

***IDS K105: First Year Experience***  
**Meets MWF 10-10:50am in D221 (Section T6)**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-12pm, 1-2pm; Thursdays 11am-12pm & 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. Cornerstone: Discovering Your Potential, Learning Actively, and Living Well. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: Prentice Hall, 2011.  
ISBN-10: 0137007620
2. Outliers: the Story of Success. New York, NY: Little, Brown, and Company, 2008.  
ISBN-10: 0316017922
3. TRCC College Catalog
4. TRCC Student Handbook
5. Others Assigned Readings (Handed out or posted on Blackboard)

### **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, 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 may 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.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF YOU**

- a. You should attend and participate in every class. Missing class will certainly affect your ability to learn and it will almost certainly affect your grade in a negative way. By contrast, attending and participating in all classes will enhance your learning experience and almost certainly improve your grade.
- b. You are responsible for reading the entire assignment before class. For example if you are assigned a chapter in the book and a handout, please have all material read before that class.

c. This class will consist of lectures, small group work, and class discussion. Let me assure you that this course is designed for you. Therefore, if you have any questions about the material please feel free to ask me immediately.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF ME**

a. While I expect you to prepare on a daily basis, let me assure you that I will be there to help you. Please feel free to come and see me in my office. Even if you are not having any difficulty with the material, please come and see me.

b. I will make sure that you enjoy this learning experience as long as you read the material before class, attend class, participate, and work hard.

### **TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT**

Please do not answer or make a call during class time unless it is necessary and you let me know ahead of time. Texting is not allowed during class unless we are on a break.

### **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 (10%)** - Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions and group work each week.

**Chapter Quizzes (10%)** – There will be weekly quizzes that will be taken through the Blackboard system. These quizzes will be due on Sundays at 10pm.

**Reflection Papers/Discussion Posts (10%)** – At the end of each week we will spend some time reflecting on what was covered in and outside of class. The paper will be done in class and will be based on guided questions. While grammar and punctuation will be checked, the paper will be graded based upon content and treated as a rough draft. We will also be utilizing the discussion threads on Blackboard to respond to readings and further conversations begun in the classroom.

**Coping with College (5%)** – After reading about the difference between high school and college, write a 2 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?

**Group Projects (50%)** – You will be assigned three group projects through the course of the semester. You will research and create a paper and presentation with your group. The grading for these group projects will be based on the performance of the group as a whole, along with individual evaluation of the group members.

**Career Exploration Paper (5%)** – Write a resume and then bring it into the Writing Center for assistance with formatting/tips. Using your resume as a guide, write a 3-4 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 3-4 page requirement.

**Final Exam (10%)** - The cumulative final exam 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 your absent from class on the day of a test, please contact me in advance to reschedule.

### **COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

The deadline for students to withdraw is a week before classes end. Before withdrawing from any course please speak with me. I encourage you to also speak with financial aid (if you are using financial aid).

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