
IDS K105: First Year Experience - Fall 2015

Three Rivers Community College

Tuesday/Thursday 1pm – 2:35pm, Room D-107 (CRN 32829)

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Course Description

3 Credits

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 096 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, and awareness of self as a learner, and to engage with the resources and activities within the assignments along with classroom discussion as you investigate how to be successful in this environment.

Instructional Materials

Required Text: *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond: Strategies for Academic Success & Personal Development* 2nd Edition. Dubuque, IA; Kendal Hunt Publishing. 2013

ISBN: 9781465213143

-Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) website

-TRCC Student Handbook

Instructional Methods

Course instruction will include short interactive lectures, small group work, class discussions and relevant videos and podcasts.

Course Objectives

The course content and related assignments are designed to support and assist your transition to college and your ability to navigate and develop self-sufficiency at the college both onsite and online. Further, the course is intended to pique our interest as to all that the college experience has to offer in expanding our knowledge, examining our perspectives and ways of thinking and understanding ourselves, others and the world in which we live. As such, emphasis will be on the interdisciplinary and connected nature of knowledge and learning. In addition to acquiring knowledge about college, we will apply what we learn about learning to our academics and experience of college to further develop ourselves as effective learners and successful students. In doing so, we will explore and engage with learning strategies, life management skills, active

participation in the college community, classroom discussion and other public speaking, and critical/higher order thinking skills.

Students should seek to:

- Make a positive and productive transition to college life.
- Develop coping skills and behaviors to meet the challenges of college education.
- Understand and improve the teaching/learning process.
- Develop skills that enhance planning, studying, communication and critical thinking.
- Assess personal strengths and limitations to set and achieve appropriate goals.
- Learn about and use the resources of Three Rivers Community College.
- Become more confident with writing, reading and speaking in an academic environment.
- Establish personal, career and academic goals, with an understanding of potential obstructions to these goals.
- Become aware of and develop attitudes towards tolerance and acceptance of diverse communities and their opinions.
- Actively and effectively participate in group assignments and discussions.
- Participate in activities/community functions on the Three Rivers 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 information 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

Expectations of You

- That our classroom environment will be one of mutual respect, inclusiveness, and openness to different perspectives, opinions and lived experiences.
- That we will be thoughtful and appropriate in our language and tone of communication with one another and our behavior toward one another.
- That you will attend every class.
- That we will come to each class having completed the readings, questions and any other assignments due, knowing that the quality and depth of our learning and the exchange of ideas and perspectives is a collective responsibility and requires the presence, participation and effort of all.
- That we are all here to learn and that asking questions about the course content, materials and assignments or anything about the college experience, processes, policies, etc. are both welcome and considered necessary.
- That you will attend class and arrive on time.
- That you let me know, in advance, if you will not be able to attend class on a given day or, in the case of unforeseen circumstances, email or leave me a message.
- That we are each responsible for knowing and adhering to assignment deadlines and accepting the outcome, both in class and in our individual course assessment and grade, if we do not do so.

Expectations of Me

- That I am available to see you in my office at any time. I am often available to see students on a walk-in basis however there are times that due to regularly scheduled meetings or appointments we may need to schedule a specific time.
- That to the best of my ability, I will make the course interesting and engaging and hopefully, thought provoking.
- I will post the syllabus, handouts, assignment information sheets, the course schedule of topics, assignments and due dates and any other relevant items on Blackboard.
- I will provide ample advance notice of written and group assignments.

Course Assessment and Grading Criteria

Meaningful and successful completion of this course will require effort and active engagement in all aspects of the learning experience both in and out of the classroom, both individually, and collectively in small groups and the class as a whole. Course assessment is for work completed individually and together as itemized below.

- Class attendance is necessary in order to be successful in this course. Absence from more than three classes will greatly jeopardize your ability to complete the course and receive a passing grade. A pattern of lateness or leaving early will negatively impact your grade.
- Class participation is equally important; not just how much or how often but the quality of questions and comments and relevance to the discussion.

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- All reading and writing assignments are due at the beginning of the next scheduled class or the due date given on the *Course Schedule and Course Assessments and Due Dates* (provided for your convenience).
 - Course assessment items will not be accepted after the DUE date. In extenuating circumstances, such as documented personal or family emergency or serious illness, the student should bring the situation to the instructor's attention immediately. The instructor retains the right to determine what is "extenuating" and warrants an exception.
 - All written assignments must be typed (unless otherwise indicated) and include, at minimum, your name, the course title, instructor name and page numbers (for papers more than one page in length.)
 - MLA format is the required format.

