English 262/4 Units (#50418) Reading Improvement

**Jeff Ragan,** *instructor*

Office: FRM 8

Fall 2011, Reedley College

Office hours: MTWThF 10:15-11:15 AM

Office phone: (559) 638-3641 ext. 3212

Office e-mail: jeff.ragan@reedleycollege.edu

Class days, time, & location:

Section (#50418) MTWThF 9-9:50 AM LFS B

Important dates & holidays:

August 15 (M) fall 2011 instruction begins

September 2 (F) Last day to register for a full-term fall 2011 class

September 5 (M) Labor Day (no classes)

September 16 (F) Last day to change a spring class to/from Pass/No-Pass grade basis

October 14 (F) Drop deadline. Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)

November 11 (F) Veteran’s Day (no classes)

November 24-25 (Th-F) Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)

December 12-16 (M-F) fall 2011 final exams week

December 16 (F) End of fall semester

Final Exam Date & Time (fall 2010 final exam schedule on college website):

(# 50418) Mon., December 12, 2011 9-10:50 AM LFS B

\*If you register for my class, you must also register for the below classes, the two other classes in the **On Course to Your First Year Learning Community**.

**COUN 264 FIRST YEAR COLLEGE ORIENTATION** (2 Units) (#51188)

M 11:00-11:50 AM FEM 7 and W 11:00-11:50 AM BUS 41

Instructor: S. Vang

**ENGL 252 WRITING IMPROVEMENT** (4 Units) (#53286)

MTWTh 10:00-10:50 AM CCI 202

Instructor: L. Levine

This course is part of a learning community, which is two or more classes linked through a common theme or purpose. As part of this class, you are also enrolled in the class linked to this course (see above).

What does it mean to be a part of this Learning Community?

By being a part of this learning community, you will hopefully create a greater connection to your fellow students as well as benefit from our shared content which will come to you through the use of a common text book.

We will also share a theme to more greatly connect the content and the activities of the two courses. The theme of this learning community is SUCCESS . . . what it is and how you can achieve it. In the coming weeks, you will learn many proven strategies for living a rich, personally fulfilling life. You will use writing to explore these strategies, and through this practice, you will learn to express yourself more effectively in writing.

Our hope is that through the common theme and shared content, you will learn to thrive this semester in both classes and become a more successful student.

We do have a shared drop policy because your attendance in one class requires the work done in another class.

Drop Policy Statements for Learning Community Classes:

August 15-19: This is the first week of school. You must be in attendance during this week. If you do not show up to any of your classes in this learning community, you will be dropped from all courses in this learning community.

August 22-Oct. 14: During this period, if a student drops one learning community course, he/she will only be dropped from that one learning community course. However, it will be extremely difficult to successfully complete only one of the linked learning community courses since the curriculum and assignments are integrated. Therefore, the student must meet with Kristine Hodges to discuss, evaluate and complete the drop process.

\*All e-mail will be sent to your district e-mail account. It is essential that you activate your e-mail account. Your email account: lastname\_studentID@my.scccd.edu (e.g.: smith\_0123456@my.scccd.edu):

**Step by step directions on how to activate your account**: http://www.scccd.edu/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=1289

**See the VIDEO on how to activate your account**: http://www.scccd.edu/redirect.aspx?url=http%3a%2f%2ftegrity.fresnocitycollege.edu%2ffcc%2frw010%2fStudentEmail%2fStudentEmail.html

**English 262 Course Outline and Policies**

I. Goal:

This course is designed to help the student understand and apply the reading process 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 is for the student to develop a stronger interest in reading and recognition of the importance of this activity in daily life.

II. Course Outcomes for English 262:

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

A. apply a variety of vocabulary techniques for increased comprehension during reading.

B. utilize expanded vocabulary in original writing tasks.

C. apply prereading strategies and active reading strategies to increase success with and comprehension of unfamiliar texts.

D. identify the main idea or central point of texts of varying lengths from textbooks and periodicals and infer logical conclusions from what is read.

