

**English 26**  
**3 units**

**College Reading Skills**

*Ruben Delgado, instructor*

**Office: HUM 52**

**Fall Session, 1999**

**Office Hours:** Fri 10:00-10:50; 11:00-11:50  
Tues 12:00-12:50

**Class days, time, & locations:**

10:00-10:50 MTWTh Soc-36  
11:00-11:50 MTWTh Agr-2

**Important dates & holidays:**

**August 16 (M) Instruction begins.**

**August 27 (F) Last day to drop an 18 week class and be eligible for  
refund.**

**September 3 (F) Last day to drop an 18 week class to avoid a "W".**

**September 6 (M) Labor Day**

**September 17 (F) Last day to change a class to or from a CR-NC grading  
basis**

**October 15 (F) Mid-term report period**

**Nine-week drop date for full-term length course**

**November 11 (Th) Veterans' Day**

**November 25-26 (Th,F) Thanksgiving Holidays**

**November 29 (M) Classes reconvene**

**December 13 (M) Finals begin**

**December 17 (F) Fall semester ends**

**Break December 20 - January 7**

**Final Exam Date & Times:** 10:00-10:50 class: *Monday, December 13,*  
1999 @10:30-12:30  
11:00-11:50 class: *Wednesday, December 15,*  
1999 @10:30-12:30

# Course Outline and Policies

## **I. Goal:**

This course is designed to help you develop the specific reading skills, abilities, and strategies that will enable you to deal with college-level reading material more effectively, efficiently, and independently.

## **II. Course Content:**

- A. The reading process - what is it?
  - 1. What makes a good reader?
    - a. Efficient reading
    - b. Effective reading/metacognition
  - 2. Reader/writer Transaction
  - 3. Schema/background knowledge
  - 4. Four types of text/reading for different purposes
- B. Vocabulary/Spelling - ways to improve
  - 1. Context clues
  - 2. Dictionary
  - 3. Thesaurus
  - 4. Morphology
- C. Comprehension
  - 1. Literal
    - a. Subject/topic
    - b. Main idea
    - c. Major/minor details
    - d. Summarizing
    - e. Patterns of Organization (paragraphs and longer selections)
  - 2. Analytical and critical
    - a. Fact and opinion
    - b. Intent/purpose
    - c. Attitude and tone
    - d. Bias
    - e. Inference
- D. Reading
  - 1. Aesthetic reading
    - a. Imaginative/expressive text
      - 1. Poetry
      - 2. Short stories
      - 3. Books

2. Content area reading & strategies to get meaning from texts
  - a. Informative text
  - b. Persuasive text

### III. **Materials:**

- A. *Textbook:* Langan, John. *Ten Steps to Advancing College Reading Skills*. Third edition. Townsend Press, 1993.
- B. *Dictionary:* Any good, modern **English** dictionary. Ex: *Webster's New World Dictionary*.
- C. *Thesaurus:* Recommended: *Rogete's Thesaurus* - paperback
- D. *Other:*
  - \*Three-ring loose-leaf notebook (dividers recommended) for handouts and materials.
  - \*Highlighter(s).
  - \*3"x3" post-it note pad.

### 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. Students desiring a CR option must achieve the equivalent of an A, B, or C grade. A grade equivalent of D or F will result in a "No Credit" grade.

The grades earned from your work will be averaged within five categories to determine your final course grade. A percentage point system will be used for all assignments enabling each student to track his/her progress in fulfilling the course requirements. **Each student should keep a record of his/her grades on the "Student Grade Record Sheet" provided by the instructor.**

**Midterm Grade:** I will hand out individual grade reports listing all scores earned before the final drop date, so you will know your status in my class. At this time, you should compare all grades on returned work to determine any discrepancies.

**Final Grade:** Your final grade will be averaged from your scores on all

**Final Grade:** Your final grade will be averaged from your scores on all course work in the following five areas:

**A. Tests and quizzes (25% of your final course grade)**

Approximately ten tests and quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Tests will be in-class; quizzes will be in-class & take-home. Most quizzes will be based on previous night's readings.

**B. Book reports/book summaries (25% of your final course grade)**

You will complete one group and two individual book reports. The formats of each will be different. Detailed information and formats of reports will be provided.

**C. Daily work (15% of your final course grade)**

Daily work includes a variety of assignments:

\*Homework

\*Summary/Response papers (articles)

\*Group presentations and participation

Several assignments (16-20) will be counted towards the **Daily work** portion of your final grade. Some missed assignments may not be made up (see attendance).

**D. Semester Project (20% of your final course grade)**

Each student will complete a semester project which will be due towards the end of the semester. The purpose of this project is for you to demonstrate your understanding of the information covered in this course.

**E. Final Exam (15% of your final course grade)**

All students **must** take the final examination to receive credit in this 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.

## V. **Attendance:**

Each student is responsible for **consistent** attendance.

\***Absences** reduce your contributions to the class and slow your progress in reading improvement.

\***Absences** lower your grade through missed Daily Work (class/group work). Each missed class work assignment will be graded as a zero.

**Plan to attend class every day of the semester.**

\*If absent, it is your responsibility to return to class prepared. You should find out what homework was assigned during your absence and complete the work before you return to class. If your homework is completed when you return to class, you will receive full credit. If not, you will have 3 days to complete the assignment with **ten (10) points deducted each day**. After the third day, a zero will be entered for an unfinished assignment.

It is also your responsibility to acquire a copy of each handouts distributed during your absence. You should first ask me for leftover copies. If I have none left, you may have to borrow another student's handouts to make your own copies. Either way, **you are responsible for the information in the materials I hand out to the class.**

**\*If you miss a test, you will have *three class days* to make it up. Your make-up test will be different from the one given in class.**

**\*This document is subject to change at instructor's discretion.**