

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Three Rivers Community College

IDS K105, CRN 10958, Section T02

Spring 2009

Instructor:	Jodi Calvert
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Class Hours:	12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday, TRCC D226
Office Hours:	1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday, or by appointment
Required Text:	<i>The Last Lecture</i> , Randy Pausch, 2008, (ISBN 978-1-4013-2325-7) <i>How to Win at College</i> , Cal Newport, 2005, (ISBN 0-7679-1787-1)
Required Supplies:	Three-ring binder Page protectors Subject dividers

Course Description: The content of this course is designed to help you make a smooth transition to college. Information on how to succeed in college in terms of understanding the process of learning, studying, balancing external demands on your time with new college demands, planning for the future and just knowing “the ropes” will be provided. You can expect regular reading, writing and research assignments along with classroom discussion as you investigate how to be successful in this new environment.

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

Prerequisites: Satisfactory reading placement scores and/or completion of ESL 060 and 061.

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. In instances where students have disabilities that are not discernable, valid and reliable documentation to verify eligibility for accommodation is required and must be submitted to the Student Development offices of Student Services. Please call 383-5217 for more information or to schedule a confidential meeting with a disability service provider.

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 study groups is considered plagiarism. Whether it is conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Your writing for this course, and any other course at TRCC, is expected to be original, and the product of your own thinking. A student who is determined to have plagiarized will receive a ZERO on that assignment and will be reported to both the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean for disciplinary action.

Technology Statement: The use of cell phones, laptops, texting instruments and/or any other technological device is not permitted during class time. If you wish to use a laptop for note taking, please see the instructor.

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, and proper spelling. Emails not meeting these criteria will be returned to sender.

Evaluation Criteria: The First Year Experience course demands active involvement in a variety of learning experiences.

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating student performance:

- a. **Classroom participation and in-class assignments**
 - b. **Weekly assignments**
 - c. **First-year experience portfolio**
 - d. **Midterm and final exams**
 - e. **Demonstrated participation in a college activity**
 - f. **Non-academic goal**
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- a. **Classroom participation and in-class assignments**
Class attendance is expected and vital. Lateness and absences will have a negative impact on your grade. You will be allowed two (2) absences. Any additional unexcused absences will result in a recommendation for withdrawal from the course. Please notify the instructor in writing via email before the class begins if you are going to be absent.
 - b. **Weekly assignments**
Writing assignments are designed to provide opportunities for 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. First-year experience portfolio

Students will be required to keep all class materials and assignments in a three-ring binder. Page protectors and subject dividers should be used to separate and protect sections of the portfolio. The portfolio is a compilation of all that is accomplished during the semester and will serve as a useful reference tool for the student for semesters to come.

d. Midterm and final exams

During the semester there will be a midterm examination and a final exam. Exams will consist of (but will not be limited to) multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and essay questions. Exams cannot be made up unless arrangements have been made with the instructor *prior* to the time of the exam.

e. Demonstrated participation in a college activity

Each student will participate in at least one (1) Three Rivers Community College sponsored event or function and will submit a typed paper that critiques the experience.

f. Non-academic goal

Students will be required to set a non-academic goal to be obtained by semester-end. The project will conclude with an oral presentation and peer evaluations. More information will be provided about this project throughout the semester.

Grade Computation:

The following is a general breakdown of the final grade:

Classroom participation and in-class assignments	15%	150 pts.
Weekly assignments	35%	350 pts.
First-year experience portfolio	10%	100 pts.
Midterm and final exam	20%	200 pts.
Demonstrated participation in a college activity	5%	50 pts.
Non-academic goal	15%	<u>150 pts.</u>
		1000 pts.

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

College Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from a class, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until May 11, 2009.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” – *John Dewey*