

Eastern Illinois University
Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle level Education

GST 1000 - Reading and Study Skill Improvement

Instructor: Linda Sherwood
Course Location: Buzzard Building 1302
Meeting Days: TR 2:00-3:40
Credit: 2-2-2 does not count toward graduation, but does toward GPA
Office: BH 1323
Office Hours: 11:45-12:45 MW; 1:00-2:00 TR or by appointment
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Semester: Fall 2017

Unit Theme: Educator as Creator of Effective Educational Environments: Integrating diverse students, subjects, strategies, societies, and technologies.

Text and Resources: **Essential Study Skills: Eighth 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. College wide paper to fit the above
3. One set of notebook divider sheets (5 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. (2-2-2)

Course Rationale:

Based on the rationale that “The reader makes the printed communication happen releasing the magic that causes words on the page to leap into living thoughts, ideas, and emotions.” (Epstein & Nieratka). This course is designed to improve the study skills of students with special emphasis on reading comprehension. Such an improved reading ability will therefore prepare students to be successful as college students in all their coursework.

Models of Teaching

Personal Models: The *personal models of learning* begin from the perspective of the selfhood of the individual. They attempt to shape education so that we come to understand ourselves better, take responsibility for our education, and learn to reach beyond our current development to become stronger, more sensitive, and more creative in our search for high-quality lives. (pp. 15-17)

Joyce, B., Weil, M., & Calhoun, E. (2015). *Models of teaching* (9th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

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.

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** (4 points are awarded to students for participation in activities)
Note: If you are not in attendance, no participation points will be awarded, nor can they be made up.
CLASS ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO A PASSING GRADE IN THIS CLASS! Students with extended absences due to an illness or other unforeseen circumstances must speak with the professor and provide verification.
 - b. **Class assignments**
 - c. **Tests and quizzes**
 - d. **Reading Summaries**
 - e. **Reading from a selected novel**
 - f. **Hero's presentation**
 - g. **Final Grade: Points will be averaged together for participation, quizzes, projects, class assignments, reading summaries, mid-term and final exam.**
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
5. **Quizzes** will be held each week for assessing the knowledge of the material taught in class. The instructor will give further instructions on the nature of the quizzes.
6. **Novel:** Reading from a pre-selected novel will be conducted during the lab portion of this class. Students will be expected to read and then answer a question[s] over the reading. This is an in-class activity and CAN NOT be made up.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is copying someone else's work as if it is your own without providing proper acknowledgement. Eastern Illinois University considers plagiarism a serious offense under its **student conduct code**, and the penalty can be as serious as expulsion from school. Copying from internet, other sources will result in failing this class.

Assignments: All assignments are due on the day and time of class meeting. No late assignments are accepted in this class. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Students are responsible for their own grade. The instructor will provide detailed instructions and expectations for each assignment. All assignments must be completed in an exemplary fashion in order to receive an A. Attendance is required to receive participation points.

NO CELL PHONE USAGE OF ANY KIND DURING CLASS FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS.

No warnings will be given. This is the rule. ALL cell phones must be off and stored away out of sight. There will be a 'media break' given in the class to allow for cell phone checking, a drink or a bathroom

break. After the break the phones will be stored away again. Any misuse of this rule will result in loss of points or other disciplinary action.

****Students with a Disability:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217- 581-6583 to make an appointment.

Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to first contact their instructor. If needing additional help, please contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call [217-581-6696](tel:217-581-6696), or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Note: Syllabus subject to change.

Course Outline

Week 1 & 2

- Introduction to class
- Introduction to syllabus
- Time Management/Goal Setting
- Introduction to Readings/Topics
- Group Work/Discussion
- Novel reading & character development

Week 3 & 4

- Discovering & Using Your Learning Styles
- Text-Reading Strategies
- SQ4R
- Organizing and Analyzing Reading
- Novel reading & strategies

Week 5 & 6

- Organizing Textbook Info
- Graphic Organizers
- Synthesizing your reading
- Concept cards
- Semantic maps/webs
- H-Map
- Contrast/Comparison charts
- Charts/Graphs
- Novel reading & summarizing

Week 7 & 8

- Note-Taking Strategies
- Cornell Method of Note-taking
- Questioning Strategies (higher-order)
- Novel reading & questioning
- Test-Taking Strategies/
- Memory Strategies
- Reading Skills
- Identifying Supporting Details
- Novel reading & inferences

Week 9 & 10

- Test-taking Strategies/Relieving Test-anxiety
- Greek/Latin Word Parts (Packet available)
- Speed Reading Drills (Speed Packets 1 & 2)
- Novel reading & vocabulary skills

Week 11 & 12

- Vocabulary Skills (packet available)
- Book on Hero (Student reads a story from the book “Everyday Hero’s and creates a presentation)
- Novel reading & more vocabulary skills

Week 13 & 14

- Presentation on Hero’s
- Troublesome word Pairs (Packets available)

Week 15

- Nelson-Denny Post-test
- Complete unfinished topics

Week 16

- Finals

GST 1000 References

*Denotes Unit Conceptual Framework References

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