E. conduct basic research using traditional and electronic resources.

F. summarize a variety of reading tasks without plagiarizing texts.

G. utilize effective study techniques to improve comprehension and metacognition while reading for information.

H. demonstrate more confidence as a reader through successful application of learned reading strategies.

Outcomes are skill levels and abilities you must achieve to successfully complete this course.

III. 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/background knowledge

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. Subject; topic

2. Main idea

3. Topic sentences; paragraphs

4. Major/minor supporting details

5. Summarizing

6. Implied main ideas

7. Patterns of organization (paragraphs and longer selections)

8. Inferences

D. Reading

1. Aesthetic reading

a. Imaginative text

1. Poetry

2. Short stories

3. Novels

2. Content area reading **/** study skills

a. Informative text

b. Persuasive text/argument

IV. Required Materials:

A. *Textbook:*  Downing, Skip. *On Course, Study Skills Plus ed*. Wadsworth:

Boston, 2011.

B. *Dictionary:* Any good, comprehensive modern English dictionary will

suffice, such as *Webster’s New World Dictionary.*

C. *Thesaurus: Roget’s Thesaurus* - paperback

D. *Other:* \*Three~ring notebook for saving handouts and returned work.

\*A flash drive for computer reading lab

\*Highlighter(s).

\*Post-It note pad.

V. Grading and Credit:

English 262 is a four-unit course offered on a graded basis with a Pass/No-Pass option. A “Pass” grade is the equivalent of an A, B, or C grade. A grade equivalent of D or F will result in a “No-Pass” grade. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

The grades earned on your work will be averaged within five categories to determine your final course grade. A percentage point system will be used for each assignment, enabling students to track their grades as they progress toward fulfilling the course requirements. It is each student’s responsibility to keep graded. returned work and maintain an accurate account of all grades on the “Student Grade Record Sheet” provided by the instructor.

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*Midterm Grade:* Individual grade reports listing all scores earned before the midterm drop date (October 14) will be distributed so each student will know their progress in class.

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

A. Daily work (20% of your final course grade); Daily work includes a variety of

assignments:

\*Homework

*\**SummaryResponse papers (articles)

\*Group participation and presentations

\*Internet research reports and inquiries

Several assignments will be counted toward the Daily Work portion

of your final grade.

B. Tests (20% of final course grade); Unit tests will be given throughout the semester.

C. Quizzes (20% of your final course grade); Several quizzes will be given during the semester. Some quizzes will be take-home and some will be in-class.

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

Two book reports are required during the semester. Detailed information and formats of reports will be provided.

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

The final examination for this course will be cumulative. It is a lengthy exam that assesses your fulfillment of the course outcomes (see course outcomes). 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 Final Exam Schedule on the college website. The time and date of final examinations will not be changed to accommodate holiday or travel arrangements or employment schedules.

VI. Attendance:

Regular class attendance is critical to success in college. 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 absent, it is your responsibility to find out what assignments were missed. Class work cannot be made up. Tests and quizzes must be completed within three (3) days of your return. If you are absent for more than three days without contacting me, you may not be able to make up tests or quizzes. After the third day of absence, a zero will be entered for each missed test/quiz.

It is also your responsibility to acquire a copy of each handout distributed during your absence. You should first ask me for leftover copies. If I have none left, you will have to borrow another student’s handout to make your own copy. Whether you are in class or absent, you are responsible for the information in the materials I hand out to the class.

Tardies: It is each student’s responsibility to arrive on time for each class meeting. Although it is difficult for anyone to arrive on time every single day, I would like you to be on time as often as possible. Due to traffic and parking problems on campus, I will try to be flexible and will not count offpoints for tardies. However, if you are constantly tardy, I will have a conference with you to find out the problem. If you arrive late, you must not disturb the class. Also, I will not repeat the information you have missed. If you come in late, you will have to do your best to catch up and try to understand what is going on. If late for a test, you do not get extra time to complete it. If you miss roll call, you must stay after class and sign the “tardy sheet” or be counted absent for the day.

**Cell phones, etc.**: Please turn off all cell phones and various other noise makers before class. I will not tolerate cell phone rings in class. You may not play with your cell phone or text message during class. If your cell phone disturbs the class, I may ask you to leave for the day.

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

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**\*If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.**