

# Read 94 - Reading Improvement

## Winter 2010 Syllabus

### Course Information

Classroom: RLC 132

Meeting Days/Times: Monday-Friday, 11:00 am to 11:50 am

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Lori Vail

Phone: (253) 833-9111 ext. 4246

Building and Office: HSA 46

Email: [lvail@greenriver.edu](mailto:lvail@greenriver.edu)



Office Hours:

- Monday - Friday, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- By appointment almost any time if these hours don't work for you!

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"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."      -Alvin Toffler, futurist

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## **Texts and Materials**

- Mirror on America, by Mims & Nollen
- Paper folder with center brads (PeeChee)
- Flash drive

## **Course Outcomes and Measures**

This course will focus on learning to more effectively read for college, including:

- increasing effectiveness at reading college-level materials
- identifying purposes for and characteristics of readings and writing
- understanding uses of Standard Academic English

Reading mastery will be demonstrated by:

- class discussions
- quizzes
- participation in group work
- reading responses

## **Campus-Wide Learning Outcomes**

As a student at Green River Community College, you are expected to master skills that apply to all aspects of learning and life. The two outcomes we will focus on are:

- **Critical Thinking** - Critical thinking is basically awareness of how you think and feel as well as awareness of why you think and feel the way you do. This idea will be part of all of our discussions, readings and writings!
- **Responsibility** - By turning assignments in on time, coming to class every day and avoiding plagiarism\* or cheating, you will demonstrate that you take your responsibilities as a student seriously and understand that learning is vibrant and vital.

## Course Contract

**Attendance** - You are expected to come to the class every time we are scheduled to meet. Lectures, individual activities, and/or group activities will be scheduled daily, and class assignments are due daily. You will lose credit for late work; however, if you have not completed your work, bring what you have and come to class. Please do not "skip" class if your work is not yet complete as doing so only puts you further behind. There are no "excused" absences; there are, however, mitigating circumstances. Come talk to me or e-mail me as soon as possible if you have missed class or need to miss class. Do not wait! I am a realist with a real life - just like you.

**Participation** - You are expected to participate. This participation can look many ways; it is not necessary for you to speak up in every class, but it is necessary for you to be engaged in the work we are doing together. We will discuss many topics in this class, and it is essential that we keep a safe space for all points of view. To do so, we will respect others' opinions and right to share diverse points of view. The one thing to remember is that we must **all support** our points of view!

**Missed Assignments** - Missed assignments may be turned in late by only two class days. In other words, if your paper is due on Monday but is not ready, you may turn it in on Wednesday. The penalty for late work is 10 points per day. The only exception to this policy is quizzes. These must be turned in on the day they are given; you cannot make these assignments up.

**Extra Credit** - The only extra credit I assign in my courses is at my initiation. In other words, if you want extra credit, you must wait for me to announce that such an assignment is available, and then you must pounce on it! I assign random research projects throughout the quarter, and the credit is one point, the equivalent of one quiz.

**\*Plagiarism** - Plagiarism occurs when you knowingly submit someone else's ideas or words as your own. Plagiarism is intentional, and it is dishonest. Plagiarism robs you of the most important part of an education - YOU learning! If I believe you have plagiarized, I will talk to you in private and ask you to prove the writing in question is your own. If you are proved guilty of academic dishonesty (plagiarism), you will fail the assignment. If you are caught plagiarizing again in the same quarter, you will fail the class.

# **Assignments & Grades**

## **Quotes and Vocabulary Portfolio - 20%**

For each reading, you will choose two quotes and five words that move you, make you wonder and/or stump you. For each quote, you will write a paragraph describing how you relate to the words. For each word, you will write a definition in **your own words**. Each Friday, the work for the entire week's readings will be due. All QV assignments must be typed.

## **Reading Responses- 20%**

Reading responses are informal papers written on topics covered in the readings I assign and the class discussions we have about the readings. All reading responses will be explained in detail when they are assigned; they are an important part of your grade and a great way to do well in the class as they require only that you think and participate. Responses must be typed.

## **Quizzes - 50%**

Quizzes are informal response papers written in class on topics covered in the readings I assign. Quizzes are an important part of your grade and a great way to do well in the class, for they require only that you do your homework, think while you read and participate.

## **Final Project - 20%**

This project will be explained in detail at the beginning of Week Four, and you will have the rest of the quarter to complete the project, which will be due on our Finals Day.

## **Final Grades**

Final grades can easily be determined using the percentages noted above. You will have ample opportunity to rewrite all papers until they are of "passing" quality. All other aspects of your grade are based solely on your effort and participation; if you do it, your "A" will come!

If you have attended regularly and worked consistently but still cannot complete all assignments by the end of the quarter, you may request a grade of "I" (incomplete) **prior** to the end of the quarter. A grade of "I" requires you to continue to work on the course during the next quarter.

My grading scale is the GRCC grading scale (see college catalog and below).

99-100 = 4.0	83 = 2.8	71 = 1.6
97-98 = 3.9	82 = 2.7	70 = 1.5
95-96 = 3.8	81 = 2.6	69 = 1.4
93-94 = 3.7	80 = 2.5	68 = 1.3
91-92 = 3.6	79 = 2.4	67 = 1.2
90 = 3.5	78 = 2.3	66 = 1.1
89 = 3.4	77 = 2.2	65 = 1.0
88 = 3.3	76 = 2.1	64 = 0.9
87 = 3.2	75 = 2.0	63 = 0.8
86 = 3.1	74 = 1.9	62 = 0.7
85 = 3.0	73 = 1.8	61 = 0.0
84 = 2.9	72 = 1.7	

### **IMPORTANT!**

GRCC is a place for learning! If you believe you need special accommodations or course adaptations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it is your responsibility to contact the Disability Support Services Coordinator in the LSC and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition that qualifies for accommodation through the GRCC Disability Support Services Office, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class. You can reach me by phone at (253) 833-9111 ext. 4246. Or, you can schedule an office appointment to meet me in the HS Office Building, office number 46 during my posted office hours or a time that works for both of us. If this location is not convenient for you, we will schedule an alternative meeting place. If you use an alternative medium for communicating, let me know well in advance of the meeting (at least one week) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.