

Reading 104 (5 credits)
Winter 2010
M-F 1-1:50pm



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Office Hours: MWF 2-3pm
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Reading Mastery

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. ~ Joseph Addison

Required Text:

Rereading America, 7th ed. Colombo, Cullen, Lisle

Recommended References:

You are strongly advised to buy an English language dictionary.

Course Description:

Reading 104 emphasizes the development of the critical reading and thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) needed for English 101 and courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Vocabulary development and the improvement of reading speed while maintaining comprehension will also be components of this course.

Statement of Instructional Method:

You will learn by *participating* in group discussions, class discussions, and reading/writing activities. There will be some lectures about reading strategies and techniques, but you are encouraged to participate in these also.

Assignments (see page 4 for specific assignment information):

Attendance and Participation	100 pts.
Quizzes (10x10 points)	100 pts.
Vocabulary Projects (5x10 points)	50 pts.
Outside Reading Project	50 pts.
Timed Readings and Reflections (5x20 points)	100 pts.
Reading Projects (9x10 points)	90 pts.
Final Analytical Essay and Rough Draft	110 pts.
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 pts.</u>
Total:	700 pts

Course Learning Outcomes:

- You will be able to identify and comprehend an author's purpose and main ideas in a college-level text. This will be demonstrated by achieving at least 75% on weekly quizzes.
- You will critically analyze, interpret, and synthesize information and ideas from texts. This will be demonstrated by participation in group/class discussion and an analytical essay.
- You will increase your reading speed while maintaining accuracy. This will be demonstrated by increasing scores in timed reading activities.
- You will use a variety of reading and studying strategies and techniques to improve your reading speed and comprehension. This will be demonstrated by thoughtful completion of reading projects and a score of at least 75% on a final exam.
- You will use a variety of techniques to learn, remember, and use new vocabulary. This will be demonstrated by thoughtful completion of vocabulary projects.
- You will read a book of your choice outside of class in order to increase reading enjoyment. This will be demonstrated by outside reading reports.

Campus Learning Outcomes:

- *Critical Thinking*: This course will require you to identify, analyze, interpret, and synthesize a text's information and ideas through participation in discussion and completion of thoughtful written assignments.
- *Written Communication*: This course will require you to convey your comprehension, analysis, and interpretation of texts through the writing of an analytical essay and various reading and vocabulary projects.

Attendance:

Reading 104 is based upon your participation in group and class discussions. Attendance, therefore, is mandatory. You can receive up to 50 points for attendance based on the scale below. **Twelve or more absences will result in a grade of 0.0 for the course. Six consecutive absences with no contact will also result in a grade of 0.0 for the course.** If you cannot attend consistently, you may withdraw by January 22nd and the course will not be posted to your permanent record. February 26th is the last day you may officially withdraw from the course in order to avoid a failing grade. After that, you will have a 0.0 on your permanent record; this will have a serious negative impact upon your G.P.A.

0-3 Absences: 50 points

4-5 Absences: 40 points

6-7 Absences: 30 points

8-9 Absences: 20 points

10-11 Absences: 10 points

12+ Absences: 0.0 for the course

Participation:

You can earn up to 50 participation points. You earn these points automatically by completing any additional homework, coming to class prepared, arriving on time, and participating in all classroom activities. Failure to complete homework, consistent late arrivals or early departures, listlessness, and any disruptive behavior will negatively impact your participation grade.

Missed Quizzes:

You must make arrangements with me to make-up a missed quiz. They must be completed outside of class.

Late Work:

Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. If you know you will miss that day's class, you may make arrangements to submit the assignment beforehand. If the assignment is submitted by the end of the day, there will be a 5% grade reduction. If the assignment is submitted within a week, there will be a 20% grade reduction. I will not accept an assignment after 1 week.

Emailing Assignments:

If you cannot submit an assignment in person, an email can be acceptable; however, you are responsible for verifying that I received the email. It will still be considered late if emailed after 1pm on the day it's due. **If you wish to receive feedback on an assignment before you submit it, an email is not acceptable.** You must arrange a time to meet with me in person.

Conduct:

We are all adults and I would like to treat everyone as such. That said, if you exhibit behavior such as but not limited to: cell phone usage, repeated tardiness, lack of participation, disruptive behavior, or disrespect, I will issue a verbal warning the first time, a written warning the second time, and if the behavior persists, I may take steps to permanently remove you from the class.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism occurs when you knowingly submit someone else's ideas or words as your own. Plagiarism is an act of intentional deception that is not only dishonest, but it robs you of the most important product of education—the actual learning. Should I suspect 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.

ADA 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 Disability Support Services Coordinator in the LSC and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition through the GRCC Disability Support Service Office, which 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 schedule to meet me in *my office* during my office hours or at 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.

Assessment and Grading:

There are 700 points possible for this course. To reach your final percentage, simply divide the points you have earned by 700. Green River Community College's numerical system requires instructors to report grades from 0.0 – 4.0 in 0.1 increments. Grades will be based upon the scale below. **You must earn a grade of 2.0 or higher in order to register for English 101 and many other college courses.**

4.0 = 95% or more = A (Superior)

3.5 = 90% = A-

3.0 = 85% = B (Above Average)

2.5 = 80% = B-

2.0 = 75% = C (Average)

1.5 = 70% = C-

1.0 = 65% = D (Below Average)

0.7 = 62% = D-

0.0-0.6 = 61% or less = F (Fail)

Course Assignments

Further details and rubrics will be provided before you must complete the assignments. The following should give you some idea of what you will be expected to do.

Quizzes (10x10 points):

You will complete 1 quiz a week. You will be required to provide short answers to questions about each week's readings.

Vocabulary Projects (5x10 points):

Each project will require that you define, remember, and use ten new vocabulary words (50 new words total).

Outside Reading Project (50 points):

You will choose a book to read outside of class. You will present your book to the class twice, and you will submit three one-page reports about your book.

Timed Readings and Reflections (5x20 points):

Throughout the quarter, you will complete five timed readings designed to test your reading speed and accuracy. You will then complete five reflections that analyze each result.

Reading Projects (9x10 points):

You will be learning strategies and techniques for reading and studying. You will apply and practice these strategies and techniques by completing a variety of reading projects.

Final Analytical Essay and Rough Draft (110 points):

You will write a final essay (2-4 pages) in which you summarize, compare & contrast, and then give your opinion about two texts we have read during the quarter. Your grade will be based on the thought and ideas that you put in your paper, not on your writing proficiency. You will receive 10 points for discussing your rough draft with a peer group.

Final Exam (100 points):

You will complete a comprehensive final take-home exam

**Special Note: Assignments are subject to change and may be adjusted to better reflect the learning that is occurring during the course. Any changes will be announced in class.*