
Instructor information

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Office hours	By Appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on the development and mastery of reading skills for university-level English expository texts and academic articles with an emphasis on the use of strategies and critical thinking skills that improve effective reading comprehension and vocabulary development. It will also focus heavily on the use of “annotation” to help students become “active” rather than passive readers, thereby greatly improving reading comprehension.

Course Objectives

- To develop students’ reading comprehension with university-level texts and academic articles with the use of annotation.
- To equip students with strategic reading and critical thinking skills.
- To enhance students’ vocabulary building skills.
- To develop students’ ability to summarize paragraphs and articles.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Expand vocabulary through practice and the use of a monolingual dictionary.
- Determine the meaning of vocabulary in texts by using context clues.
- Distinguish between definitions and any accompanying negative and/or positive connotations and use those to help determine facts, opinions, blended statements or an author’s bias.
- Use pre-reading skills to activate schemata and predict content of texts.
- Annotate effectively for active reading, increased comprehension and retention.
- Read a variety of authentic college level readings: academic prose, literary forms, journalistic articles and scientific readings, and respond thoughtfully and critically, verbally and in writing, by drawing connections between personal experience, world knowledge and/or other sources (lectures, readings, films) and the assigned text.
- Recognize organizational patterns to increase comprehension.
- Become familiar with the wording and expectations of college exam questions.

Learning Resources

- Mikulecky, B.S. & Jefferies, L. *Advanced Reading Power*. New York: Pearson Longman (2007).
- Additional handouts & supplements (supplied)

Assessment

- Annotating in and out of class, quizzes, and homework will be recorded in the grade book as “assignments” - exams, attendance, and portfolio.

Assessment	Percentage of Final Grade
Assignments	20
Attendance	10
Midterm Exam	20
Portfolio	10
Final Exam	40

Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Comply with the university attendance policy. If late 10 minutes or more, you will be marked absent for that class session.
- **Academic Integrity & Collaboration:** All work must be original or documented. For group assignments, each student will receive an individual grade for the portion of the project.
- **If a student commits plagiarism, they will receive a “0” on their assignment.**

Course Schedule

Weeks	Theme/Topic	Contents	Assignments/Readings
1	Class course overview	Review syllabus, complete / discuss questionnaires 1 & 2 and questionnaire page 2. Diagnostic reading test.	
2	Annotating, inferring meaning	Introduction to “annotation,” Part 2: Unit 3 – Inferring meaning from context	Annotating/peer review
3		continue Part 2: Unit 3 – Inferring meaning from context	Annotating/peer review
4	Learning parts of words	Part 2: Unit 4 - Word parts	Annotating/peer review
5		continue Part 2: Unit 4 – Word parts	Annotating/peer review
6	Previewing short readings	Part 3: Unit 1 – Previewing	Annotating/peer review
7	Understanding paragraphs, schematic, diagrams	Part 3: Unit 3 – Understanding paragraphs / schematic tables & diagrams based on information in texts	Annotating/peer review
8		continue Part 3: Unit 3 – Understanding paragraphs / schematic tables & diagrams based on information in texts	Annotating/peer review
9		MIDTERM (this date may change)	MIDTERM EXAM
10	Inferences	Part 3: Unit 2 – Making inferences	Annotating/peer review
11	Organizational patterns	Part 3: Unit 4 – Patterns of organization	Annotating/peer review
12		continue Part 3: Unit 4 – Patterns of organization	Annotating/peer review
13	Longer reading	Part 3: Unit 5 - Reading longer passages	Annotating/peer review

		effectively	
14		continue Part 3: Unit 5 – Reading longer passages	Annotating/peer review
15		Portfolio Presentations	
16		FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM

Notes

- Weekly, we will be annotating one or two academic articles in class.