**English 126: COLLEGE READING SKILLS (4 units)**

**Spring 2016 (January 9 – May 19)**

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Instructor: Ms. Maryanow Office Hours: MTTh 11:00-11:50

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**Class Days Times Room/s Final Examinations**

ENGL-126-59255 WF 10:00-11:50 PHY 75 May 19 (F) 10:00-11:50

ENGL-126-59262 MW 1:00-2:50 PHY 75 May 15 (M) 1:00-2:50

ENGL-126-59263 TTH 9:00-10:50 PHY 75 May 16 (T) 9:00-10:50

## This is a  word cloud in the form of a tree. Inside the shape of a tree there is a repetative list of key terminology from the course: academic reading skills, literal comprehension, critical thinking, and vocabulary.Course Description

Students’ basic reading skills are developed into college-level proficiencies in vocabulary usage, literal comprehension, and analytical and critical comprehension. Various reading and reporting strategies are developed and improved for different styles of academic writing. Instruction emphasizes reading as a problem-solving process.

## Textbook and Materials

* Henry, D. J. *The Master Reader.* 4th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014. (new edition required)
* Boyle, T.C. *The Tortilla Curtain*. (any edition)
* One more book for independent reading either borrowed or purchased; e-text is acceptable (required)
* Textbook/s that you have for other class/es (required)
* English language dictionary (required)
* Notebook or binder with dividers, paper, index cards, pens, pencils, highlighters (required)
* Flash drive to keep all your typed assignments (highly recommended)

## Important Dates

January 16...................Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday (Campus Closed)

February 17.................Lincoln’s Day Holiday (Campus Closed)

February 20.................Washington’s Day Holiday (Campus Closed)

March 10.................... Last day to withdraw from college or to be dropped from 18-week classes

April 10-14...................Spring recess (Classes reconvene April 17)

May 15-19...................Final examinations

## Course Outcomes

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. apply semantic, syntactic, and morphological clues to understand more of the unfamiliar words they encounter in college-level academic reading.
2. understand college-level, academic reading materials:
	* understand and state the topic.
	* understand and state the explicit main idea.
	* understand and state the implied main idea.
	* recognize the major details that develop and support the main ideas.
	* recognize and identify organizational patterns used to express logical relationships and use the same organizational patterns to paraphrase and record the important information.
3. analyze college-level, academic reading materials:
	* distinguish among statements of fact, personal opinion, and reasoned opinion.
	* understand and state an author’s tone, attitude, or bias.
	* understand and identify an author’s purpose in writing.
	* make inferences that are logical, reasonable, and probable and are based on accurate literal comprehension of what is read.
4. demonstrate confidence in gaining important information from reading independently.

## Course Objectives

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| *In the process of completing this course, students will:*  |
|   | 1. recognize and use new vocabulary with the aid of context clues, morphological clues, syntactic information, redundancy, and dictionary skills.
2. comprehend and express both literal and implied meanings in material up to twelfth grade level of difficulty.
3. apply cognitive skills at levels higher than locating information in order to derive meaning from text.
4. analyze various writing techniques and their effects on the reading process.
5. evaluate the credibility of authors' treatments.
6. relate prior knowledge to new.
7. use study skill techniques of previewing, organizing strategies, synthesizing and summarizing to report on readings.
8. vary reading strategies and rate according to the needs of the assignment or the level of difficulty of the writing.
9. evaluate and express the relevance of the readings in terms of personal knowledge gained or attitudinal changes resulting from the readings.
10. apply these skills to text passages, journal articles, and to independent reading of two full-length books.
11. conduct guided research and evaluate the competence of information gained from research.
12. develop confidence in gaining important information from reading independently.

Grading Structure

| **Type** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- |
| Daily work | 25% |
| Projects | 25% |
| Assessments | 25% |
| Final examination | 25% |

Grades

|  **Letter Grade**  | **Percentage** | **Credit/No Credit** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 90%-100% | Credit |
| B | 80%-89% | Credit |
| C | 70%-79% | Credit |
| D | 60%-69% | No Credit |
| F | 59% and below | No Credit |

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* **Daily work** includes in-class assignments, homework, notes, active participation (answering questions, offering your opinions, politely disagreeing, working in groups, etc.) Some assignments will be collected for grading and others will be checked for completion only. You will not know which assignments will be graded; therefore, make sure to have all your work completed by due dates.
* **Homework** is due at the beginning of class. You will be allowed to get a free pass on any two homework assignments of your choice; each assignment cannot be worth more than 10 points. Late assignments are not accepted; exceptions might be made only by pre-arrangement with instructor or in cases of severe illness or family distress. Being absent is not an excuse to come to class unprepared. Check with classmate/s, instructor or online for homework assignments if you miss a class. **You are required to study at home for TWO hours for every hour of in-class time.**
* **Projects** might include novel analysis essays, research, presentations, etc. Requirements and due dates will be announced in advance. Plan your time accordingly to meet these deadlines. Late assignments are not accepted; exceptions might be made only by pre-arrangement with instructor or in cases of severe illness or family distress.
* **Assessments:** major testdates will be announced in advance whereas not all quiz dates will be. If you miss a test, see me as soon as possible to make up for it. There will be no make-ups for quizzes.
* **Final** examination dates are announced at the beginning of the semester; make necessary prearrangements to be in class during scheduled time.

## Attendance Policy

Coming to class is important. You are expected to come to class on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to stay after class and sign in; otherwise, you might be marked absent. If you are late, please take a seat closest to the door not to interrupt class. Do not walk in front of class or instructor. **Two late arrivals/early departures** will be counted as one absence.

If you miss **TWO (2) HOURS** of instruction by the end of week 3 or four hours of instruction by the end of week 9, you will be dropped from this class.

## Behavioral Expectations Policy

Students are expected to behave respectfully to allow for a successful educational process. Any interruption caused by students impedes learning. Students not complying will face consequences including, but not limited to, penalties for daily work.

## Electronic Devices Policy

All electronic devices must be off and stored out of sight during class time. If you are expecting an important call, inform your instructor and have your cell phone on vibrate. Answer it outside of the classroom; do not disturb others in class. Students not complying will face consequences including, but not limited to, penalties for daily work.

## Cheating and Plagiarism Policy

* **Cheating** is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one’s grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term ‘cheating’ not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, of failing to disclose research results completely.
* **Plagiarism** is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material so used as one’s own work. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated indifferent courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and copyrights.

All incidents of cheating and plagiarism will be regarded very seriously and will result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor.

PLAGIARIZED ASSIGNMENTS WILL RECEIVE **ZERO CREDIT**.If concepts of plagiarism and/or cheating are confusing to you, make sure to speak to me.

**Important Information and Helpful Suggestions**

* If you have a verifiable need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please let me know as soon as possible.
* It is student’s responsibility to officially withdraw from a course. Failure to do so may result in an “F”.
* Keep track of deadlines and all of your graded assignments (keep all of them!). If any questions arise about your grade, you will be asked to produce graded work for verification. You are responsible for keeping track of your work *and* your grade.
* All work done in this course must be in Standard English and MLA format. I reserve the right to return work that is incomprehensible and/or illegible.
* Excessive absences (one week), inadequate preparation (no homework), and unsatisfactory progress (no improvement for two weeks) will negatively influence your grade, and you could be dropped from the course.
* Should there be any questions or concerns, please communicate them to your instructor as soon as possible. E-mail me, call me, or see me during the office hours or by appointment.

***I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus.***