



**ROA 101: The Maroon Difference**  
**T/TH 9am-10am**  
**Classroom: Trexler 374**

Instructor: Dr. Richard Grant  
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Student Hours: By appointment

### Course Description

What does it mean to be a Maroon? In this course, new students will be integrated into the community of Roanoke College. They will build skills to successfully transition to college life and make connections with peers, faculty, and staff. Students will learn what it means to Live on Purpose as well as explore self-development in the following areas: The Empowered Self: Self-Reliance and Personal Growth, The Social Self: Social Connections, The Healthful Self: Wellness, and The Intellectual Self: Academic Engagement.

### Learning Outcomes

This course is intended to give the student an opportunity to build the skills and mindset that will promote intellectual curiosity, a love of learning, and begin to make connections on campus with others. ***In short, students will work on Becoming, Belonging, and Building.*** By the end of this course, you will...

- Develop active engagement and skills as a foundation for a successful college experience (ex: effective study techniques, goal setting, time management, etc.).
- Understand the importance of persistence and resilience in the face of challenges by cultivating a sense of agency and empowerment.
- Practice evidenced-based techniques to improve wellness in these areas (ex: stress management, coping skills, importance of sleep, and social connections).
- Learn to participate as an engaged member of our community.
- Engage in exploration, reflection, and goal setting in order to make progress towards a life that is lived on purpose.

**\*All course readings will be posted on Inquire. There is no textbook required for this course.**

## Course Requirements

Attendance & Engagement	30%	30 points
Clifton Strengths	30%	30 points
Connection Activities	30%	30 points
Looking Forward	10%	10 points
		100 points

## Grading

**ROA 101 is a Pass/Fail class. To pass, you need to earn 70 points and submit the “Looking Forward” email on Inquire.** I will use the Inquire gradebook, and I will provide you with written feedback throughout our course.

### Attendance & Engagement (30 points)

Strive for perfect attendance and engagement in the class! Everyone participates in this course. Engagement happens in many ways – small discussions in pairs, engaging in class activities, individual meetings with me, responding to email within 24-hours, and listening attentively to your peers.

*More details on each assignment can be found on our Inquire sites.*

- Strive for perfect attendance. I hope you don't miss any classes because missing even one class may have an impact on your learning. If you miss class, you will miss things. More importantly, **we** will miss **you**. Absences detract from the whole class experience for everyone.
- However, life will happen. Life does not stop because you have class. You'll probably get sick at least once this semester. Worse things could happen, too. (Although I'm certainly hoping they will not.) So, there is some flexibility. How much? **If you miss more than two classes, including a one-on-one meeting with me, we'll need to talk about strategies to help you get to class.** I want everyone to pass this class and we will work together for you to do that.
- You can earn 30 points in attendance and engagement this semester by attending classes and communicating well with me about absences and participating in class.
- In the unfortunate case of excessive absences and lack of communication about your attendance, you will earn less than points 30. After two absences, this means forfeiting ½ point per class.

### Clifton Strengths Assignment (30 points)

We will continue to work this semester on learning and reflecting on ourselves. We will work on two reflections this semester utilizing information about our strengths.

*More details on each assignment can be found on our Inquire sites.*

### Connection Activities (30 points )

ROA 101 will help you make connections with students, staff and faculty, and enable you to get involved at Roanoke College. To foster habits and behaviors that lead to connections and engagement, you will complete four activities from a list provided to you throughout the semester.

*More details on each assignment can be found on our Inquire sites.*

### Looking Forward (10 points)

A final reflection including goals for next semester.

*More details on each assignment can be found on our Inquire sites.*

## Class Policies

How many hours a week should I plan to spend on this class?

- Six hours a week. Good news! That counts the two hours we are in class together.
- Why 6 hours? RC requires students to complete 12 hours of work each week per one-unit course. (And this is a ½ unit course)

### Email

Check your RC email daily. I send important reminders and updates. Not reading your email is not an excuse for missing deadlines or important information.

### What is Academic Integrity and why should I care about it?

- As a guiding principle in education, Academic Integrity (AI) enables instructors and learners (so, all of us) to practice honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. The International Center for Academic Integrity adds a sixth value: courage. Practicing AI allows us to appreciate others' work, recognize that work by citing it, eliminate cheating, and offers learners the ability to grow in confidence in their own work by responsibly acknowledging the work of others. Why should we care?
- As our VP and Dean of the College Kathy Wolfe writes, "Roanoke College is committed to producing resourceful, informed, and responsible citizens and sees an integral connection between the intellectual and ethical dimensions of our educational program.

By valuing academic integrity and by practicing the virtue of honesty in all that we do, we honor those who have gone before us at Roanoke College, and we help strengthen the character of those here now and those who will come after us ("Letter from the Dean," RC AI Handbook)." That means RC officially requires everyone to practice AI; AI is my responsibility and yours.

- Why should you care on a personal level? You'll need to act with integrity throughout your life. Your family or friends will ask you to make hard decisions in the future; you'll need integrity for your friends and family to trust you to make those choices. A future employer will assign you a task that requires honesty, genuine work and effort. Building AI skills now will prepare you for a lifetime of future tasks and responsibilities.

### Professionalism

The core of professionalism is **RESPECT**. You should respect your peers, your professors, others outside our community, and yourself. We expect professionalism from our students.

