

**IDS K105**  
**First Year Experience**  
**31794**

**Three Rivers Community College**  
**Fall 2016**

Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00am – 9:15am  
Room D-215

Instructor: Jason M. Sheldon  
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Office Hours: By appointment  
Room D-205E

**Prerequisites**

Satisfactory reading placement test scores and/or completion of the ESL 060 and 061 courses are the only prerequisites.

**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 learner, and to engage with the resources and activities within the Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) 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 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 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 TRCC 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.

### **Texts**

Cuseo, Joseph. *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 2013. Kendall Hunt. ISBN 9781465213143.

TRCC Student Handbook 2016-2017.

There may be additional readings assigned which will be announced and available on Blackboard.

### **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, all handouts, and all homework assignments on the site. Please check Blackboard before e-mailing me questions about the class.

## **Digication Portfolios**

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.

More information, including tutorials, may be found at:

[www.threerivers.edu/Div\\_IT/EducationalTechnology/Digication.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Digication.shtml)

## **Attendance**

Your attendance is mandatory. Multiple absences will negatively affect your final grade.

Be on time and stay for the entire class. Arriving late and leaving early from class will not be tolerated and will negatively affect your final grade.

## **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**

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 discussions 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.

A student who has plagiarized will fail his/her assignment and will be reported to the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean for disciplinary action.

### **Disabilities Statement**

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 Disability Service Providers  
Counseling & Advising Center  
Room A-119

Contact Matt Liscum at 860-215-9265 for learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, autism spectrum, and mental health disabilities.

Contact Elizabeth Wilcox at 860-215-9289 for medical, mobility, and sensory disabilities.

### **Method of Evaluation**

*Participation/Discussion* – Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions and group work each week. A participation rubric will be handed out in class to further detail expectations. Participation in discussions and in-class work will compose 5% of your final grade.

*Weekly Quizzes* – There will be weekly quizzes on Blackboard covering material in the assigned readings and in class. They will be available on Thursday following class and must be completed no later than Tuesday by 8:00am. The quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. These quizzes will be timed and must be completed when started. There will be no make-ups allowed. Plan accordingly. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. Weekly Quizzes will compose 10% of your final grade.

*Homework/Assignments* – You are expected to complete any assigned work. Homework assignments will compose 10% of your final grade.

*Reflection Papers* – At specific points in the semester we will spend some time reflecting on what was covered in and outside of class. These papers will be based on guided questions. These papers must conform to specific guidelines. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation will be checked. The papers will be graded on those factors as well as organization and content. The Reflection Papers will compose 15% of your final grade.

*Journals* – You will keep a typed journal throughout the semester to consider your personal, career, educational, and family goals. Your entries will include discussion not only as to what these specific

goals are, but how you are working to achieve them in your daily life as well as any struggles you encounter. Journals will compose 10% of your final grade.

*Group Project* – In groups of 4-6 you will make a presentation giving advice to next year's entering students. The presentation will need to be 20 minutes long if given in class or 10 minutes long if you are making a video recording. Presentations must be accompanied by a handout the group designed. Be creative. I will give groups class time to meet at a location of their choosing. These are designated on the syllabus as "Group Meeting Day." There may be an alternative Service Learning assignment offered to take the place of this project. The Group Project will compose 10% of your final grade.

*Education Plan* – This four part assignment will help you map your coursework, design a realistic plan for accomplishing your coursework, and learn to work with your advisor to accomplish your goals. Details of the assignment will be passed out in class. The Education Plan will compose 5% of your final grade.

*Career Exploration Paper* – Write a resume and then bring it into the Writing Center for assistance with formatting and tips for improvement. Using your resume as a guide, you will research a career using multiple sources and write a 4-6 page paper that will analyze what skills, traits, college courses, and experience you should gain during your time in college in order to make yourself more marketable. Your resume and references are not included in the 4-6 page requirement. The Career Exploration Paper will compose 15% of your final grade.

