

English 26
Reading Skills for College
Ann Brandon
Fall 1998

Voice Mail 638-0300 ext. 3831
M+W 6:00-7:50

COURSE OUTLINE AND POLICIES

I. GOAL

All of the instruction, assignments, and tasks of this course have been designed to help you develop the specific reading skills and abilities that will enable you to deal with college-level reading material more effectively, efficiently, and independently.

II. CONTENT

A. Vocabulary

1. Morphology (Handouts)
2. Context (Ch. 1)

B. Comprehension

1. Literal
 - a. Main ideas (Ch. 2)
 - b. Supporting details (Ch. 3)
 - c. Transitions (Ch. 4)
 - d. Patterns of organization (Ch. 5)
2. Analytical and critical
 - a. Fact and opinion (Ch. 7)
 - b. Inferences (Ch. 8)
 - c. Purpose and tone (Ch. 9)
 - d. Argument (Ch. 10)

C. Study skills

1. Summarizing and outlining (Ch. 6)
2. Various note taking strategies (Handouts)

III. MATERIALS

- A. Basic text: Langan, John. Ten Steps to Advancing College Reading Skills. Second Edition. Townsend Press, 1993.
- B. Dictionary: Any good, comprehensive modern English dictionary will suffice, such as Webster's New World Dictionary.
- C. Other: Three-ring loose-leaf notebook with six labeled dividers and paper (see handout on notebook requirements).

Test materials as announced.

IV. GRADING AND CREDIT

English 26 is a three-unit course required for graduation. The class is offered on a graded basis with a credit / no credit option. The grades earned on all course work will be combined in a weighted average to determine the final course grade. A percentage point system will be used so that each student may stay apprised of his progress in fulfilling the course requirements. It is every student's responsibility to collect all graded, returned work and maintain an accurate account of all grades on the "Student Grade Record" page of the required notebook. The weighted average will include grades on all work in the following areas. Each of the four areas will constitute 25 % of the final course grade.

A. Unit tests and quizzes

Approximately five unit tests will be given throughout the semester. Occasional pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

B. Book reports

Two are required of all students. More detailed information about the book reports will be provided later.

C. Daily work

This includes four types of assignments: book report progress deadlines, notebook checks, homework, and class preparation and participation. Approximately, eighteen homework assignments will be collected for a grade. Late assignments are not accepted.

D. Final examination

The final examination will be cumulative. All students must take the final examination to receive credit in the course. Except in unusual cases of illness or family distress, final examinations will be administered only according to the "Finals Schedule" in the current Schedule of Courses. The time and date of final examinations will not be changed to accommodate holiday or travel arrangements or employment schedules.

Final Exam Week: Monday-Friday, December 14-18
Saturday, December 12

V. ATTENDANCE

Each student is responsible for his/her own attendance and his/her own work. Absences from class make progress in reading improvement very difficult. It is always your responsibility to come to class prepared, even after absence. This means you will need to find out what was assigned during your absence before you return to class. Two tardies (arrivals in class after instruction has begun) are the equivalent to one absence. If you have five absences by the end of the ninth week, you will be dropped from this course. Except by pre-arrangement or unusual cases of illness or family distress, late assignments are not accepted. You must be present for all tests.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Holidays: Labor Day - Monday, September 7
Veteran's Day - Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving - Thursday-Friday, November 26-27

Last day to drop a semester length course and qualify for a refund Friday, Aug. 28

Last day to drop a class and not have it appear on transcript Friday, Sept. 4

Last day to drop a semester length course (letter grade assigned after this date) Friday, Oct. 16

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Addendum to the syllabus

In addition to the course work identified in the syllabus, this class will be reading a novel towards the middle to end of the semester. The novel has not been completely decided, but it is between The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver or Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons.

You will be notified in plenty of time to buy the book and we will discuss the book in class. The price range of both books is about \$13.00. Both are excellent books and if we had more time we would read both.