

IDS K105: First Year Experience

Spring 2012, Section T6

Meets MWF 10:00 am – 10:50 am in D221

Instructor: Michael J. Stutz

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00, Tuesday 1-2 & by appointment.

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 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) Develop coping skills and behaviors to meet the challenges of college education.
- C) Understand and improve the teaching/learning process.
- D) Develop 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) 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) Participate in activities/community functions on the Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) campus.

Instructional Materials:

1. Cuseo, Joseph B., et al. Thriving in the Community College & Beyond. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt, 2010.
2. Others Assigned Readings (Handed out or posted on Blackboard)

Email and Office Hours:

If you have any questions or want to discuss a particular reading or assignment, feel free to contact me or drop by my office to chat. Please email me with any questions or concerns that may arise through the course of the semester. I will respond to emails within 24-36 hours. If you send an email between late Friday and Sunday, I will respond beginning the following Monday. You can also call me on my office phone.

Attendance Policy:

This is a class that requires your regular and engaged attendance. It is important for you to be in class and prepared and committed to listening, thinking critically, and speaking. You should come prepared every day, meaning having read the assigned reading and prepared for any assignments due. I will be taking attendance daily.

Tardiness:

Tardiness is very disruptive. Excessive tardiness will negatively impact your grade.

Preparation:

You are responsible for all reading assignments, all material discussed in class, all handouts distributed in class, and all announcements made in class, including schedule changes. We will be writing in class, discussing, and giving presentations during the course of the semester. Students are expected to demonstrate professionalism in all of these activities. This includes being prepared to *answer* questions related to the reading, as well as being prepared to *ask* questions of clarification or about issues of interest, during class.

Late Assignments and Make-up Policy:

Late assignments will not be accepted except in the most dire of circumstances. You are expected to attend class on the day you have assignments due. The only exceptions to this will be documented cases of extreme illness, death of a family member, or college or legal obligations. You will be expected to contact me within twenty-four hours of the class meeting and should return to class with the documentation. Even with documentation, you are not guaranteed the opportunity to make-up the missed assignment, and if you are, may do so with a grade penalty. If you are not able to make class when an assignment is due, I will request a digital copy be emailed to me before our assigned class meeting time. When you return, you should bring documentation for your absence as well as a hard copy of the assignment. I do not permit make-ups for in-class assignments.

Academic Integrity and Ethics:

The decision to enter college and undertake advanced study is a choice that entails an important set of ethical commitments. One of these commitments is a mindfulness of plagiarism: knowing what it is and how to properly complete assignments competently and ethically. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any assignment found to be plagiarized or to come from plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be reported to the Academic Dean and Student Services Dean where disciplinary action may be taken.

Students with Disabilities:

Any person who because of a disability may need special arrangements or accommodations to meet the requirements of this course should consult with me as soon as possible in order to arrange an appropriate plan of action for this semester.

Class Cancellation Policy:

In the event that I am not able to attend class, you should find a note posted outside our classroom door. If there is no note but I am not in the classroom, please wait ten minutes before concluding that class has been cancelled. In the event of cancellation, I will make every effort to notify you by email ahead of time. For instructions on class cancellation due to inclement weather, please consult your student handbook, which can be accessed online through the TRCC website.

Assignments

Classwork/Homework (10%) – There will be assignments that we complete in class and assignments that you are required to work on outside of class.

Blackboard Forum Posts (10%) – Each week we will spend some time reflecting on what was covered in and outside of class. The post will be done after class and will be based on guided questions. The response will be graded based upon content.

Syllabus Test (5%) - The syllabus test will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true-false, short answer, matching, and essay questions. If for any reason you are absent from class on the day of a test, please contact me in advance to reschedule.

Coping with College Paper (10%) – After reading about the difference between high school and college, write a 3 page reflective paper. Include in your essay: Why is going to or returning to college important for you? What is going to be your greatest challenge? How will you overcome it? How do you think college will change your roles, routines, and relationships? We all have a different sense of what the word support means. We can seek support from family, friends, relatives, religious institutions, neighbors, co-workers or even strangers. What are some of your supports?

TRCC Function Paper (5%) - 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.

Group Project (10%) – You will research and create a paper and presentation with a group of your classmates. The grading for this project will be based on the performance of the group as a whole, along with individual evaluation of the group members.

Educational Plan Assignment (10%) – You will research your plan of study and have your advisor review it. After this meeting, you'll write a brief paper discussing your educational plan.

Career Exploration Paper (10%) – Write a resume and then bring it into the Writing Center for assistance with formatting/tips. Using your resume as a guide, write a 4-5 page paper that will analyze what skills, traits, college courses, and experience you should probably gain during your time in college in order to make yourself more marketable. Your resume does not count towards the 4-5 page requirement. You will present a summary of your paper to the class.

Exams (30%) - The three exams will be composed of the following: multiple choice, true-false, short answer, matching, and essay questions. Questions will cover all topics discussed in class and assigned readings. If for any reason you're absent from class on the day of a test, please contact me in advance to reschedule.