

## Reading, Discussing, and Writing

CRN 30168 & 30167 English K 094:

Instructor: M. Roychoudhuri

Fall 2008 Class Schedule

Tuesday/Thursday 10 am - 11:45am & 12 – 1:50pm, MOH - Room 305

Office hours: Monday 2 – 3:30pm & Tuesday 12:30 – 2pm

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Office phone: (860) 892 – 5712

Room # 19, Mohegan Campus

### Required Readings:

- A Community of Readers: A Thematic Approach to Reading.4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Alexander and Lombardi
- The Penguin Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- Dictionary (optional)
- Note book and other writing Material

### Course Description:

This course provides instruction in reading, discussion, and writing skills, which develop critical thinking and ideas which help in writing. This is a fundamental course in understanding the ideas of others as well as expressing one's own. Students will learn to use appropriate and contextual use of vocabulary and through participating in the three processes. They will come to understand how one supports the other, and how clear and directed thinking depends upon them.

This course is preparation for ENG K100, ENG K101, and other courses, which require critical thinking and the 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
- Understand and use basic MLA style documentation

**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	10%
◆	Home work	10%
◆	Reading Responses - Cannot be made up. ....	10%.
◆	Mastery tests (will drop the lowest test grade of one exam)..... .....	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 from 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 which 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 or meeting the instructor or by emailing the instructor which is the quickest way of contacting 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. 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, but do not blow bubbles or pop them – it is noisy and disruptive. Common classroom courtesy and decorum is expected

**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 or Ms. Judy Hilburger (office in Student Services) who will then justify the special modifications that are needed to facilitate learning for the student. It is the student's responsibility to meet the counselors 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.**

#### **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](mailto: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 in both the campuses. 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](http://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)

Every reading is followed by a vocabulary quiz

There will be individual conferencing with students after chapter 5 test

**Week 1**

**Tue.** Introduction and syllabus review.  
In class writing.

**Thu.** **Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Introduction  
Welcome to *A Community of Readers*, Why Is Reading So Important?  
pp. xxxiii - xxxv.  
Chapter 1, The Reading Process: Joining a Community of Readers pp. 3  
-14.  
Large Group Discussion.

**Week 2**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 1, The Reading Process, pp. 15 - 34.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Reading Response #1,**  
“How We Learn” by Ricki Linksman, pp. 460 - 467.

**Thu. 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 Test.**

### Week 3

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 2  
Working with Words: Computer Technology and Beyond,  
pp. 51 - 68 .  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Reading Quiz # 2.**

**Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 2  
Working with Words, pp. 68 - 91.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Reading Response # 2,**  
“Social and Ethical Issues of Computer Technology” by George  
Beekman, pp. 468 - 472.

### Week 4

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 2  
Working with Words, pp. 92 - 108  
Includes Chapter Review and Mastery test 1A and 2B.  
Large Group Discussion.  
**Working with Words Test.**

**Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3  
Topics and Main Ideas: Our Food, Our Culture, pp.109 - 120.  
In class Writing / Discussion.  
**Reading Response # 3,**  
“Table Rituals” by Laurie Tarkan, pp. 473 - 477.

### Week 5

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3

Topics and Main Ideas, pp.120 - 146.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.

**Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3  
Topics and Main Ideas, pp. 146 - 170.  
Includes Chapter review and Mastery Test 3A and 3B.  
Large Group Discussion.  
**Topics and Main Ideas Test.**

**Week 6**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 4  
Support for Main Ideas: Staying Well, pp.171 - 189.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.

**Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 4  
Support for Main Ideas, pp.189 - 207.  
In class Writing / Discussion.  
**Reading Response # 4,**  
“Creativity and Longevity” by Norman Cousins, pp. 477 - 485.

**Week 7**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 4  
Support for Main Ideas, pp. 207 - 227.  
Includes Chapter review and Mastery test 4A and 4B.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Support for Main Ideas Test /Midterm Exam.**

**Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization: Where We Live, pp. 229 - 252.  
**Reading Response # 5,**  
“Working with Our Hands” by Jimmy and Roselyn Carter pp 485 - 489

**Week 8**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization: Where We Live, pp. 253 - 264.  
Different kinds of organization in writing: group writing work  
**Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization, pp. 265 - 273.

**Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization, pp. 273 - 285.  
Includes Chapter review and Mastery test 5A and 5B.

Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Patterns of Organization Test.**  
“Shame” by Dick Gregory, pp. 491 - 497  
**Reading Response # 6**

**WEEK 9 - CONFERENCING FOR BOTH CLASSES**

**Week 10**

- Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature: Dealing with Gender,  
pp. 287 - 299.- Ways to infer the meaning, tools that writer’s use  
Large Group Discussion. – write about a “shameful” situation
- Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 300 - 311.  
In class Writing / Discussion.  
Student Letter to the Editor.

**Week 11**

- Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 311 - 332.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Reading Response # 7**  
“The War Prayer”, Mark Twain, pp 497 - 500
- Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 333 - 349.  
Large Group Discussion.  
**Inferences and Reading Literature Test.**

**Week 12**

- Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 7  
Facts and Opinions: Living in a Diverse Society, pp. 351 - 379.  
**What are the positives and negatives of living in a diverse society? –**  
**This is Reading Response # 8**  
In class Writing / Discussion.
- Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 7  
Facts and Opinions, pp. 379 - 404.  
In class Writing / Discussion.  
**Facts and Opinions Test.**

**Week 13**

- Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8  
Critical Thinking: Science, Society, and Disease, pp. 405 - 422.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Reading Response # 9,**  
“Ethical Issues Surrounding Death” by John Macionis,  
pp. 503 - 507.
- Thu. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8  
Critical Thinking, pp. 422 - 437 .  
Large Group Discussion – who decided whether action is ethical?.  
**Group writing on some ethical issues in society**

**Week 14**

- Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8  
Critical Thinking, pp. 437 - 458.  
**Reading Response #10, “Criminals at Work” pp519 - 522**
- Thu. Reading:** Cumulative Mastery Test 1A & 1B, pp. 519 - 527.  
Review course work.  
Large Group Discussion

**Week 15**

- Tue. Critical Thinking Test. Review for Final Exam**  
**Question / Answer / Discussion**  
**Last Conferencing before final exam**
- Thu. Final Exam**



