

English 62

Basic Reading Skills

Ruben Delgado, instructor

Office: HUM 52

Spring Semester, 2000

Office Hours: Tues 10:00-10:50, 2:00-2:50
Thurs 2:00-2:50

Class days, time, & location: 9:00-9:50 M, W, Th, F PHS-352
9:00-9:50 Tues lab HUM-62

Important dates & holidays:

January 10 (M) Instruction begins.

January 17 (M) Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 21 (F) Last day to drop a semester class and qualify for a refund.

January 28 (F) Last day to register for spring semester-length courses

February 11 (F) Last day to change a course to or from credit/no credit grade option

February 18-21 (F/M) Holidays - Lincoln Day and Washington Day observed

March 1 (W) Deadline to apply for scholarships

March 2 (Th) Deadline for grant applications, except PELL

**March 10 (F) Last day to drop a semester-length course
(Letter grades assigned after this date)**

March 10 (F) Mid-term report period

March 13 (M) Fall 2000 registration begins (subject to change)

April 3 (M) Deadline to file Intent to Graduate

April 17-22 (Mon-Sat) Spring Break

April 24 (M) Classes reconvene

May 15-19 (Mon-Fri) Final examination week

May 19 (F) Spring semester ends

May 19 (F) Commencement Exercises

Final Exam Date & Time: Friday, May 19, 8:00-10:00

Course Outline and Policies

I. Goal:

This course is designed to help you understand the reading process and how it applies to different types of text. We will explore both aesthetic text and informative text. Besides developing reading skills for learning, a major goal of this course will be to develop a stronger interest in reading and a recognition of the importance of this activity in your daily life.

II. Course Content:

- A. The process of reading
 - 1. What makes a good reader?
 - a. Effective reading/metacognition
 - b. Efficient reading/miscues
 - 2. Reader/writer transaction
 - 3. Schema theory
 - 4. Reading for different purposes
 - 5. Aesthetic reading vs. informative text
- B. Vocabulary Development
 - 1. Context
 - 2. Dictionary usage
 - 3. Thesaurus usage
- C. Comprehension
 - 1. Literal
 - a. Subject/topic
 - b. Main idea
 - c. Topic sentences/thesis sentences
 - d. Major/minor details
 - e. Summarizing
 - f. Patterns of organization (paragraphs and longer selections)
 - g. Inferences
- D. Reading
 - 1. Aesthetic reading
 - a. Imaginative text
 - 1. Poetry
 - 2. Short stories
 - 3. Books
 - 2. Content area reading/study skills
 - a. Informative text
 - b. Persuasive text

III. Materials:

- A. *Textbook:* Boderick, Bill (1994). Ten Steps to Building College Reading Skills. (Third ed.).
New Jersey: Townsend Press.
- B. *Dictionary:* Any good, comprehensive modern **English** dictionary will suffice, such as *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.
*A floppy disk for computer reading lab
*Highlighter(s).
*3"x3" post-it note pad.

IV. Grading and Credit:

English 62 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 on you 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. **It is each student's responsibility to keep graded, returned work in his/her notebook and maintain an accurate account of all grades on the "Student Grade Record Sheet" provided by your instructor.**

Midterm Grade: I will distribute individual grade reports listing all scores earned before the final midterm drop date so you will know your status in my class.

Final Grade: Your final grade will be derived from your averaged scores on all course work in the following areas (each area constituting 20% of your final course grade).

A. Tests and quizzes (20% of your final course grade)

Unit tests and quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Some quizzes and tests will be in-class tests, some will be take-home.

B. Book reports (20% of your final course grade)

Two book reports are required during the semester: one group report and one individual report. Detailed information and formats of reports will be provided.

C. Daily work (20% of your final course grade)

Daily work includes a variety of assignments:

*Homework

*Summary / Response papers (articles)

*Group participation

*Internet research reports and inquiries

Several assignments will be counted towards the Daily Work portion of your final grade.

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

Each student will complete a semester project. This project 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. Every student must complete this project in order to successfully fulfill the requirements of this class. Those who do not complete this project will receive an F grade or an **incomplete** for the course.

E. Final Exam (20% of your final course grade)

The final examination for this course will be cumulative. 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 3 days to complete the assignment with ten (10) points deducted each day. After the third day, a zero will be entered for the assignment. **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(s) to make your own copy. Either way, **you are responsible for the information in the materials I hand out to the class.**

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