
COURSE SYLLABUS

READING MASTERY 104

Instructor:	Carol Perdue	Office:	SH 120-42
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Office Hour:	10:00 to 10:50 p.m. daily	Required Text:	<i>Rereading America</i> (Custom)

Course Description

This college level course emphasizes the development of the critical reading and thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) needed for English 101, and other courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Vocabulary development and the improvement of reading speed while maintaining comprehension are also components of this course.

Required Text/References

In the Paper Tree (the college bookstore) you will find a customized version of *Rereading America* in the Reading 104 section. This is the book you want. It is cheaper and small than the *Rereading America* for the English 126 section. 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 of college reading materials.
- II. To provide you with study reading strategies and techniques.
- III. To increase your reading speed and accuracy.
- IV. To enhance your critical reading skills.

You will achieve these goals by demonstrating the following outcomes:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practicing the previewing, skimming, and scanning of reading material. 2. Setting reading goals for time and distance. 3. Identifying main ideas and supporting details. 4. Analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing information and ideas. 5. Determining the author's purpose. 6. Evaluating how effectively an author supports his or her generalizations. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Evaluating the evidence an author provides to support a position. 8. Distinguishing between fact and opinions. 9. Using writing and textbook marking to monitor your comprehension. 10. Using writing and textbook marking to improve recall and retention. 11. Learning new words to expand your vocabulary. |
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You will demonstrate mastery of the skills listed above by:

- a) Answering written and oral comprehension questions.
- b) Applying active-reading strategies to a variety of texts.
- c) Annotating and taking notes on a variety of texts.
- d) Improving your post-test reading comprehension score on a nationally standardized reading test.
- e) Cooperative and collaborative participation in small and large group activities.

- f) Achieving an 80% average on weekly vocabulary exercises.
- g) Increasing your speed while maintaining 80% accuracy in the *Timed Reading* books.
- h) A written self-evaluation.
- i) Completion of a group research and presentation assignment.

Campus-wide Learning Outcomes

Written Communications

Written Communication encompasses all the abilities necessary for effective expression of thoughts, feelings, and ideas in written form. This outcome includes abilities designed to help you:

1. Demonstrate use of a writing process in your written responses to assigned reading.
2. Demonstrate involvement with reading material by expressing a clear sense of purpose, focus, thesis, and design in your writing.
3. Demonstrate the ability to develop an idea through the use of concrete examples and specific details.
4. Demonstrate clear organization of thought in coherent written form.

You will demonstrate this outcome by your: 1) written responses to assigned readings, and 2) short writing assignments.

Responsibility

Responsibility encompasses those behaviors and dispositions necessary for you to be an effective member of a community. This outcome is designed to help you recognize the value of a commitment to those responsibilities which will enable you to work successfully individually and with others. This outcome includes abilities designed to help you:

1. Identify and comply with clearly stated expectations, policies, and 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 other.
5. Strive for excellence in contributions, performances, and products. Complete work independently and appropriately acknowledge the source of ideas and contributions of other.

You will demonstrate this outcome by your: 1) regular attendance, 2) active and meaningful participation in class and small group discussions, 3) active contribution and cooperation with a team on a final project, and 4) completion and handing in of assignments in a timely fashion.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking finds expression in all disciplines and everyday life. It is characterized by an ability to reflect upon thinking patterns, including the role of emotions on thoughts, and to rigorously assess the quality of thought through its work products. Critical thinkers routinely evaluate thinking processes and alter them, as necessary, to facilitate an improvement in their thinking and potentially foster certain dispositions or intellectual traits over time. This outcome includes abilities designed to help you

1. Use appropriate reasoning to evaluate problems, make decisions, and formulae solutions.
2. Give reasons for conclusions, assumptions, beliefs, and hypotheses.
3. Seek out new information to evaluate and re-evaluate conclusions, assumptions, beliefs, and hypotheses.
4. Exhibit traits evidencing the disposition to reflect, assess, and improve thinking or products of thinking.

You will demonstrate this outcome by your:: 1) active and meaningful participation in small group and classroom discussions, presentations and assignments, 2) written assignments, 3) completion of a final project, and 4) self and class evaluation.

Grading Categories

<u>Category</u>	<u>percent of grade</u>
Quizzes, tests, and vocabulary assignments..... ..	15%
Reading assignments (text assignments, response papers, etc.)	60%
Small group work and Timed Readings...	10%
Final Project	15%
	<u>100%</u>

You will be graded according to the decimal system found in the college catalog. **No grade of *Incomplete* will be given.**

Conversion Table:

Table for converting your percentage grade in this class 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	<u>62 = 0.7</u>
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	

61% and below--no credit

You will be graded on textbook reading and writing assignments, quizzes and tests, small group work, short essays, timed readings, vocabulary assignments, and class participation. You will take a nationally standardized reading test at the beginning and at the end of the quarter. This test will be used as an advising tool and as a partial determinant of the extent of your reading improvement for the quarter.

Classroom Policies

All assignments must be typed using a 12 point font.

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. Any missed test or quiz must be completed within three class days unless otherwise arranged.

Attendance: Poor attendance will affect your grade, and your ability to earn credit for this course. Unless you have made arrangements with me, you will not earn credit for this course if you miss three consecutive class meetings. You will **not** be able to make-up any group activities or timed readings that occurred on the day(s) of your absence. You may be able to make up some tests or quizzes that occurred on the day of your absence if you make arrangements with me immediately upon your return to class. It is your responsibility to find out what assignments or quizzes you may have missed, so that upon your return to class, you will be prepared to hand in your assignments and take any tests you have missed.

Note: Don't ever just stop attending class without dropping it officially. If you do not officially drop a class, you will receive a 0.0 as a grade on your transcript. A "W" (withdraw) will not impact your total GPA (grade point average) but a 0.0 will lower

your GPA substantially.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when you knowingly submit someone else's ideas or words as your own. Plagiarism is an act of intentional deception that is dishonest, and robs you of the most important product of education---the actual learning. Should I suspect that you have plagiarized, I will talk with you one-on -one and ask you to prove that the work in question is your own. If you are found guilty of academic dishonesty, you will automatically fail that assignment. If you are caught plagiarizing again in the same quarter, you will fail this class. 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.

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, 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

Lecture, discussion, drill, and small group work will be the dominant methods of instruction. Student presentations and guest lectures may also be utilized.

Students Subject to Provisions of Americans With Disabilities Act

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, 4211. Or, you can schedule an office appointment with me in RLC 165 during my office hours 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.