

GST 1000 - Reading and Study Skill Improvement Fall, 2009

Instructor: Mrs. Shilpa Maheshwari
Course Location: Buzzard Building 1302
Meeting Days: M, T, W, and R.
Credit: 2-2-2 does not count toward graduation, but does toward GPA
Office: 1325 Buzzard Building, Reading Center
Office Hours: 11:00 -12:00 p.m. (M-R)
Phone: Office - (217) 581-8551; Home - (217) 868-9143; Cell (217) 240-0383
Email: smaheshwari@eiu.edu

Text and Resources: Essential Study Skills: Sixth Edition
By Linda Wong

Townsend Press – Ten Steps to Advanced Reading

<http://www.townsendpress.net/apps/tpexercises/booktest.php?bk=19&tst=1201>

Required Supplies:

1. One three-ring binder for 11x 8 1/2 college-ruled paper
2. Ruled notebook paper to fit the above
3. One set of notebook divider sheets
4. One book of your choice; novel, biography, autobiography, etc. (non-instructional book)

Course Objectives:

The student will:

- Demonstrate growth in reading as measured by the Nelson-Denny Reading Test.
- Demonstrate improvement in reading efficiency
- Improve ability to comprehend college-level reading materials
- Develop vocabulary skills necessary for success in college and the workplace
- Develop efficient note-taking skills from lectures, texts, and other reading materials
- Develop time management strategies necessary for success in college
- Develop memory-training techniques
- Develop test-taking strategies
- Improve listening skills

Catalog Description:

Learning principles as they apply to the development of efficient study skills: emphasis on reading instruction designed to improve comprehension and rate.

Course Rationale:

“Reading...The act of reading is essentially a process of thinking. It has the scan and the scope beyond the camera. It is the cosmic screen of your own mind. It is a concentratively individual act, and individual involvement. The reader makes the printed communication happen...releasing the magic that causes words on the page to leap into living thoughts, ideas, emotions”. --Ira Epstein & Ernest Nieratka

Course Requirements:

1. Since the structure of the course is skill oriented and not content oriented, two important requirements for the course are class attendance and active participation.
2. The student is expected to complete course assignments and to apply the various reading and study strategies to other course assignments.
3. The student is required to have at least one conference with the instructor during the semester.

Evaluation:

1. The student will be expected to show reasonable progress in each of the following areas:
 - a. Knowledge of effective study strategies
 - b. Ability to apply effectively, reading and study strategies
 - c. Improvement in both vocabulary and reading efficiency
2. Students will receive a letter grade (A through F) based upon the following:
 - a. Attendance and class participation
 - b. Class assignments and tests
3. The following grading standard will be used on most assignments:
 - a. 4 pts – outstanding work on all points of criteria
 - b. 3 pts –average work on all points of criteria
 - c. 2 pts –work shows marked deficit on all points of criteria
 - d. 1 pt -- inadequate work on all points of criteria
 - e. 0 pt -- work not submitted or does not meet intent of assignment
4. Points will be averaged together for all assignments, tests, and other requirements and graded as follows:
 - a. 100% - 90% A
 - b. 89% - 80% B
 - c. 79% - 70% C
 - d. 69% - 60% D
 - e. 59% -below F

Attendance Policy: You will be allowed 4 absences before points begin to be deducted; thereafter, your points will be lowered by 4 points per absence. Consistent late arrivals are not acceptable; 2 points will be deducted for unexcused lateness. Students with extended absences due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances must speak with the professor and provide verification.

****Students with a Disability: If you have a disability or think you may have a disability under ADA, please contact *Kathy Waggoner in the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583. Also, please advise me of such a disability and special provisions made by the Office of Disability Services. Thank-you.***

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Tentative Schedule

Assignments: possible points

(All assignments and readings should be completed by the end of each week to which they were included, unless specified otherwise.)

