

**CRN:** 31687  
**IDS K105:** First Year Experience (FYE)  
**Term:** Fall 16  
**Schedule:** MW 3:00-4:15pm Rm D215  
**Instructor:** Frederick-Douglass Knowles II  
**Office Hours:** M 5-6pm, T 4-5pm, W 12:30-1:30pm  
**Office:** Rm C120 (diagonal from library)  
**Phone:** 860.215.9444  
**Email:** [fknowles@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:fknowles@trcc.comnet.edu)

**Required Text:** Cuseo, Joseph B., Aaron Thompson, Julie A. McLaughlin and Steady H. Moono. *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond: Strategies for Academic Success & Personal Development*. 2nd Ed. Kendall Hunt. Dubuque. 2013.

### 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

**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
- 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. If attendance becomes an issue and you decide not to return to class, it is YOUR responsibility to officially withdraw from the course. 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.

**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):

a. In-class participation and homework assignments	340 pts.
b. Quizzes (20 pts. each)	60 pts.
c. Midterm (100 pts.) and final exam (150 pts.)	250 pts.
d. Career Exploration Assignment	100 pts.
e. Demonstrated participation in a college activity	75 pts.
f. Non-academic goal (NAG)	175 pts.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000 pts.</b>

**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

**Class Attendance Policy:**

“Instructional staff assigned to all sections of credit bearing courses at Three Rivers are required to take attendance at each class meeting and retain accurate records of attendance for at least three calendar years. The manner in which attendance is taken is determined at the professional discretion of the instructor. In certain instances, these records are furnished to the Financial Aid Office and the International Student advisor.” Class attendance is expected. You are permitted 2 class absences. After 2 classes, you run the risk of failing the course and must contact me. Students are responsible for missed work and are not exempt from the late work policy. Quizzes and exams cannot be made up if missed.

**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.**

**Students with Disabilities:**

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. **TRCC Disabilities Service Providers** Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119:

<b>College Disabilities Service Provider</b>	
<p>Matt Liscum, Counselor (860) 215-9265 Room A113</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disabilities</li> <li>• ADD/ADHD</li> <li>• Autism Spectrum</li> <li>• Mental Health Disabilities</li> </ul>
<p>Elizabeth Willcox, Advisor (860) 215-9289 Room A113</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical Disabilities</li> <li>• Mobility Disabilities</li> <li>• Sensory Disability</li> </ul>

**Academic Integrity / Plagiarism Policy:**

The effective operation of any organization is dependent on the honesty and goodwill of its members. In an organization devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, acting with integrity is essential to effective teaching and learning. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. To emphasize the importance of academic integrity, Three Rivers Community College adheres to the following policy in addition to the Student Discipline Policy, sections 2:10 and 3:1-10, as provided by the Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges. Since collaboration is central to the learning community, Three Rivers wishes to emphasize that this policy is not intended to discourage collaboration when appropriate, approved, and disclosed.

**Withdrawal Policy:**

After the last drop date specified in the academic calendar, students may withdraw from courses by completing the appropriate form which is available online or in any Student Services Office. If necessary you can withdraw by phone by calling the Registrar's office. Withdrawals are accepted until the week before classes check the specific date in the academic calendar end – **December 9th** –. A grade of “W” will be entered for each course from which a student withdraws. The course(s) and grade “W” will appear on the student's transcript.

**NF Grade:**

The NF Grade is assigned to students when there is no basis for a grade. This would apply to students who never came to class as well as to those who didn't attend or participate long enough to be graded. The NF grade is used to distinguish between earned failures (F), official withdrawals (W) and students who stop attending or participating before there is a basis for a grade.

**Digication Statement:** Traditional Version

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.

**Class Cancellation Procedure:**

In the event that I must cancel class due to sickness or personal emergency, I will contact the Academic Dean's office so that they can post the cancellation and discuss how I intend to make up the class time. The academic dean does not contact students when class is cancelled. To provide early warning for a cancellation I will email, so be certain that you have a **school assigned email** address on file with the registrar's, and not a personal one.

**MyCommNet Alert:** MyCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages & emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency.

**Assignments:**

Required assignments are to be typed, stapled and are due on the date noted on the syllabus. Students are required to come to class with the reading and/or the work completed, and prepared to hand it on the day noted on the syllabus. **No assignments will be accepted via email.**

**Late Work:**

Students are required to hand in all work, typed, double spaced, stapled and on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time stated on the syllabus is considered late. After the assigned date students may only hand in late work the following class for an automatic 50% reduction before grading.

**The Writing Center/ TASC:** Room C117 (across from my office)

860.892.5713, [TRWritingcenter@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingcenter@trcc.comnet.edu), online tutoring: <http://www.etutoring.org/>

**Weather Cancellations:** 860.886.0177 [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu)

### Course Calendar:

#### Week 1:

M 8.29 In class: "Why are you here?" introductions

Homework: college email assignment

W 8.31 In class: Pre-Assessment Inventory, Syllabus review, Blackboard

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#### Week 2:

M 9.5 No class: Labor Day

W. 9.7 In class: Guest Speaker: "TRCC Library" by Pamela Williams, (hint: take notes for quiz), Ch 1: The Game Plan review (high school vs. college)

Homework: One page typed summary, Ch.3: Goal Setting, Motivation and Character

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#### Week 3:

M 9.12 In class: Guest Speaker: "Plagiarism: Plain & Simple" by Jon Brammer. (hint: take notes for quiz), discussion of Ch 3.

Homework: One page typed summary

W 9.14 In class: Ch.3 discussion continued

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#### Week 4:

M 9.19 In class: Guest Speaker: "TRCC Tutoring Center" by Matthew Burbine (hint: take notes for quiz)

Homework: One page typed summary

W 9.21 In class: Intro to Event Essay and NAG Assignment

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#### Week 5:

M 9.26 In class: Intro to Block format

Homework: Read Ch.4: Managing Time and Preventing Procrastination

W 9.28 In class: Discuss Ch. 4, Week at a glance/ Managing your time, Psychological reasons for procrastinating

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**Week 6:**

M 10.3 Quiz on ch.4; discussion on Career Exploration Portfolio

W 10.5 examination of MLA format

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**Week 7:**

M 10.10 Transfer Policy guest speaker

W 10.12 Open class: Tentative guest speaker

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**Week 8:**

M 10.17 Open class: Tentative speaker

W 10.19 Mid-Term Review

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**Week 9:**

M 10.24 Mid-Term Exam

W 10.26 Career Exploration Part I due: presentations

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**Week 10:**

M 10.31 Career Exploration Part I Con't and Part II

W 11.2 Career Exploration Part II Con't

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**Week 11:**

M 11.7 Discuss and review CH.6: Exercises should be completed before this class

W 11.9 Quiz on ch. 6; College event essays due

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**Week 12:**

M 11.14 Career Exploration Part III

W 11.16 Career Exploration Part IV

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**Week 13:**

M 11.21 Optional class: "Fill the Box" Food Drive

W 11.23 No class: Thanksgiving Break

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**Week 14:**

M 11.28 Film

W 11.30 Film

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**Week 15:**

M 12.5 NAG presentations

W 12.7 NAG presentations

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**Week 16:**

M 12.12 Exam Review

W 12.14 Final Exam

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**\*Course Syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change**