

Reading, Discussing, and Writing

CRN # 10431 English K 094

Spring 2009 Class Schedule

M/W/F - 1 to 2:10 pm – Room – D 208

E-mail: mroychoudhuri@trcc.commnet.edu

Office – C-234 phone: (860) 892 – 5712

Required Readings:

- A Community of Readers: A Thematic Approach to Reading.4th Ed., Alexander and Lombardi
- The Penguin Handbook
- Dictionary (optional)
- Note book and other writing Material

Course Description:

This course provides instruction in reading, discussion, and writing skills that develop critical thinking and ideas which enables one to become a better writer. This is a fundamental course in understanding the ideas of others, as well as expressing one's own. Students will learn appropriate usage of vocabulary, and understand contextual clues for mastery of vocabulary. Through participating in the above three processes, students will understand how one supports the other, and how clear, logical thinking depends upon them.

This course is preparation for ENG 100, ENG 101, and other courses, which requires writing, critical thinking and communication of ideas. Emphasis is placed on strategies for improved reading and writing, comprehension skills, vocabulary in context, paragraph and essay development, grammar, and summarizing.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of English 094, students should be able to:

- Synthesize the processes of reading, discussing, and writing to articulate their ideas clearly.
- Demonstrate proficiency in literal reading comprehension skills and a growing ability to use inferential skills.
- Demonstrate an improved vocabulary in speaking and writing, and using vocabulary in context
- Write responses effectively, both in paragraph and short essay format, based on ideas garnered from reading and discussing.
- Employ strategies for effective editing.

- Summarize readings typically assigned in college level classes.
- Participate actively and effectively in group discussion.

Grading: The final grade will be a letter grade, A - F.

Students must get a “C” or better and pass an Exit Exam to pass this course.

Grading is based on:

◆	Class Participation.....	20%.	
	Participation is extremely important because we learn from each other.		
	Participation includes: attending all classes and participating in class discussions, small and large group work, in class writing, coming to class prepared by reading all assigned work and doing assignments on time.		
◆	Quizzes – Cannot be made up		
		10%	
◆	Homework		10%
◆	Reading Responses - Cannot be made up.		10%..
◆	Mastery Tests (will drop the lowest test grade).....	40%	
◆	Final Exam		10%
	A = 93 -100		
	A - = 90 - 92		
	B + = 87 - 89		
	B = 83 - 86		
	B - = 80 - 82		
	C + = 77 - 79		
	C = 73 - 76		
	C - = 70 - 72		
	D + = 67 - 69		
	D = 63 - 66		
	D - = 60 - 62		

Please Note: Quizzes and Reading Responses cannot be made up

Attendance:

- Attending class is important because we learn from each other, and peers through interaction and class discussions. Since discussion is an important part of this class, I have set aside 20% of the grade for that. If you are absent, you will miss that class interaction that cannot be made up and that will affect your grade. Five absences usually result in a “F” grade, except in extenuating circumstances such as illness
- Class begins promptly, don’t be late or leave early, it will affect your grade.
- If a student will be absent, late or have to leave early, she/he must tell me in advance.
- If you are tardy to class, take the seat closest to the entrance rather than crossing the room and creating disruption – be mindful of the professor and your peers
- It is the student’s responsibility to find out and complete the assignment for any

missed class by contacting a friend in class, meeting the instructor or by emailing the instructor.

Late Work:

- **Quizzes** and **reading responses** cannot be made up
- **Tests cannot be made up unless previously arranged with the instructor**
- Work is due as stated in the course outline or by instructor, The schedule is tentative and students will be informed of any change. Managing time is essential in order to succeed in college
- Late work (anytime after the specified time) will receive a grade penalty

Technology:

Turn off your cell phone and pager - **these cannot be used in the classroom**. If you are expecting an important call, let the instructor know earlier. **Text messaging is NOT allowed in class and the student will be warned once, then he/she will be reported to the Dean**

Chewing Gum:

You may chew gum quietly, do not pop them as it is noisy and disruptive. Common classroom courtesy and decorum is expected

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person or source. If you use any ideas, thoughts, writing, quotes, or even paraphrase some other writer's thinking, you must acknowledge that person. Whether conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Consequences for plagiarism can range from failing the assignment to failing the course.

Disabilities:

To receive accommodations in class a student **must** make an appointment with the Learning Disability Specialists, Mr. Chris Scarborough (892-5751), Kathleen Gray (885-2328) or Matt Liscum (383-5240). It is the student's responsibility to meet the counselor and get the paperwork to the instructor at the earliest. **Special accommodations cannot be made until the paperwork has been provided by the LD specialist and that is made available to the Prof..**

Tutoring/Writing Center:

They are eager to help so please call.

Tutoring Academic Success Center (TASC) call (860)892-5745.

Writing Center call (860) 892-5773 or 892-5769

or e-mail TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu.

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide notice to the Registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrar's office. Non punitive "W" grades are assigned to withdrawal requests. An instructor's signature is

required after the deadline has passed. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Student's who do not withdraw but simply stop attending classes will receive "F" grade for the course.

Class Cancellations:

In case of class cancellation, the instructor will notify through voice mail on her office phone (call 892-5712) and call the first person on the phone tree. A note on Blackboard VISTA will also be posted. Students are encouraged to call (860) 886-0177 or go online to: www.trcc.commnet.edu.

TV Channels 3 & 8 and Radio Stations: WCTY,Q105, WICH, WNLC are good sources too

Note on Reading:

Reading is an important means of communication. It helps one to think, write, and communicate better. Just as there are different skill levels in any sport, reading has different skill levels and achievement as well. This course will help you to become active readers, help you to understand different kinds of reading and help you to develop critical thinking and writing skills. By working together, we can accomplish this goal.

