

FYE: First Year Experience

Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:20

Prof: Will Hare

Office: Annex 5 Hours: Monday/Wednesday 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm (Thames Campus)
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 am- 12:00pm (Mohegan Campus)

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Introduction:

This course will provide you with an introduction to the skills and strategies necessary for a successful completion of your college goals and objectives. We will spend the semester exploring what it means to be an educated person and how obtaining a college education will change your life and responsibilities. Through a semester long project we will practice practical skills such as media literacy and critical thinking, while exploring concepts such as intellectual curiosity and ethics. This course is designed to emphasize self-reflection about your academic goals as well as class discussion and the exchange of ideas. You must come to class prepared to participate.

Required Books:

Learning to Think Things Through, 2nd Ed. By Gerald M. Nosich
One pocket folder for your portfolio.

Course Objectives:

At the successful completion of this course each student should have:

1. Increased their capacity for critical and analytical thinking.
2. Demonstrated their use of basic library research skills,
3. Demonstrated their understanding of media and information literacy.
4. Demonstrated their understanding of cultural diversity.
5. Demonstrated their ability to develop, research, and produce an academic poster as part of a team.
6. Increased their knowledge of the academic culture at Three Rivers Community College.

Grades:

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Class Participation	20% (You have to come to class to participate)
Portfolio Assignments	40%
Group Project	40%
Bibliography	10% (graded individually)
Proposal	10% (graded individually)
Poster	20% (group grade/individually adjusted by the professor)

Portfolio assignments will include chapter exercises and in-class exercises. These assignments will be typed in most cases and all will be collected in your portfolio folder. This collection of work will be used for your self-evaluation at the end of the semester. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR YOU TO KEEP A COMPLETE PORTFOLIO IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE.**

Project:

This class will be responsible for presenting a public program (topic to be determined) at the end of the semester. Each student will participate in a team "poster" project. Details for this assignment will be discussed in class and we will spend the semester preparing for this event.

Assignments:

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Assignment
1	Introductions	“Why am I Here?”	Personal Mission Statement
2	Chapter 1	Critical Thinking	Ex 1.1, 1.2, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12
3	Library Skills	Library Skills	
4	Chapter 2	Elements of Reason	Ex 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
5	Media Literacy	Info Literacy	Project Bibliography
6	Chapter 3	Fields and Disciplines	Ex 3.10, 3.11, 3.12
7	Culture/Diversity	“Why am I still here?”	Project Proposal
8	Chapter 4	Standards	Ex 4.14, 4.16
9	Academic Success	“Where to now?”	Class Registration
10	Chapter 5		TBA
11	Group Work	Group Work	
12	Group Work	Group Work	
13	Group Work	Group Work	
14	Public Presentation	Public Presentation	
15	Evaluation	Evaluation	

Course Rules and Guidelines:

Some simple rules to live by (if you want a good grade):

1. Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
2. No more than 2 absences (after that it affects your grade).
3. No late assignments.
4. Be respectful of your classmates and the professor.
5. Use the writing center.
6. Participate in class.
7. Read and abide the college’s academic honesty policy.
8. Do not wait until the last minute to read the assignments.
9. Study!
10. Ask for help!

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar’s Office. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without being in good standing or obtaining permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a “W” grade for the course. Students who fail to properly withdraw, and discontinue coming to class, will be assigned an “F” grade. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal through the registrar’s office. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see the professor as soon as possible.

Cell Phones:

Except for potential personal emergencies (and with prior permission of the instructor) all cell phones will be turned off at the start of class.

Academic Integrity:

Any form of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in the immediate failure of the assignment and an official report to academic officials. Any additional acts of dishonesty will probably lead to failure of the course. Please see me if you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism.

College Closings/Cancelled Classes:

In the event of foul winter weather, the college will post announcements on the main website, the phone answering service, and through local media sources. I will do my best to contact you via e-mail if I am unable to attend class for whatever reason.

Late Assignments:

All assignments turned in after the due date will be graded pass/fail. This means that the best grade you can get is a 65. It is in your best interest to get your assignments completed on time.

Extra Credit:

I do not normally allow students to complete extra credit assignments. If you are unable to satisfactorily complete the required assignments, it certainly is not feasible for you to take on extra work.