

# FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

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IDS K105  
Fall 2011  
T/R 2:30-3:45  
RM D226

## **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**

-Cuseo, J., Thompson, A., McLaughling., & Moono, S. (2010). *Thriving in the Community College & Beyond*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.  
ISBN: 978-0-7575-7283-8  
-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 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. My door is always open.

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. The participation rubric will be handed out in class to further detail expectations.

**Homework Assignments (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 questions are separate from the discussion questions.

**In-Class Reflection Papers (5%)** – 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.

**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 your 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 3-4 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 Project (10%)** – In groups of 4-5 you will make a presentation or video giving advice to next year's entering students. A presentation will need to also be 20 minutes long and accompanied by a handout the group created. A video must be at least 10 minutes but no handout is required. Be creative.

**Education Plan (10%)** - This four part assignment will help you map your coursework, design a realistic plan for accomplishing your coursework, and learn to work with your advisor to accomplish your goals. Details of the assignment will be passed out in class.

**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 and references do not count towards the 5-7 page requirement.

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

### **CANCELLATION OF CLASS DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER REASONS**

If the college is closed due to inclement weather, you can find out by going to the TRCC webpage at <http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/>. If I need to cancel class for other reasons, I will inform you by email and on the course Facebook page (TRCC First Year Experience - Dave Ferreira). Be sure to have an accurate email on record and join the Facebook page.

### **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). *Non-attendance does not constitute dropping or withdrawing from class.*

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Acceptance of late homework/assignments is done on a case-by-case basis. The penalty assessed is based upon several criteria including: informing me ahead of time, how late, and the reason why the assignment is late. The best thing to do if you find yourself in this scenario is to let me know ahead of time and speak with me before or after class.

### **FYE SCHEDULE**

*\*Please note that this is a projected schedule. It may change during the semester.*

#### **Week 1 - Introductions**

8/30 – Introduce Class/ Syllabus Overview  
9/1 – How is College Different from High School/ College Expectations

#### **Week 2 – Touching All the Bases – Read Chapter 1**

9/6 – Why FYE/ Keys to Community College Success  
9/8 –Blackboard Overview/ MSLQ/ Syllabus Test

#### **Week 3 – Goals and Motivation – Read Chapter 2**

9/13 – Your Goals and Motivation  
9/15 – Randy Pausch Last Lecture/ Applying Goals

#### **Week 4 – Time Management – Read Chapter 3 and Complete Time Management Plan**

9/20 – Time Management  
9/22 – Beating Procrastination/ Library Guest Speaker

**Week 5 – Building Relationships and Support Structures – Read Handouts**

9/27 – Student Program Speaker/ Relationships with Classmates and Instructors

9/29 – Identifying Support Structures/ TASC Speaker

**Week 6 – Higher Level Thinking – Read Chapter 4**

10/4 – Critical and Creative Thinking

10/6 – Reading Critically/ Creative Thinking/ Coping with College Paper Due

**Week 7 – Career Exploration – Complete Writing Center Plagiarism Tutorial**

10/11 – Self awareness/ Career Center Speaker

10/13 –Networking/ Resume Strategies

**Week 8 – Half Way Point – Read Chapter 6**

10/18 – Midterm Exam

10/20 – Meet With Instructor

**Week 9 – Educational Planning – Read Chapter 10**

10/25 – Choosing a Major

10/27 – Transfer Counselor Speaker/ Planning Beyond Your Major

**Week 10 - Strategic Studying and Test Taking – Read Chapter 5**

11/1 – Identifying Your Learning Style/ Studying

11/3 – Note Taking/ Test Taking Strategies/ Learning From Your Exam Performance

**Week 11 — Communication – Complete Writing Center Plagiarism Tutorial and Prepare Speech**

11/8 – Types of Writing/ Writing Expectations/ ELECTION DAY....MAKE SURE YOU VOTE!

11/10 – Individual Short Presentations on Where you are With Your Career Exploration Paper

**Week 12 — Financial Literacy - Read Chapter 7**

11/15 – Economic Benefits of College/ Prioritizing Your Finances and Budgeting/ Educational Planning Assignment Due

11/17 – Financing Your Education/ Protecting Your Credit

**Thanksgiving Break**

11/22 – Classes Not in Session

11/24 – Classes Not In Session

**Week 13 — Diversity/ Social and Emotional Intelligence – Read Chapters 6 and 8**

11/29 – Diversity

12/1 – Social and Emotional Intelligence/ Career Exploration Paper Due

**Week 14 - Health and Wellness – Read Chapter 9**

12/6 – Physical Wellness/ Reducing Stress

12/8 – Group Project Presentations

**Week 15 – Final Exam Week**

12/13– Final Exam Review

12/15 – Final Exam In Class