- *Always act and make decisions with honesty and integrity.*
- *Turn off communication devices during classes, meetings, and when engaged in professional conversations.*
- *Arrive to class/meetings on time and prepared.*

Please talk to me about your concerns. While I have the policies and assignments in this syllabus in place for good reasons, if they cause difficulties for you, I welcome a conversation about ways for you to succeed.

### What additional student support services can I utilize at RC?

- **Student Health and Counseling Services**
  - RC supports students through in-person health appointments, in-person counseling, 24/7 telehealth (TimelyCare), Therapy Assistance Online, as well as resources related to general wellness, LGBTQ+, sexual assault, substance abuse, and suicide prevention. Unmet health needs can negatively impact your performance in this course. Student Health & Counseling Services can help. Please see <https://www.roanoke.edu/shcs> for more information and to access services.
- **The Writing Center**
  - Located on the Lower Level of Fintel Library (Room 15), it offers free help on writing projects. Writers and presenters at all levels of competence may visit the Writing Center at any point in their process—including brainstorming, drafting, organizing, editing, or polishing presentation skills—to talk with trained peer tutors in informal, one-on-one sessions. Need help? Book an [appointment](#).

- **Subject Tutoring**
  - Subject tutoring is located on the lower level of Fintel Library (Room 5), is open 4pm–9pm, Sunday– Thursday. Subject Tutors are friendly, highly-trained Roanoke College students who offer free, one-on-one tutorials in a variety of general education and major courses such as: Business, Economics, Mathematics, INQ 240, Modern Languages, Lab Sciences, INQ 250, and Social Sciences. Schedule an [appointment](#).
- **Academic Life Coaching**
  - Unlock your potential, and achieve success! Academic coaching offers FREE individual academic life coaching focused on student well-being and success. Sessions focus on identifying both life and academic stressors, establishing goals, renewing focus, and promoting internal motivation. Students who work with an Academic Coach tend to stay more motivated to accomplish goals, work smarter with effective study strategies, decrease stress, and learn to work through barriers. Book an [appointment](#).
- **Accessible Education Services**
  - AES (Accessible Education Services) provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented needs. To register, self-identify to AES, complete the registration process, and provide current documentation along with recommendations from a qualified specialist. Please contact Dustin Persinger, Assistant Director of Academic Services for Accessible Education, at 540-375-2247 or by e-mail at [aes@roanoke.edu](mailto:aes@roanoke.edu) to schedule an appointment.
- **PLACE**
  - **PLACE** is the on-campus career center dedicated to helping students find their place through **Purpose, Life And Career Exploration**. Students can learn more, begin exploring their next steps, and receive career support throughout their entire four years at Roanoke College. Support includes one-on-one advising, exploring major pathways, connections to jobs and internships, access to alumni, document development, Clifton Strengths assessment, and much more! Please see [www.roanoke.edu/place](http://www.roanoke.edu/place) for more information or contact us at [place@roanoke.edu](mailto:place@roanoke.edu) or 540-375-2303.

## Course Schedule

The course outline is a tentative schedule and subject to change.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Activity</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
1	14-Jan	Introductions	
	16-Jan	Syllabus/Familiarity with Course	
2	21-Jan	Clifton Strengths - Meghan Jester - Director of Career Exploration	<b>Strengths Reflection #1</b>
	23-Jan	Academic Integrity - Sarah Hord - Chair of Academic Integrity Council	<b>Due Friday, Jan 24th at 11:59pm</b>
3	28-Jan	Classroom Engagement - Note Taking	<b>Connection Activity #1</b>
	30-Jan	Follow up and class engagement	<b>Due on Friday, Jan 31st at 11:59pm</b>
4	4-Feb	Active Studying - Study Skills	
	6-Feb	Follow up and class engagement	
5	11-Feb	Stress Management - Student Health and Counseling	<b>Connection Activity #2</b>
	13-Feb	<b>No Class - Individual Progress Report Meetings</b>	<b>Due on Friday, Feb 14th at 11:59pm</b>
6	18-Feb	Time Management	
	20-Feb	PLACE Activity: Kelly Dalaski - Dir. of New Student Orientation and Transitions	
7	25-Feb	Goal Setting	<b>Connection Activity #3</b>
	27-Feb	Follow up and class engagement	<b>Due on Friday, Feb 28th at 11:59pm</b>
8	<b>4-Mar</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
	<b>6-Mar</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
9	<b>11-Mar</b>	<b>No Class - Individual Mid-term Meetings This Week</b>	
	<b>13-Mar</b>	<b>No Class - Individual Mid-term Meetings This Week</b>	
10	18-Mar	INQ and Courses Overview	
	20-Mar	Building Your Schedule for Next Semester	
11	<b>25-Mar</b>	<b>No Class - Individual Registration Meetings This Week</b>	
	<b>27-Mar</b>	<b>No Class - Individual Registration Meetings This Week</b>	
12	1-Apr	Clifton Strengths - Part 2	<b>Strengths Reflection #2</b>
	3-Apr	Follow up and class engagement	<b>Due on Friday, April 4th at 11:59pm</b>
13	8-Apr	End of Semester Planning	<b>Connection Activity #4</b>
	10-Apr	Looking Forward Assignment	<b>Due on Friday, April 11th at 11:59pm</b>
14	15-Apr	<b>No Class - Individual Appointments as Needed</b>	
	17-Apr	<b>No Class - Individual Appointments as Needed</b>	