

**IDS K105  
First Year Experience (FYE)  
3 Credits**

**Instructor:** Sharon J. Koch, MSW, M.Ed.  
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860-885-2600

**Office Hours:** Immediately after class each M/W/F or by appointment

**Room:** E221

**Meeting Times:** Monday / Wednesday / Friday 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

January 21, 2009 through May 18, 2009  
(No class 2/16, 3/16, 3/18, 3/20, 4/10)

**Required Books:**

1. Sherfield, R.M., Montgomery, R.J., & Moody, P.G. (2008). *Cornerstone: Discovering your Potential, Learning Actively, and Living Well*, Fifth Edition Concise  
ISBN-10: 0132235579 or ISBN-13: 978-0132235570
2. Gardner, H. (2006). *Five Minds for the Future*. Harvard Business School Press: Boston.  
ISBN-10: 1591399122 or ISBN-13: 978-1591399124

**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 studying, balancing family and job responsibilities with new college demands, planning for the future, and just knowing "the ropes" will be provided. You can expect regular reading and writing assignments along with classroom discussion as you investigate how to be successful in this new environment.

**Course Expectations:** The assignments will consist of reading for each class, 15 reflective journal assignments (due weekly on Fridays), 2 in-class Reaction Papers, 5 short essays, and the "Non-Academic Goal" assignment with presentation. One of your essays will require you to attend a TRCC event. There will also be a mid-term and final exam. **You will need to purchase 2 one-subject notebooks for this class: one to use as a journal, and one for notes.** The instructor will give you a folder for handouts and this syllabus.

*Please note that the instructor reserves the right to give pop-quizzes if it appears that the weekly reading is not being done. **Participation and attendance are essential.***  
Please see the grading rubric in this syllabus. If you miss a class, you are expected to obtain notes and turn in assignments on time regardless of the reason for your absence.

**Prerequisites:** Satisfactory reading placement test scores and/or completion of the ESL 060 and 061 courses.

**Learning Outcomes:**

*Upon successful completion of IDS 105, students should be able to:*

1. *Understand, articulate, and apply the elements of reasoning*
  - a. Formulate appropriate questions and hypotheses
  - b. Recognize assumptions and formulate premises
  - c. Analyze, synthesize and evaluate information
  - d. Formulate logical conclusions
2. *Demonstrate informational literacy*
  - a. Understand how and why outside sources are utilized in academic work
  - b. Learn and employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism
3. *Understand and apply the fundamentals of quantitative reasoning*
  - a. Use information presented quantitatively to further academic work
  - b. Identify, extract, and interpret numerical data from various sources
4. *Demonstrate effective communication skills*
  - a. Use writing, reading, and speaking for inquiry, learning, and thinking in a college setting
  - b. Understand, articulate, and apply self-assessment and decision-making skills in achieving family, educational, career, and personal goals

Each student is expected to begin their college journey by making a personal decision to do their very best each day, with each assignment, and each class.

**Overview of Course Assignments**

*\*Please see course outline for further details.*

Assignment	Due Date	This assignment correlates with the following outcome
Journal Assignments	Each Friday	1c, 2b, 3b, 4a, 4b
Reaction Paper #1 In-Class	This will be done in class on 2/4/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 4a, 4b
Reaction Paper #2 In Class	This will be done in class on 3/11/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 4a, 4b
Essay #1	Your biggest success in life so far and the area where you think you could have made a different choice. 2/11/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 4a, 4b
Essay #2	Your educational journey – 2/25/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 4a, 4b
Essay #3	The importance of managing your finances – 3/4/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b
Essay #4	Personal Health and Wellness – 4/8/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b
Essay #5	Attendance at a TRCC sponsored event – 4/15/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 4a, 4b
Non-Academic Goal Assignment and Presentation	One page summary due 2/4/09 and presentations on 3/30/09 and 4/1/09	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 4a, 4b
Mid-Term	3/13/09	All
Final Exam	5/18/09	All

**Journal Assignments:**

Journal assignments will be given out in the Monday class and due on Friday. There are 15 times that you must turn in your journal. The assignments are not lengthy and will be assigned each Monday morning in class. (If you miss a class, you are still expected to get the assignment and turn in a journal each Friday.) Each entry is worth 1 point. (Each late entry will be reduced by ½ point.)

**Course Policies:**

- **Absences and Tardiness** – An attendance sign-in sheet will be circulated during the first 10 minutes of each class. If you miss the sign-in sheet, you will be considered absent. More than 3 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.**

*It is disrespectful to habitually be late, inattentive in class, or absent without notice. Please be mindful of the importance of presenting yourself as a professional student by avoiding those common pitfalls.*

- **Technology Statement** – The use of cell phones, laptops, texting instruments and/or any other technological device is not permitted. ***Please do not answer or make a call during class time.*** If you wish to use a laptop for note taking, please see the instructor.
- **Make-Up Exams** will not be given except in extreme circumstances. Please do not be absent for exams as it may have a negative impact on your grade.
- **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. Any email messages that arrive with an inappropriate screen name will be deleted. Email messages will not be responded to over the weekend.
- **Constructive Participation** – Your involved participation in the course is essential. You will be expected to ask questions, comment constructively during class discussions, be respectful and polite to all members of the group, and display evidence of your ability to present yourself as a professional student. You will be graded in part for your ability to demonstrate these qualities in the class.

**MLA Format** – All formal writing assignments must utilize the MLA format. More information can be found at [http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed\\_Resources/writing\\_center/](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/writing_center/).

**Class Format**

This class will be centered on class discussions of the assigned readings, group activities and discussions, and guest speakers. *Due to the format of our class, it is essential that students come prepared to discuss the readings and participate to the fullest extent possible.* If each person is able to contribute in this way, we will all have a meaningful educational experience.

**Disabilities Statement**

If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see the instructor as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please register with Chris Scarborough.

**Penalty for Academic Dishonesty or Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. Whether conscious or not, plagiarism is a serious offense. Evidence that you did not write material that you submit under your name can result in failure for the entire course.

**Grading:**

Point Value	Description of Activity or Event	Details
5	Participation	Instructor will be noting the frequency with which student demonstrates the following: (a) attentiveness in class; (b) constructive comments and inquiry; and (c) respectfulness towards classmates, guest speakers, and instructor.
15	Journal Assignments	As part of this course, you will be expected to complete short assignments in a journal folder. Journal folders will be collected each Friday and returned on Monday. Late entries will be reduced by a half point.
10	Reaction Papers (5 points each)	In-Class writing in response to a prompt. Use of MLA format will be expected. You should be able to succinctly organize your ideas into a readable series of paragraphs with minimal spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Reactions papers written outside of class will be reduced by 2 points before grading.
10	Non-Academic Goal Assignment and Presentation	Students will be expected to set an appropriate goal for themselves that can be achieved during the course of the semester. A one page summary of the goal and why it was chosen will be required. A five-minute presentation on why it was chosen, the plan to achieve the stated goal, and your overall experience with this project will count for ten points.
25	Short Essays (5 points each)	Five short essays will be assigned throughout the course. Each essay should be 2- 3 pages typed, in MLA format, with correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Each essay will be worth five points. Late essays will be reduced by 2 points prior to grading. <b>One essay will be your reaction to attendance at a TRCC event.</b>
15	Mid-Term	
20	Final	
100 POINTS		