy for you but I expect you to work toward this end. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Late arrivals will be so noted as will students that leave before the end of the scheduled class time and may count as an absence for the class.

*This is a three credit course that meets once a week, therefore more than one class absence may compromise your final grade. Be aware of your responsibility to attend class. After two absences your grade may be dropped for each absence taken. Three absences for any reason will require a one on one meeting between the professor and the student to determine if it is in the best interest of the student to continue in the course and your grade will be lowered due to absences. This meeting must be initiated by the student. Additional absences may result in failure for this class.*

*Choose a class buddy to pick up papers and handouts in the event you are absent, then you will have the information from the class. You should exchange contact information today. This is your responsibility, to the handouts and material from the class you miss.*

### **Classroom Policy: BE POLITE!**

It is my belief that if you follow this simple rule all things will fall into place. I do my best to adhere to this rule in my life and I encourage you to adopt this rule for yourself. It is necessary for this class as it requires two things from you: **Respect and Responsibility**. Being a mature college student entails both qualities. This means you are responsible for yourself, your education, your assignments, your behavior, your attitude, your timeliness, and your contributions; show respect for self and others and help to make our classroom atmosphere positive and conducive to learning. You can do this by being prompt to class, attentive while others are speaking, prepared to actively participate, supportive to others, and contribute to a positive classroom climate. Keep your cell phone out of sight and do not use it during class time.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Acceptance of late homework/assignments is done on a case-by-case basis. The penalty assessed is based upon several criteria including: informing me ahead of time, how late the assignment is, and the reason why the assignment is late. The best thing to do if you find yourself in this situation is to contact me directly. Assignments that are more than two weeks past due are not going to be accepted unless you have approval of the instructor.

Reminder: **This class is scheduled from 2:00 PM – 4:45PM.** You should try to arrive at least 10 minutes early to be prepared for the start of the class and you can expect that class may run over by 10 minutes on very rare occasions. There will be a break midway through class, leaving the class during lecture or activities is not advised. Of course if you have a medical issue, please advise me.

*"If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet, how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person." Fred Rogers*

## GRADING CRITERIA

This course requires active involvement in learning experiences accompanied by reading, writing, and speaking activities that capture those experiences. The nature of the course content requires critical thinking skills to be learned, developed and applied. If for any reason you're absent from class on the day of a test or assignment that is due, please contact me in advance (before noon) to reschedule. The following criteria will be used in evaluating your grade:

**Participation and Homework: (250 points):** Students are expected to come to class prepared each week and actively participate in discussions. You can earn 5 points weekly for attendance and participation. A rubric will be distributed that outlines how participation will be graded. **An introductory meeting with the Professor is part of the participation grade.** Homework, as well as an organized comprehensive notebook (3-ring-binder) that includes the handouts, assignments, and your research, is important to maintain and bring to class each week. Your notebook is subject to review at any time during the semester. Quizzes, discussion questions, journal/discussion postings and additional assignments will be part of the participation grade. Each student will be responsible to outline a chapter from the book and make a 20 minutes presentation with a handout of important information from the chapter.

**In-Class Reflection Papers: (50 points)** At the end of some classes you will spend some time reflecting on what was covered in and outside of class. The paper will be done in class and will be based on guided questions. While grammar and punctuation will be checked, the paper will be graded based upon content and treated as a rough draft. Complete sentences and legible handwriting is expected. You will NOT be able to make up reflections if you are absent as they will relate to the topics covered in the class/readings/guest speakers.

**TRCC Event: (50 points)** Each student must attend a **TRCC event** before April 17<sup>th</sup>. Notify the professor beforehand of the event you will attend.

You will write a 2 page essay about the event you attended, introducing it and commenting on it. You should include information that describes the event, identifies the sponsor, time of the event, where the event was held, a critical analysis of the event, and why you chose it as well as provide examples, additional facts, etc. A copy of this essay must be uploaded to your \* learning portfolio\*. A 2 – 3 minute overview will be given in class. **MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!**

**\*Coping with College: (100 points)** Write a 3 page reflective paper that addresses issues about you: Why is going to or returning to college important for you? What is going to be your greatest challenge? How will you overcome it? How do you think college will change your roles, routines, and relationships? What and who are some of your supports and what are obstacles you think you will face? How will you work around obstacles that might prevent your success? What are some things you will do this semester to ensure your own success? What will be easy and what will challenge you? What are two things you must do as you build your plan for success? Why is a plan for success important? What help will you be seeking from me as your FYE instructor?

\*All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio using a TRCC designed template. Through this electronic tool, students can see their own growth in college-wide learning. The student can keep and continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select random works to improve the college experience for all. No names will be attached to the assessment work; it will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. In class outlines, students will find recommended assignments which support various college-wide learning abilities. The student will have a tool which can integrate their learning from the classroom, school, and life and allow for another opportunity of learning at TRCC! Students will be able to make multiple portfolios.