*Event Assignment* – You will attend a TRCC-sponsored event and write a brief paper detailing your experience, including what attracted you to the event and offering your critical thoughts on it. The Event Assignment will compose 5% of your final grade.

*Midterm and Final Exams* – The Midterm and Final Exams will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true/false, short answer, matching, and essay questions. Questions will cover all topics discussed in class and through assigned readings. There will be no make-ups for these exams. The Midterm and Final Exam will compose 15% of your final grade (7.5% each).

## **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 [www.threerivers.edu](http://www.threerivers.edu) or calling the main phone number to the college, 860-215-9000. If I need to cancel class for other reasons, I will inform you via email and on Blackboard. Be sure to have accurate contact information in MyCommNet.

## **MyCommNet Alert**

MyCommNet 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 web site. Please visit this link for more details:

[websupport.ct.edu/content/how-do-i-update-mycommnet-alert-information](http://websupport.ct.edu/content/how-do-i-update-mycommnet-alert-information)

## **College Withdrawal Policy**

Course withdrawals are accepted up until the week before classes end. Withdrawal forms are available online or at the Registrar's Office. The withdrawal does not have to be signed by the instructor, but it is strongly advised that you speak with your instructor before withdrawing. If necessary, you can withdraw over the phone by calling the Registrar's Office at 860-215-9064. Emails and faxes are also accepted. If you are receiving Financial Aid, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing. Withdrawing from a course may affect your Financial Aid for current and/or future semester(s). It is your responsibility to confirm that the withdrawal has been received.

The deadline for students to withdraw is December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Submitting Work**

All assignments are due by the beginning of class. Please leave work on the corner of my desk before the start of class. No late work is accepted in this class.

If you find yourself in a situation where you anticipate that an assignment will be late then you need to inform me at least 3 days prior to the due date, explain the reasons why, and when you plan to hand in the assignment. The decision to allow extensions is done on a case-by-case basis. Simply telling me will not guarantee that I will accept your work late.

All assignments that are done outside of class are expected to be typed, printed, and stapled. Failure to do so will result in penalization and possible failure of an assignment.

I will not accept work sent via email; only hard copies of assignments will be accepted. My mailbox is located in room D-207. There may be times when I require an electronic and a hard copy to be submitted.

Microsoft Office 365, which includes helpful programs such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint is available free to all students.

For more information on Microsoft Office 365:

[www.threerivers.edu/Div\\_StudentServices/admissions/Student\\_email.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_StudentServices/admissions/Student_email.shtml)

## **Communication**

For this course you will need to use your TRCC student email account. I will not read or respond to emails sent from your personal e-mail accounts. All my communications and announcements regarding the course will be sent to your TRCC student email accounts and posted on Blackboard.

For more information on student e-mail accounts:

[www.threerivers.edu/Div\\_StudentServices/admissions/Student\\_email.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_StudentServices/admissions/Student_email.shtml)

## **Nota Bene**

I understand other obligations (work, family, etc.) may infringe upon your ability to be present in class and to turn in assignments on time. Please contact me in advance if you anticipate problems or issues with your responsibilities (homework, tests, projects, attendance, etc.) for this course.

## **Schedule**

This schedule is tentative. The readings, assignments, and test dates are subject to change. Any amendments will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

### WEEK 1

#### **8/30 – Introduction to First Year Experience / Class Overview**

READING: None

TOPIC: Syllabus / MyCommNet / Student Email / Blackboard / Digication

#### **9/1 – Transitioning from High School to College**

READING: Preface / Introduction

TOPIC: How is College Different from High School?

