

MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY 11:00-11:50 IN ROOM PSCI 228

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Adam K. Ryburn
Office: Denison 33, hours: M&Th 1–2pm or by appointment

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VIP

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The College Life course is designed to help first-year students start their college careers successfully. Students meet twice per week for the first mini session of the semester to discuss academic and social adjustment to college life. A diversity of faculty serves in the capacity of individual course facilitators. The course will introduce the student to issues of particular importance and academic relevance in a small class setting. The academic component provides a means through which critical thinking skills can be sharpened and expanded. In addition, use will be made of class members' experiences in an attempt to increase sensitivity to first semester problems and adjustment issues.

This course has been developed to enhance the student's skills in the following areas:

- critical thinking;
- interpersonal relationships;
- decision making;
- life skills such as management of time and finances and study skills;
- diversity awareness;
- academic achievement.

TEXT & REQUIRED MATERIALS

College Life Readings on Angel. Available for download in Adobe format. <http://angel.oneonta.edu>

Three-ring notebook (1 1/2") to hold standard 8.5" x 11" paper.

LECTURE GUIDELINES

A tentative schedule of lecture topics is attached. Lecture presentations will consist of introductions to the important facets of college life. Group discussion will likely be used to illustrate and support these facets. Reading assignments will be made periodically. You are responsible for all assigned material. Complete assigned readings prior to their discussion in lecture. The material presented in the course can be difficult, but will be easier to understand if you read the assigned readings first.

Since all students are entitled to an environment that is conducive to learning, you are expected to keep disruptions to a minimum. You should be in class and ready to begin on time. If you do come in late, be as quiet as possible. All devices that generate sound, including pagers, **cell phones**, electronic games, radios, CD players and MP3 players (iPods, etc.) **MUST** be turned off before class begins. Disruption of class, whether by latecomers, noisy devices, or inconsiderate behavior (e.g. talking), will **NOT** be tolerated. Repeated violations by individuals may result in penalties, including being dropped from the class. If any of these devices are found to be operating during any exam or quiz, this action will result in failure of the assignment.

GRADE DETERMINATION

The passing grade (P) for this class is a 65% or greater (260 pts.) of the total points available (400 pts.) The grade in this course is the product of individual performance on the following.

Class and Event Attendance: 200 pts. (50%)

Students are expected to attend every class period and actively participate. You will participate in many group activities that will require you be in class. If you miss class you are not only missing out on important information, you are also keeping your fellow students from the learning experience. There will be some additional class meetings outside of the regularly scheduled class period that will be required as well. These will be announced and discussed later. (150 pts.)

Students will be involved in campus activities. Students must attend 5 events to meet the requirement. At least 2 must be the Freshman events from the Success Series. **You are required to write a brief description and what you found valuable about the experience to turn into Dr. Ryburn within 2 class periods of the event.** You may select any other 3 events – such as men or women’s soccer game, concerts, residence hall programs, etc. (10 pts. each). A list of events all campus events will be distributed in class soon.

Assignments: 100 pts. (25%)

Paper: You are required to submit a short, typed paper (3-5 pages for example, but I place no page requirements here!) around one of the following topics:

- Career information on your field of interest (jobs, life styles, salaries, education required, promotion allowed, work environment, team or individual work, etc.)
- Different college experiences around the world. Select one or two countries (not the U.S.) and research about their higher education systems and students’ experiences.
- Biographies of known people within your career interests (can’t be advisor).
- Study abroad programs and internship opportunities for underclassman.

Using the library’s electronic databases, you must find at least two articles or books that relate to your topic and include the bibliographic citations at the end of your paper. It is this requirement that gives you the incentive to experiment and discover how much there is available via the libraries subscription databases, thus demonstrating your library skills. You are free to use books and/or web sites in addition, and could cite these as well.

The paper should demonstrate your writing skills as well as library skills. This is not supposed to be an onerous task. You must have a fellow classmate proof-read your paper before it is submitted. Therefore, a rough draft is due on Wednesday, October 10 when class begins. During this class period you will exchange papers, read, and give feedback on other papers. The final draft will be typed and submitted on October 16th during class. **No late work will be accepted!** (50 pts.)

Advisor Interview: You are required to interview your advisor within the first 4 weeks of the semester. This should be more than a meeting regarding scheduling but an interview of the advisor. Where did the advisor attend college and graduate school? How did they choose their area of interest? What they think the professional opportunities within the field of study are? What are their interests, research or creative projects, hobbies of the professor, etc.? The end product will be typed and submitted to the Angel site by 5:00pm, Wednesday September 26. **No late work will be accepted!** (50 pts.)

Class project: 100 pts. (25%)

The class as a whole is required to put together a video or pictorial demonstration of their first seven plus weeks at Oneonta State. This will hopefully represent what your college experience has meant to you, what you think is representative of the Oneonta experience. Miss Dillon will be helping you stay on track and eventually complete this task. The project will be shown at the end of the semester dinner, TBA, for all sections and some college administration. More information will be provided soon. (100 pts.)

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURE ACTIVITIES

Homework readings are given for the week and should be done for the following weeks two class periods. All readings are available for download or viewing online at the Angel site*.

- Aug 29 Introduction to the Course, the Faculty and Students
How and why did you choose Oneonta State?
How do you think this college compares to other colleges?
**Homework: Read *College is a Waste of Time and Money*
Read *Surviving the First Year of College* Foreword, #1, and #2
Schedule meeting with advisor**
- Sept 3 Visit to Milne Library (meet in Milne 108)
**Homework: Read *Surviving the First Year of College* #3
Read *The Multitask*
Find a scholarly article after library visit**
- Sept 5 Transitions to College Life
Health and Wellness.
Time management.
Getting involved.
Brainstorm for class project.
Homework: Read *Finding Help on Campus*
- Sept 10 Academic Life
Role of academic advisor.
College rituals.
What is a Liberal Arts education?
Homework: Read *Surviving the First Year of College* #4 , #5, and #6
- Sept 12 NO Class – Enjoy the Break!!!!
- Sept 17 Getting to Know the College
Find places on campus and defining key terms.
Where to study and get help studying.
Homework: The “Runaround” (handout)
- Sept 19 Leadership on Campus
Homework: Read *Surviving the First Year of College* #7
- Sept 24 What is My Learning Style?
Reading, Writing and Critical Thinking Skills.
**Homework: Read *You Can Call Me the Silver-Tongued Frog*
Read *Growing Up With Two Languages***
- Sept 26 Work on Class Project.
Advisor Interviews Due

- Oct 1-3 Diversity Issues
 Blue Eyes / Brown Eyes
 Homework: Read *Surviving the First Year of College* #8 and #9
- Oct 8 TBA
- Oct 10 Peer Review
 Rough drafts of papers due at beginning of class.
 Peer Reviewing of papers during class.
 Homework: Read *Surviving the First Year of College* #10 and Conclusion
- Oct 15-17 Work on Class Project
 Present Class Project
 Homework: Finish final drafts of papers.
- Oct 22 Course Wrap Up
 Final drafts due.

Course outline is subject to change. Guest speakers will be invited to discuss various roles on campus.

* INTERNET RESOURCES

More information related to this course can be found at anytime by accessing the Angel site for this course (<http://angel.oneonta.edu>). Here you will find an updated schedule of upcoming events in class, copies of assigned readings, handouts and homework assignments. To log in you will need to use your user ID and password. If any problems arise while trying to use or access the site, contact Dr. Ryburn or Miss Dillon.