

**First Year Experience - Three River Community College**  
IDS K105: Classroom: Room D107

Ryan K. Aubin  
Phone: 860-213-1524 (text or call)  
Class will be held Tuesday & Thursdays from 2:00 – 3:15 pm.

**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

### **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. To learn more, go to the Counseling & Advising Office, Room A-119.

### **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. *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. May 9<sup>th</sup> is the last day to withdraw from class this semester.***

## **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.

## **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 – 3:15PM.** 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 5 minutes on very rare occasions.

### **Digication Statement**

As a student, you will maintain an online learning portfolio using a TRCC designed template. Through this electronic tool, you can see your own growth in college-wide learning. It may even help you to find the major that is a match to you. You can keep this Digication account after graduation, too. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select random works and review them so that we can improve the college experience for all. Your name will not be attached to any of the assessment work; it is private. This tool will also be a “place” where you can connect your learning from the classroom, school, and life. Sometimes when you look at all of the work you have done and think about it, you learn something else. In Digication, you will be able to make other portfolios, too. It’s like a file cabinet with the ability to have multiple but separate files. What is exciting about the electronic tool is when you look inside you will see you are developing in new ways! Look at your class outline to see what assignments to post into the TRCC Template; you may post your own choices, too. Have fun in learning!

LETTER GRADE	POINT RANGE	GRADE POINT VALUE
A	950-1000	4.000
A-	900-949	3.667
B+	890-899	3.333
B	810-889	3.000
B-	800-809	2.667
C+	790-799	2.333
C	710-789	2.000
C-	700-709	1.667
D+	610-699	1.333
D	600-609	0.667
F	0-599	0.000

**Grade Determination**  
 The grading in this course is determined by the 1000 Point Grading Method.

Please see My Grades in Blackboard to follow your academic performance during the semester.