WEEK 2

**9/6 – The Game Plan**

READING: Chapter 1

TOPIC: College Expectations / Language Registers / Netiquette

GUEST SPEAKER: Matt Burbine – Tutoring and Academic Success Center

**9/8 – The Game Plan, continued / Resources for Research & Citations**

READING: Handouts & Links

TOPIC: Plagiarism / Proper Research Techniques / Citing Sources

GUEST SPEAKER: Jon Brammer – Plagiarism Workshop

WEEK 3

**9/13 – Touching All the Bases**

READING: Chapter 2

TOPIC: Active Involvement / College Resources / Building Relationships / Support Structures

GUEST SPEAKER: Alycia Ziegler – Student Programs

**9/15 – Sexual Misconduct**

READING: Links

TOPIC: Sexual Misconduct

GUEST SPEAKER: Jessica Martin – Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT

WEEK 4

**9/20 – Goals, Motivation, and Character**

READING: Chapter 3

TOPIC: Identifying Motivation / Applying Goals / Screening – *Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture" – Achieving Your Childhood Dreams*

**9/22 – Goals, Motivation, and Character, continued**

READING: None

TOPIC: Screening – *Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture" – Achieving Your Childhood Dreams*, continued / Discussion



WEEK 5

**9/27 – Time Management**

READING: Chapter 4

TOPIC: Time Management Plans / Dealing with Procrastination

**9/29 – Higher-Level Thinking**

READING: Chapter 5

TOPIC: Thinking and Reasoning / Creative Thinking / Critical Thinking /  
Screening – EXAMINED LIFE (Canada, 2008), Dir. Astra Taylor, Excerpts

WEEK 6

**10/4 – Writing and Research in College**

READING: [writingcommons.org/open-text](http://writingcommons.org/open-text)

TOPIC: Writing Skills / Research Skills / Digication

GUEST SPEAKER: Pamela Williams – Library Resources

**10/6 – Educational Planning**

READING: Chapter 12, pgs. 327-347

TOPIC: Choosing a Major / Learning Preferences / Planning Beyond Your Major

WEEK 7

**10/11 – Educational Planning**

READING: None

TOPIC: Transfer Options

**10/13 – Career Exploration and Development**

READING: Chapter 12, pgs. 347-372

TOPIC: Career Research Process / Networking / Résumé Strategies

WEEK 8

**10/18 – Review: Midterm**

**10/20 – Midterm**

WEEK 9

**10/25 – Strategic Learning and Studying**

READING: Chapter 6

TOPIC: Lecture, Reading, and Study Strategies

**10/27 – Test-Taking Skills and Strategies**

READING: Chapter 7

TOPIC: Handling Specific Types of Tests and Test Questions / Post-Test Strategies

WEEK 10

**11/1 – Group Meeting Day**

**11/3 – Diversity / Social and Emotional Intelligence**

READING: Chapters 8 & 10

TOPIC: Diversity and the College Experience / Communication and Conflict / *ENTRE LES MURS* [THE CLASS] (France, 2008), Dir. Laurent Cantet, 128 min.

WEEK 11

**11/8 – Diversity / Social and Emotional Intelligence, continued**

READING: Review Chapters 8 & 10 and Handouts

TOPIC: Screening – *ENTRE LES MURS* [THE CLASS] (France, 2008), Dir. Laurent Cantet, 128 min.

**11/10 – Diversity / Social and Emotional Intelligence, continued**

READING: Review Chapters 8 & 10 and Handouts

TOPIC: Screening – *ENTRE LES MURS* [THE CLASS] (France, 2008), Dir. Laurent Cantet, 128 min. / Discussion

WEEK 12

**11/15 – Financial Literacy**

READING: Chapter 9

TOPIC: Personal Finances / Educational Finances / Saving and Planning

GUEST SPEAKER: Pamela Days-Luketich – Financial Fitness

**11/17 – Health and Wellness**

READING: Chapter 11 & Handouts

TOPIC: Wellness / Nutrition / Exercise and Fitness

WEEK 13

**11/22 – Group Meeting Day**

**11/24 – No Class (Thanksgiving)**

WEEK 14

**11/29 – Group Presentations**

**12/1 – Group Presentations**

WEEK 15

**12/6 – Review: Final Exam**

**12/8 – Final Exam**