Course Outline

(Tentative schedule - subject to change)

Jan 19 – Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan 20 – Professional Day

Week 1 – 21st Jan

Introduction and syllabus review.
In class writing.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Introduction
Welcome to *A Community of Readers*, Why Is Reading So Important?
pp. xxxiii - xxxv.
Large Group Discussion.

Week 2 – 28th Jan

Active Reading Strategies
Chapter 1, The Reading Process: Joining a Community of Readers pp. 3
-14. **Reading Quiz # 1**

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 1, The Reading Process,

pp. 15 - 34.

Practice for Reading Response #1 “How We Learn” by Ricki Linksman,
pp. 460 - 467,

**Suburb High, USA: School or Prison? Group Discussion – student
experience 27**

Reading Response # 1 due in class

Week 3 - 4th Feb

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 1

The Reading Process, Mastery tests 1A and 1B, pp. 15 - 34.

In Class Writing / Discussion.

The Reading Process (chapter1)Test.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 2

Working with Words: Computer Technology and Beyond,

pp. 51 - 68

Small Group Work / Discussion. (Life without Computers)

Reading Quiz # 2.

Week 4 – 11th Feb

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 2

Working with Words, pp. 68 - 91.

Group Work / Discussion.- Computers – boon or bane?

Reading Response # 2,

“Social and Ethical Issues of Computer Technology” by George
Beekman, pp. 468 - 472. – Word Usage, Suffix, Prefix and Roots

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 2

Working with Words, pp. 92 - 108

Includes Chapter Review, work on Mastery Test 2A and 2B.

Large Group Discussion.

Working with Words Test.

February 16th, Washington’s Birthday – No Class

Week 5 - Feb 18th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3

Topics and Main Ideas: Our Food, Our Culture, pp.109 - 120.

In class Writing / Discussion.- student definition of culture

Writing about culture

Reading Response # 3,

“Table Rituals” by Laurie Tarkan, pp. 473 - 477.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3

Topics and Main Ideas, pp.120 - 146.

Small Group Work / Discussion.

Reading Quiz # 3.

Week 6 – Feb 25th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3

Topics and Main Ideas, pp. 146 - 170.

Includes Chapter review and Mastery Test 3A and 3B.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 4

Support for Main Ideas: Staying Well, pp.171 - 189.

Small Group Work / Discussion.

Reading Quiz # 4.

Large Group Discussion.

Topics and Main Ideas Test.

Week 7 – Mar 4th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 4

Support for Main Ideas, pp.189 - 207.

In class Writing and Discussion

Reading Response # 4,

“Creativity and Longevity” by Norman Cousins, pp. 477 - 485.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 4

Support for Main Ideas, pp. 207 – 227

How Do You Stay Healthy? Writing Journal and Discussing

Includes Chapter review and Mastery test 4A and 4B.

Small Group Work / Discussion.

Support for Main Ideas Test /Midterm Exam.

Week 8 – Mar 11th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5

Patterns of Organization: Where We Live, pp. 229 - 252.

Different Styles of Organization

In Class Narrative Writing and Discussion

Word Usage - “Working with Our Hands” by Jimmy Carter and

Rosalynn Carter, pp. 485 – 491- Serving the Community
Reading Response #5

SPRING BREAK – March 15th – 22nd

Week 9 – Mar 23rd

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5
Patterns of Organization: Where We Live, pp. 253 – 264
Gated Developments: Fortresses or Communities

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5
Patterns of Organization, pp. 265 - 273.
Includes Chapter review and Mastery test 5A and 5B

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5
Patterns of Organization, pp. 273 - 285.
Patterns of Organization Test.

Week 10 – Mar 30th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6
Inferences and Reading Literature: Dealing with Gender,
pp. 287 – 299- Communication Styles
Small Group Work / Discussion.

Different Clues for Making Inference
Large Group Discussion.
Reading Response # 6,
“Shame” by Dick Gregory, pp. 491 - 497.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 300 - 311.
Cultural Influence in Communication-In class Writing / Discussion.

Week 11 – Apr 6th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 311 - 332.
Small Group Work / Discussion.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 333 - 349.
Large Group Discussion.
Inferences and Reading Literature Test.

SPRING RECESS – April 10th – 12th – NO CLASS

Week 12 – Apr 13th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 7

Facts and Opinions: Living in a Diverse Society, pp. 351 – 379

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In class Writing / Discussion.- Diversity at work/school

Reading Response # 7, The War Prayer by Mark Twain, pp. 497 - 502.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 7
Identity Transformation”- how do you identify yourself?
In class Writing / Discussion.
Facts and Opinions, pp. 379 - 404.

Week 13 Apr 20th

Review Mastery Tests 7A and 7B
Facts and Opinions Test.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8
Critical Thinking: Science, Society, and Disease, pp. 405 - 422.
Small Group Work / Discussion.

Do we have a responsibility for the environment?
Formulate your argument - In class writing and discussion

Week 14 – Apr27th Reading Response #8

“Ethical Issues Surrounding Death” by John Macionis,
pp. 503 - 507.

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8
Critical Thinking, pp. 422 - 437 .
Large Group Discussion.
Pathology of the Black Death

Week 15 – May 4th

Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8
Critical Thinking, pp. 437 - 458.

Reading: Cumulative Mastery Test 1B, pp. 519 - 527.
Review course work.
Large Group Discussion

Week 16 – May 11th

Review for final exam.
Critical Thinking Test.
Mon. Exit Exam