**Group Project: (100 points) Student Presentations:** In a group of 2 - 4 students, each team will make a video (not a PowerPoint) giving advice to next year's entering students. The video must be at least 10 minutes long. Be creative. Further details of this assignment will be discussed in class.

**Syllabus Test (50 points)** - The syllabus test will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true-false, short answer, matching, and essay questions. **This is given on the second week of class.** If for any reason your absent from class on the day of the test, please contact me **in advance** to take the test in the TESTING CENTER prior to the next class.

**Mid Term Exam and Final Exam: (100 points each)** The mid-term and final exam will be an opportunity for students to review what they have read and learned through class participation, readings, and guest speakers. If for any reason your absent from class on the day of a test, please contact me **in advance** to reschedule. Testing will be made up in the **TESTING CENTER**. It is your responsibility to complete it within the school week prior to the next class, except for extenuating circumstances discussed and approved by the instructor.

**\*Educational Plan and Career Exploration Portfolio: (200 points)** This four part assignment will help you map your coursework (requires you to meet your advisor and obtain a signed plan of study), provide an oral report of information reviewed, design a realistic plan for accomplishing your coursework, and learn to work with your advisor to accomplish your goals. This will serve as a foundation for your **Career Exploration Portfolio Assignment that will include research on a career topic that aligns with your Educational Plan.** \*Additional information will be given out during a future class..

**Final Exam:** If you have an A average and have not missed more than one class during the semester, you may earn the right to be exempt from the final exam. This will be determined at the discretion of the instructor.

### **FYE SCHEDULE**

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

#### **January 23: Week 1 – Introduction**

Introduction/ Classmates and Instructor/Getting to Know You

Class Syllabus Overview/College and Class Expectations

Discussion: How is College Different from High School?

Why FYE/ Keys to Community College Success: Chapter 1: The Game Plan

#### **January 30: Week 2 –Read Chapters 1 and 2; Bring student handbook to class**

**The Game Plan and Touching All the Bases**

Resources: Why are they important to your success?

Student Handbook review

MLA format for all written work: expectations for guest speakers

### **\*\*SYLLABUS TEST\*\***

**Homework:** YouTube: Randy Pausch video: The Last Lecture before class on February 6

**February 6: Week 3 Read Chapter 3 Goal Setting, Motivation and Character and prepare for Last Lecture Quiz**

Writing Goals: SMART goals and Motivation  
Library Pam Williams guest speaker tentative

**February 13: Week 4 Read Chapter 4 Time Management and Preventing Procrastination**

Identifying helpful strategies for Time Management  
Stop Procrastinating  
Rhonda Spaziani Student Services tentative guest speaker

**\*\*Coping with College Paper due\*\***

**February 20: Week 5 Read Chapter 5 Higher Level Thinking and Chapter 6 Strategic Learning and Studying**

Critical, Creative and Analytical Thinking  
How to study, why studying is important, learning from past exams  
Writing/ Writing Expectations/Note taking

Introduce the Educational Plan

**February 27: Week 6 – Chapter 7 Test Taking Skills and Strategies**

Interpersonal relationships/Conflicts/Stress/Anxiety  
Building Relationships and Support Structures  
Relationships with Classmates and Instructors/Identifying Support Structures

**March 6 Week 7- Study for Mid Term**

Educational Plan Advisor Meeting/Career Planning Oral Report

**\*\*Mid Term Exam\*\***

**March 6 : Week 8 – Chapter 10 Social and Emotional Intelligences**

Learning, Stress, Anxiety

Research due: 2 articles from career investigation  
Copy of the signed Academic Planning Sheet due!

**March 13: Week 9 - Career Exploration – Chapter 12 - Educational and Career Planning and Decision Making: Career/Vision Board Due**

Networking/ Developing a Resume: Strategies for successful resumes/cover letters  
Identifying your career choice/outline requirements for career as it relates to your plan of study;  
create a vision board outline you plan for success

**\*\*Educational Planning Assignment Due\*\***

**March 20: Spring Break No Class**



**March 27: Week 10 Read Chapter 11 Health and Wellness**

**Research Exploration for Career Paper**

FISH philosophy

Living your best life

Steve Fields (Retired State Police Colonel)

**April 3: No School – Spring Recess**

**April 10: Week 11 Louise Summa: Sexual Harassment Training**

**April 17: Week 12 Review Chapter 12 Career Exploration, Planning, and Preparation**

**\*Karen Aubin: Using the Three Rivers website**

Finding your plan of study, certification or degree?

Calculating your grade point average

**\*Kathleen Gray: Transfer Information**

**Career Research Paper Due!**

**April 24: Week 13 Chapter 9 Financial Literacy**

Managing Money and Minimizing Debt

Sources of income, debt, good debt, bad debt

Guest Speaker: Pam tentative

**May1 Week 14 Group Projects and Presentations and Final Exam**

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**May 8 Week 15 Group Projects and Presentations and Final Exam**

**Wrapping it Up!!!**

**May 15 (Optional: Final Class Period)**