

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE-Syllabus

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PREREQUISITES

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

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 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 and in a college setting
- Understand, articulate, and apply self assessment and decision-making skills in achieving family, educational, career, and personal goals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Information covered and assigned work is intended to increase the likelihood that this transition 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/public speaking, and critical thinking skills necessary for any college student. Students should seek to achieve/learn the following objectives:

- A) Make a positive and productive transition to college life.
- B) The development of proactive coping skills and behavior.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (Continued)

- C) Understanding and improving the teaching/learning process.
- D) Development of 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 Three Rivers Community College (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 what are the obstructions to these goals.
- I) To 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) Participation in activities/community functions on the Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) campus.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Thriving in the Community College and Beyond

Cuseo, Thompson, McLaughlin, Moono

TRCC College Catalog

TRCC Student Handbook

Assigned Readings

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. Your writing for this course, and any other course at TRCC is expected to be original, the product of your own thinking.

A student who has plagiarized will receive a ZERO on that assignment, and will be reported to both the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean where disciplinary action can be taken.

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 discernible, 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 one of our disability service providers.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is expected and vital. You will be allowed one (1) absence; any additional unexcused absences will greatly hinder your ability to pass the course making withdrawing from the class recommended.

If you miss a class, you will be responsible for getting the information/materials covered in that class and the completion of any assignments that were due, or assigned for the following class.

TECHNOLOGY/COURTESY STATEMENT

The use of cell phones, laptops, texting instruments and/or any other technological device is not permitted. **Please do not answer/make a call or answer/write a text in class during class time.** If you wish to use a laptop for note taking, please see the instructor.

GRADING CRITERIA

This course demands active involvement in learning experiences accompanied by reading and writing activities that capture those experiences. The nature of the courses content requires critical thinking skills to be learned, developed, and applied. The following criteria will be used in evaluating your grade:

- Participation- 15% (*this is not a grade for attendance*)
- Assignments- 10%
- Test/Quizzes- 40%- four tests
- Oral Presentation/Service Learning Project- 15%
- Educational Plan- 10%
- TRCC Function Participation- 10% Each student will participate in at least one TRCC sponsored event or function and write a reaction paper on it. **In advance, for approval**, the student must submit in writing the event/function that will be attended. Unless other arrangements are made, this will be due by 5/3/12. If anyone wants additional information on this assignment let me know.

Assignments =10 %

All reading and writing assignments (unless told otherwise) **are due one week after they are assigned**.

All writing assignments **must be typed utilizing MLA format**, and each assignment must be completed on time and at a satisfactory level. Unsatisfactory work will be returned and must be corrected before the following week class meeting in order to satisfy the assignment.

Tests/Quizzes = 40% (4 quizzes worth 10 points each)

During the semester there will be four (4) tests all scheduled in advance. The tests will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true-false, short answer, matching, and essay questions.

Oral Presentation/Service Learning Project =15 % *To be further described and defined in class.*

Education Plan Meetings = 10 % Each student will meet with the instructor outside of scheduled class time at least once during the semester to discuss his or her career/educational goals. Unless other arrangements are made, this will be due by TBD.

TRCC Function Participation/Reaction =10%

Each student will participate in **at least one TRCC sponsored event or function and write a reaction paper** (10 %) about it. **In advance, for approval**, the student must submit in writing the event/function that will be attended. Unless other arrangements are made, this will be due by-Date TBD.

COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

The deadline for students to withdraw from a class is May 7,2012. Before withdrawing from any course please speak with your instructor and be aware of the positive and negative consequences of that action.

Not attending class is not dropping or withdrawing from a class.

May 14,2012 is the last day of classes for the semester.