Week 1 (Aug. 24-27)

M/T	Introduction to class Goal-Setting, Self-Evaluation	Begin Notebook Evaluate your Skills (4) Statement of Goals (4)
W/R	Pre-testing: Nelson-Denny	Read Ch. 4 Quiz/Ch. 4 (5)

Week 2 (Aug.31-Sept.1-3)

M/W	Goals/ Group Work/Time Management	
T	Introduction to Reading/Topics	Introductory Selection (4) Notebook Evaluation (4)
W	Goals/ Group Work/Time Management	Group Charts/Goals (4)
R	Library Day	Book Selection Read Ch.4 Quiz/Ch. 4 (5)

Week 3 (Sept.7-10)

M	Labor Day- No School	
T	Reading Skills	Reading Selection (4)
W	Time Management	Weekly Schedule (4) Semester Schedule (4) Read Ch. 5/Quiz Ch. 5 (5)
R	Reading for Pleasure	Reading Summary (4)

Week 4 (Sept. 14-17)

M/W	Text-Reading Strategies / SQ3R/SQ4R/SQ5R --Organizing and Analyzing Rdg.	Read Ch. 8 Notes (4)/ Questions (4) Ch. 8 Quiz (5)
T	Reading Skills/Main Ideas	Reading Selection (4)
R	Reading for Pleasure	Reading Summary (4)

Week 5 (Sept. 21-24)

M/W Note-Taking Strategies
 --Cornell Method of Note-taking-video
 --Questioning Strategies (higher-order)

Alcoholism Lecture/Notes
 Questions/Answers (4)
 Read Ch.9 – Ch. 9 Quiz (5)

T/R Reading Skills /Study

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 6 (Sept. 28-30. Oct. 1)

M/W **Organizing Textbook Info**
 --Synthesizing your reading
 --Graphic Organizers
 Concept cards
 Semantic maps/webs
 H-Map
 Contrast/Comparison charts

Read Ch.10 & Ch.11
 Alcoholism Notes-
 restructured using
 3 graphic aids (12 pts. @ 4 pts. Ea.)

Charts/Graphs

T/R Reading Skills /Study

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 7 (Oct. 05-08)

M/W Test-Taking Strategies/
 Memory Strategies

Read – Ch. 6

T/R Reading Skills
 --Identifying Supporting Details

Reading Selection (4)/ Reading Summary (4)

Week 8 (Oct. 12-15)

M Test-taking Strategies/Relieving
 Test-anxiety / Review for midterm
 W **Midterm Exam**

Study Guide

T/R Reading Skills/Critical Reading

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 9 (Oct. 19-22)

M/W Greek/Latin Word Parts

Vocabulary Packet (4)
 Latin Root Packet (8)
 Reading Selection (4)
 Reading Summary (4)

T/R Reading/Voc. Skills/Argument

Week 10 (Oct. 26- 29)

M/W Speed Reading Drills

Speed Packets 1 &2 (4 pts. ea)

T/R Reading/Voc. Skills/Inference

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 11(Nov. 02 – Nov. 05)

M/W Inference Drills

Uncritical Inference Test-
 Tests B & C (In-class)
 Test A – Group work (8)

T/R Reading Skills/Character analysis

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 12 (Nov. 09 – Nov. 12)

M/W Analyzing Fiction/Story Elements
Character/Setting/Purpose/Tone

Masterworks Short Story

T/R Reading Skills/ Recognizing Tone

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 13 (Nov. 16 – Nov. 19)

M/W Analyzing Fiction/Story Elements
Character/Setting/Purpose/Tone/
Preparation for Heroes Presentation

Masterworks Short Stories

T/R Reading/Voc. Skills

Reading Selection (4)/Reading Summary (4)

Week 14 (Nov. 23- Nov.27)

Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 (Nov. 30. Dec. 3)

M/W Group Presentation of Story Elements/
Interview Techniques

Group Analysis of Fiction (8)

T **Preparation for Book Presentation**

R **Nelson- Denny Test**

Week 16 (Dec. 7- Dec.10)

Book Presentations

Presentations (30)

Week 17 (Dec.14- Dec. 17)

Finals Week