

English 60: Basic Reading (4 Units)  
Fall Semester, 1999  
Reedley College

Alison C. Johns, instructor

Class days, time and locations: Monday: 6:00-8:15 p.m. Room 43  
Wednesday: 6:00-8:15 p.m. Room INC 1

Important dates and holidays:

August 16	First day of instruction
August 27	Last day to drop a semester length course and qualify for a refund
September 3	Last day to register for a Fall semester length class
September 6	Last day to drop a class and not have it appear on transcript
September 17	<b>Holiday</b> , Labor Day
<b>October 15</b>	Last day to change class to or from Credit/No credit option
November 11	Mid-term report period
November 25-27	<b>Holiday</b> , Veteran's Day
<b>December 13-17</b>	<b>Holiday</b> , Thanksgiving
	Final Exams

Final Exam Date and Time: *Wednesday, December 15, 6:00-8:15*

*drop date*

## Course Outline and Policies

### I.

**Goal:** This course is designed to help you understand the reading process and introduce you to different types of text. In this course we will explore both narrative text and content area text. We will discuss the purpose and strategies for reading the different text styles. In addition to developing reading skills for learning, a major goal of this course will be to develop a stronger interest in reading, and an appreciation of the importance of reading in your daily life.

### II.

#### Course Content:

- A. The process of reading
  - 1. Assessing our own reading styles
  - 2. What makes a good reader?
    - a. Efficient reading – what is good and what is better
    - b. Effective reading – the importance of self-monitoring
  - 3. Reader/writer connection
  - 4. Using your background knowledge when reading
  - 5. Reading for enjoyment VS reading to learn
- B. Vocabulary/Spelling – ways to improve
  - 1. Context clues
  - 2. Dictionary
  - 3. Thesaurus
- C. Understanding what you read
  - 1. Subject/topic
  - 2. Main idea
  - 3. Major details
  - 4. Summarizing
  - 5. Reading/writing connection
  - 6. Comprehension strategies
    - a. Text to self connections
    - b. Text to text connections
    - c. Text to world connections
- D. Reading
  - 1. Fiction (Enjoying what you read)
  - 2. Non-Fiction (How to get meaning from text)
  - 3. Narrative VS Expository

### III.

#### Materials:

- A. Textbook: Smith, L.C. & Mare, N.N. (1997). Topics for Today: An advanced reading skills text. Boston: Heinle & Heinle.

- 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 (with dividers) for handouts and materials.
  - \*A floppy disk for computer reading lab
  - \*Highlighter(s)
  - \*Journal (notebook)
  - \*3"x 3" post-it note pad.

#### IV.

#### **Grading and Credit:**

**English 60** is a four-unit course graded only on a CR/NC basis. A "Credit" grade is 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 will keep a record of his/her grades on the "Student Grade Record Sheet" provided by your instructor (by August 23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Midterm Grade:** I will handout individual grade reports listing all scores earned before the final drop date of October 15<sup>th</sup> so you will know your status in my class.

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

- A. **Tests and quizzes (15% of your final course grade)**  
Tests and quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Some quizzes will be done in-class, some will be take-home to be completed.
- B. **Book responses (25% of your final course grade)**  
You will do one group book response and one individual response.  
Detailed information and formats of responses will be provided by the third week of class.
- C. **Daily work (25% of your final course grade)**  
Daily work includes a variety of assignments:
  - Homework
  - Summary/response papers (reading assignments)
  - Group participation
  - Journals
  - Internet research reports and inquiries

Several assignments will be counted towards the daily work portion of your grade.

**D. Semester Project: (25% 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 we will cover in this course.

**E. Final Exam: (10% 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 **good** 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.

If you are 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 one week (the equivalent of two class meetings) to complete the assignment with ten (10) points deducted each class meeting. **It is also your responsibility to acquire a copy of each handout distributed during your absence.** You should first ask me for leftover copies I might have. If I have none left; you may have to borrow another student's handout to make your own copy. Either way, **you are responsible for the information in the materials I hand out to the class.**