

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

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Prerequisites

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

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 Objectives

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 of the Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) campus.

Instructional Materials

-Cornerstone: Discovering Your Potential, Learning Actively, and Living Well. 6th Edition. New York, NY: Prentice Hall, 2011.

ISBN: 10:0137007620

-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 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 materials ready 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.

Technology Statement

Please do not answer or make a call during class time unless it 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 (15%)- Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions and group work each week.

Chapter Questions (15)- At the beginning of each week you are required to turn in a list of three questions about the readings. This means you must complete the readings and submit the questions before we cover them in class. The questions must be about the topic. Ask questions to clear up any confusion you may have about the reading assignments or to expand on something you are especially interested in. The questions will be consolidated and used as the basis for in-class discussion during the class. The first questions are due week 2. Students will also have questions to answer about the readings and will be submitted each week. Please make sure the assigned are separate from the discussion questions.

One Minute Reflection Papers (10%)- At the end of the week we will spend some time reflecting on what we 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.

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 (10%)- 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 challenges? How will you overcome it? How do you think college will change your roles, relationships, and routines? 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 your supports?

Group Project (10%)- Choose a famous person of the group's choice (e.g. athlete, author, actor, actress, etc.) . Explore their background and qualities that have led to their success. Apply those qualities to how they may help you in the college setting and beyond. After your presentation, each of you will submit a 1 page reflective paper that covers what roles/responsibilities each person played and how do you think the group worked together.

TRCC function paper (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.

Career Exploration paper (15%)- Write a resume and then bring it into the Writing Center for assistance with formatting/tips. Using your resume as a guide, write a 5-7 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 5-7 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.

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).

FYE Schedule – please note that this is a projected schedule. It may change during the semester.

week 1 Introductions

introduce class/ syllabus overview

week 2 Success- read Chapter 1

Why college/ How is college different from High School/College Culture

How to get good grades/ blackboard overview/ syllabus test

Week 3 Building relationships- read Chapter 3

Student clubs, study groups, and classmates

Tutors, professors, advisors, and counselors

Week 4 Thinking- read Chapter 4

Thinking Creatively and Analytically

Thinking Critically/ Coping with College Paper Due

Week 5 Managing your Time and Reducing Stress- read Chapter 5

Library Information Resource Tour

Strategies to reduce stress/Time management Survey

Week 6 Career Exploration and Creating a Study Plan- read Chapter 11

Where to begin/Making Connections/Resume and Cover Letter Strategies

Developing an Educational Plan/Aligning Career with Academic Goals

Week 7 Information Literacy and Research Writing- Complete Writing Center Plagiarism Tutorial

Career Research Time, class held in computer lab

Academic Writing/ Plagiarism

Week 8 Identifying your Learning Style- read Chapter 6

Using MIS to Enhance Studying and Learning/finalize Groups for Project

Take the LEAD Survey/ Compare and Contrast MIS

Week 9 Quantitative Learning and Reading Skills- Read chapter 7

Math and Science in Your Life/Overcoming “math anxiety” and Quantitative Mastery Strategies

Reading Effectively/ Reading Critically/ Increasing Your Reading Speed

Week 10 Goal Setting- read Chapter 2

Randy Pausch Last Lecture

Finish last lecture/ What is your Legacy?

Week 11 Writing and Speaking- read Dumb Questions Article and Speech Components Article

Asking dumb questions/kinds of Writing in college and Expectations

Individual Short Presentations on Where you are With Your Career Exploration

Week 12 Managing your money- read Chapter 10

Economic Benefits of College/ Prioritizing your Finances and Budgeting/scholarships, loans, and Protecting your Credit/ TRCC Function Paper Due

Week 13 Test Taking Skills- read Chapter 8 and test taking handouts

Developing Successful tactics/Applying Tactics to your learning style

Test taking tips/Learning from your Exam Performance/ calculating your GPA

Week 14 Empowering you Memory- read chapter 9

Best practices/known vs. memorizing/ Career Exploration Paper Due

Group Project Class Time

Week 15 Group Project Presentations

Groups 1 & 2

Group 3

Final Exam week

Final exam review

Final in Class