Class participation and class preparation - Class participation along with reading and writing assignments are a means of presenting material, checking for understanding and providing the opportunity for self-reflection and assessment. *Weekly discussion questions and/or assigned question responses must be numbered and may be handwritten, but must be LEGIBLE.*

College Syllabi and Website Information Worksheet and Quiz – The ability to develop the know-how and self-sufficiency in finding information provided to you in your course syllabi and on the college online sites (website, MyCommnet and Blackboard) is an important first step in becoming a confident and competent college student... knowing how to navigate and access readily available information.

Integrated Time Management and College Resources "Map" for Semester Success – This activity is designed to put into practice during the current semester the time management, academic planning and the timely college resources utilization that, when put in place, can result in successful completion of your courses and most importantly, getting the most from you education.

Advisor Meeting and Preparation (schedule appointment, POS, introduction and questions for your advisor) – The advising relationship is a partnership; this activity is designed to prepare you for your first meeting with your faculty advisor and includes skills that are foundational to initial meetings in many contexts.

TRCC Student Activity or Event and Response – Getting involved in a club, student organization, college community volunteer or service learning project and attending academic and social events is known to be a key factor in student success and persistence. This item requires your selection of a college event, activity or organizational meeting of interest to you, your attendance at the function and a one to two page response paper.

Learning Styles Assessment, Self-observation and Strategies - We will learn about preferred styles of learning, use a learning styles inventory to gain more information about our learning style/s, use this information to conduct a self-observation and apply what we learn.

Motivational / Inspirational– Small Group Project and Class Presentation – You will work together in a small group of 4-5 to define and identify what inspires and motivates you, using what we have learned about higher order thinking and learning styles to come up with the means (creatively and multi-dimensionally) of communicating your source or sources of inspiration/motivation to the class in a 15-20 minute presentation. Exciting details to follow.

Career Exploration and Educational Pathway Project and Degree Completion Plan –

Through completion of an interest inventory, learning about and accessing career exploration tools, conducting research and bringing these elements together, students will explore the relationship between interests, educational pathways and career possibilities and apply what you have learned to preliminary career focus and decision-making. The project outcome will include your own “map” that lays out your pathway to educational goal attainment, degree completion, career focus and/ or further education.

Final Exam – A cumulative assessment to be completed in class of essential course components, applications, outcomes and learnings.

<u>Assessment Item</u>	<u>Points</u>
Class Participation and preparatory chapter and/or discussion questions	120
TRCC Website Navigation Worksheet	60
Course Syllabus Quiz	20
Integrated Time Management and College Resources “Map” for Semester Success	100
Advisor Meeting Preparation and Outcomes	50
TRCC Student Engagement Activity and Response	50
Learning Styles Self Observation Activity and Response	50
Motivational/Inspirational Small Group Project and Presentation	200
Interest Inventory/Career and Educational Pathway Project Degree Completion Plan	200
Final Exam	150
Total Points	1000

<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent Points</u>
A	940 - 1000
A-	900 - 939
B+	870 - 899
B	830 - 869
B-	800 - 829
C+	770 - 799
C	730 - 769
C-	700 - 729
D+	670 - 699
D	630 - 669
D-	600 - 629
F	Below 600

Policies and Procedures

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.

Class Cancellation

To determine if the college is closed, please visit the TRCC webpage at <http://www.trcc.commnet.edu> and sign-up for notification through MyCommNet ALERT (this is highly recommended).

Technology Statement

The use of cell phones, laptops, or any other technological devices is not permitted during class time. If you wish to use a laptop for note taking, please see me for approval.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities are guaranteed reasonable accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. Disclosure of a disability must be voluntary. Disabilities include physical, sensory, medical, mental health or learning disabilities.

Please note that an instructor cannot provide disability accommodations until a student provides the necessary paperwork to the instructor from the college's Office of Disability Services.

Disability Specialist Contact Information:

Matt Liscum, mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu, 860-215-9265, Office A-124

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential in the learning community both individually and collectively. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; in completing and submitting your own best academic work, at all times, do so with honor.

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 a study group is considered plagiarism. Whether it is conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Plagiarism in this course, and any other course, will receive a ZERO on the assignment and will be reported to both the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean for disciplinary action.

Digication - Electronic Learning 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

College Course Withdrawal Policy

The last day to withdraw from course/s for the Fall 2015 semester is Monday, December 14, 2015. All withdrawals must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in the A-Wing or online through MyCommnet. If necessary, withdrawals may be done via email, fax or by calling the Registrar's office at 860-215-9064. 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 and/or your advisor before withdrawing. It is your responsibility to confirm that the withdrawal has been received. Withdrawals submitted after the date above will not be accepted.

Important Note: Students receiving Financial Aid should contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing. Withdrawal may affect your financial aid for current and/or future semester(s).