
COURSE SYLLABUS

READING ESSENTIALS

Reading 084

Instructor: Carol Perdue	Office: SH 120-42
Office Hour: 10:00 – 10:50 p.m. daily	Phone: Ext. 4211
email: cperdue@greenriver.edu	Required Text: <i>Reading Plus</i>

Course Description

This course will focus on increasing your reading fluency and proficiency. You will work on these skills by completing assignments on an individualized web based reading program, and by completing classroom reading assignments. Overall, this course is designed to provide you with a solid foundation of basic reading and study strategies that will help you succeed in your college classes.

The sections of Reading 084 listed as a “Hybrid Course” in the quarterly schedule will require a significant amount of out-of-class computer use. This is a five credit graded class, so you are expected to attend the on campus class sessions as well as complete the online portion of the class as directed by this syllabus.

Required Textbook

Instead of a required text, you will be required to purchase access to the web based reading program called Reading Plus. You purchase your access voucher for Reading Plus at the Paper Tree in the LSC building. Supplementary classroom materials will be provided by Green River Community College.

Content Specific Learning Outcomes

This course has four primary goals:

- I. To improve your comprehension when reading.
- II. To increase your reading vocabulary.
- III. To increase your reading fluency and accuracy.
- IV. To increase your enjoyment of reading.

You will achieve these goals by demonstrating the following outcomes:

1. Increasing your visual memory, accuracy, and speed.
2. Improving your short term memory and reading fluency skills.
3. Utilizing a variety of techniques to determine word meaning.
4. Improving your predicative and inferential ability.
5. Incorporating text marking techniques into the reading process.

You will demonstrate mastery of the outcomes listed above by:

- a) Answering written and oral comprehension questions on assigned reading.
- b) Completing classroom reading and vocabulary assignments.
- c) **Satisfactory completion (a score of at least 70%) of 50 *Reading Plus* lessons. See the *Reading Plus* information sheet for a more complete explanation.**
- d) Maintaining 90% attendance of the classroom sessions.
- e) Applying active-reading strategies to a variety of texts.
- f) Satisfactory completion of text note taking assignments.
- g) Improving your post-test reading comprehension score on the COMPASS reading test or demonstrating reading gains on *Reading Plus*.
- h) Cooperating in small and large group activities in an active and collaborative manner.
- i) Completing a written self-evaluation.

Campus-wide Learning Outcomes

You will also demonstrate the following campus-wide abilities:

Written Communications

This outcome includes abilities designed to help students:

1. use appropriate mechanics, grammar, and word usage based on American Standard Written English

This outcome is demonstrated by satisfactorily completing short writing assignments.

Responsibility

This outcome includes abilities designed to help students:

1. identify and comply with clearly stated expectations, policies, procedures.
2. recognize and accept consequences resulting from a failure to comply with stated expectations, policies, and procedures.
3. meet obligations necessary to complete individual and group tasks.
4. demonstrate common courtesies and show respect for the needs, difficulties, and right of others.
5. complete work independently and appropriately acknowledge the source of ideas and contributions of others.

This outcome is demonstrated by: 1) regular attendance, 2) active and meaningful participation in class discussions and lecture, 3) completing and handing in assignments in a timely fashion, 4) attitudes and behaviors in the class which will be reflected in the overall class grade.

Grading

You will be evaluated on your reading assignments and attendance. The weight of assignments will be as follows:

Category	Percent of Grade
<i>Reading Plus</i>	60%
Classroom Reading Assignments	30%
Attendance, quizzes, and small group work	10%
	100%

You **cannot** use the Pass/No Credit option to take this class and then proceed to Reading Improvement 094 or Reading Mastery 104. Reading 094 has a prerequisite of a grade of 2.0 or higher in Reading Essentials 084, or an appropriate placement test score. A grade of Pass will not meet the prerequisite.

Your percentage grade will be converted to a decimal grade according to the table below.

Grading System:

Table for converting a percentage grade to a decimal grade:

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

A grade of 2.0 (75%) is required to register for Reading Improvement 094. 61% and below--no credit

The majority of your out of class study time will be spent completing your web based *Reading Plus* assignments. You will be expected to complete 50 Reading Plus lessons with a score of 70% or higher by the end of the quarter. You will also be graded on participation and completion of assigned classroom readings. In the classroom, you will be required to complete written responses to assigned readings, text marking and note taking. You may be given a nationally standardized reading test when you start the class, and if so, you will take it again at the end of the quarter. This test will be used as an advising tool to help determine your qualification to move on to the next level and as a partial determinant of the extent of your reading improvement this quarter.

Classroom Policies

Attendance: Poor attendance will affect your grade, and your ability to earn credit for this course. Attendance will be worth two points per classroom session. No distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences. If you are absent, you will lose two attendance points. Unless you make arrangements with me, you will not earn credit for this course if you miss three consecutive class sessions. You will not be able to make up any group activities that occurred on the day of your absence. It is your responsibility to find out what assignments you may have missed, so that you are prepared to participate in the classroom work when you return.

Note: Don't ever just stop attending class without dropping it officially. If you do not officially drop a class, you will receive 0.0 as your final grade. A "W" (withdraw) will not impact your GPA (grade point average) but a 0.0 will lower your GPA substantially. You drop a class by contacting Registration and following their instructions.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Consequences for cheating range from failing an assignment to failing the course and being reported to the Dean for further consequences. Plagiarism is presenting

someone else's work as your own. Don't do it. Anytime you use someone else's work or ideas, you must credit that source. Even if it is just a phrase, it must have quotation marks around it and must be acknowledged. Plagiarism is a serious offense. For GRCC policy, see the student handbook.

Late Assignments: I will not accept late assignments. Assignments are **due at the beginning of the class** on the due date. You may drop your lowest homework grade. You must make arrangements with me to make up any missed quizzes or tests, if it is possible to make them up. It may not be possible to make up some quizzes or tests.

Conduct: On a college campus, everyone deserves the opportunity to study and learn in a safe environment and to be treated with courtesy and respect. Therefore, any conduct that prevents the instructor from teaching, and/or prevents students from learning is prohibited. If you do not behave in a way that is appropriate for maintaining a learning environment, I will ask you to leave the class. At Green River Community College we do not discriminate against anyone based on race, ethnicity, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability. This is in accordance with the values and laws of the United States of America.

Cell Phone and Text Message Policy:

Using a cell phone during class for either voice or text communication is not acceptable classroom behavior. As a result, if your cell phone goes off, or if you are text messaging during class, you will be asked to leave class. If you have circumstances that require you to be contacted during class, put your cell on vibrate or silent. If you receive a call or message that you must respond to, quietly leave the classroom and take care of your business. When you are finished, quietly return to class.

Methods of Instruction

Computer assisted instruction, lecture, discussion, videos, drill, and small group work will be the dominant methods of instruction. Student presentations and guest lecturers *may* also be utilized.

Disabilities Statement

If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabled Students Services Coordinator in the LSC and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition that would qualify you for special accommodations, 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. 4211. Or you can schedule an office appointment with me in RLC 165 during my office hour or another mutually determined time. If this location is not convenient for you, we will schedule an alternative place for the meeting. 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.