

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Three Rivers Community College

IDS K105, CRN 30811, Section T05

Fall 2008

- Instructor:** Jodi Calvert
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Telephone: (860) 885-2611
- Class Hours:** 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday, TRCC E227
Office Hours: before/after class and by appointment
- Required Text:** *On Course*, Skip Downing, Fifth Edition, 2008, (ISBN 0-618-74156-9)
- Required Supplies:** Three Ring Binder (with page protectors and subject dividers)
Daily Planner (or other time management device)
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Course Description: The content of this course is designed to assist students with their transition to college. Information covered and assigned work is intended to increase the likelihood that this transition is successful and rewarding for the student. Students should expect regular reading and writing assignments along with classroom discussion and presentations. Emphasis is placed on life management skills, active participation in the community college environment, and critical thinking skills necessary for any college student. This course is recommended for all first or second semester students.

Prerequisites: Satisfactory reading placement scores and/or completion of ESL 060 and 061.

Course Objectives:

- To make a positive transition into college life
- To learn and develop skills that enhance studying, coping, planning, and critical thinking
- To develop a support network
- To understand and improve the teaching/learning process
- To learn about and use the resources of Three Rivers Community College
- To become more confident with reading, writing, and speaking in an academic environment
- To establish personal, career, and academic goals, while identifying possible obstructions to these goals
- To become aware of and develop attitudes towards tolerance and acceptance of diverse communities and their opinions
- To actively and effectively participate in group assignments and discussions
- To participate in activities/community functions offered at Three Rivers Community College

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. If you have a disability, which may require classroom or test-taking modification, please see the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also encouraged to contact Chris Scarborough, Learning Disabilities Specialist (892-5791).

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, and the product of your own thinking. A student who is determined to have plagiarized will receive a ZERO on that assignment and may fail the course.

Evaluation Criteria: The First Year Experience course demands active involvement in a variety of learning experiences.

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating student performance:

- a. **Class attendance and participation**
 - b. **Weekly assignments**
 - c. **Journal/Notebook/Portfolio**
 - d. **Midterm and final exams**
 - e. **Demonstrated participation in college activities**
 - f. **Final project**
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- a. **Class attendance and participation**

Students should be in class and prepared to participate each class session. Past experience shows that students who miss more than four daytime classes often end up failing the course. You will be assigned points for both attending and participating in class.
 - b. **Weekly assignments**

Writing assignments are designed to provide opportunities for exploration of ideas or for confirmation of understanding. All reading and writing assignments are due at the next scheduled class meeting (unless otherwise noted). Unsatisfactory work will be returned and must be corrected before the next class meeting in order to satisfy the assignment. Students will also be required to submit a daily planner (or other time management device) on a periodic basis.
 - c. **Journal/Notebook/Portfolio**

Students will be required to keep all class materials and assignments in a three-ring binder. Page protectors and subject dividers should be used to separate and protect sections of the portfolio. In effect, this becomes a portfolio of all that is accomplished in a semester and will serve as a useful reference to the student for years to come.
 - d. **Midterm and final exams**

During the semester there will be a midterm examination and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will consist of (but will not be limited to) multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and essay questions. Exams cannot be made up unless arrangements have been made with the instructor *prior* to the time of the exam.

e. Demonstrated participation in college activities

Each student will participate in at least one (1) Three Rivers Community College sponsored event or function and write a reaction paper regarding the experience. **In advance**, the student must submit in writing the event/function that will be attended.

f. Final Project

Students will be required to set a non-academic goal to be obtained by semester-end. The project will conclude with an oral presentation. More information will be provided about this project throughout the semester.

Grade Computation:

The following is a general breakdown of the final grade:

Attendance/class participation	30%	300 pts.
Weekly assignments	20%	200 pts.
Journal/Notebook/Portfolio	15%	150 pts.
Midterm and final exam	20%	200 pts.
Participation in a college activity	5%	50 pts.
Final Project	10%	<u>100 pts.</u>
		1000 pts.

Grading Distribution:

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

College Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from a class, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until December 15, 2008. Formal withdrawal eliminates receiving an 'F' for the course.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” – *John Dewey*