

## 30173 English K 094 – T04: Reading, Discussing, and Writing

**Fall 2008**

**Tuesday & Thursday**

**10:00am - 11:50am**

**Room: E227**

**Instructor: M. Burch**

Office hours: T & R 1:20pm - 2:20pm

M & W 2:00pm - 3:20pm.

Room: Shop Wing

E-mail: mburch@trcc.commnet.edu

Phone: (860) 892-5780

### Required Readings:

*A Community of Readers: A Thematic Approach to Reading.*

4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Alexander and Lombardi.

*The Brief Penguin Handbook*, Faigley.

Dictionary.

### Course Description:

This is a fundamental course in understanding the ideas of others as well as expressing one's own. This course provides instruction in reading, discussing, and writing skills, which develop thinking and ideas. Through participating in the three processes, students will come to understand how one supports the other, and how clear and directed thinking relates to academic work. This course is preparation for ENG 100, ENG 101, and other college credit courses that require critical thinking and the communication of ideas.

\*COURSE DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

#### ***Read and think critically***

- understand the connection between the reading and writing processes
- recognize different genres of non-fiction, such as editorials, speeches, and essays
- comprehend and summarize college-level reading material to develop their own ideas

### **Write critically and analytically**

- demonstrate an understanding of the organizational skills required for academic writing, such as pre-writing activities, outlining, paragraph development, revising, and the ability to thoroughly edit
- develop an awareness of their role as authors in the process of writing
- write responses both in paragraph and short essay format based on ideas developed from assigned academic readings and in-class discussions
- develop proficiency in expressing ideas in correct, complete sentences and in unified, coherent paragraphs
- recognize and fix common grammatical and sentence-level errors

### **Demonstrate information literacy**

- understand how and why outside sources are utilized in academic writing
- develop an understanding that information should be evaluated for accuracy and validity
- learn and employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism

### **Apply the foundations of strong academic skills**

- develop and use academic reading and speaking vocabularies
- use clarity and variety in word choice, word order, and sentence structure
- understand the importance of asking questions that reveal their engagement and understanding of the material being covered
- use tools appropriately related to reading and writing, such as dictionaries, thesaurus, and writing handbooks
- utilize word processing programs, including proofreading software, in the writing process
- produce documents according to MLA formatting conventions
- employ strategies for effective editing, including attention to grammar, mechanics, usage, and the conventions of standard American English
- collaborate with others in developing points of views and analyzing writing
- employ effective annotation skills
- use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating in a college setting
- utilize strategies for writing with time constraints

### **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 and Reading Responses - Cannot be made up. ....	15%.
Learning new vocabulary and using in appropriate context.	
Demonstrate ability to summarize and use critical thinking skills.	
Mastery tests (will drop the lowest grade of one test).....	50%.
Exit exam.....	15%.

- 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

**Attendance:**

- ✓ **Students are expected to attend all classes.** If a student misses classes it will reflect in a lower final grade, regardless of when these absences occur and the reason(s) for which they occur, including 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.
- ✓ **It is the student's responsibility to find out and do the assignment for any missed class.**
- ✓ Tests and Exam cannot be made up unless previously arranged with instructor.

**Late Work:**

Work is due on the dates stated in the course outline or by instructor.  
Late work (anytime after the end of class) will receive a grade penalty.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. 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 Counseling and Advising Center (860) 383-5217. I will be glad to speak with a student regarding this or any special medical needs.

**Tutoring/Writing Center:**

Tutoring Academic Success Center (860) 892-5745  
Writing Center call (860) 892-5773 or 892-5769  
or e-mail TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu.

**Technology:**

Turn off your cell phone, pager, or other electronic equipment.

**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 and at the office at the Sub-base. 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. Students who do not obtain an official withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an "F" grade for the course.

**Weather Cancellations:**

Call (860) 886-0177 or go online to: [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu).  
TV Channels 3 & 8.  
Radio Stations: WCTY,Q105, WICH, WNLC.

**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 understand the different kinds of reading, help you to appreciate the importance of improving your reading skills, and show you how to improve your reading. By working together, we can accomplish our goals.

**Course Outline  
(Subject to Change)**

**Week 1**

**September 2**

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

**September 4**

**Thur. 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.  
**Reading Quiz # 1**

**Week 2**

**September 9**

**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.

**September 11**

**Thur. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 1  
The Reading Process, Mastery tests 1A and 1B, pp. 35 - 49.  
In Class Writing / Discussion.  
**The Reading Process Test.**

**Week 3**

**September 16**

**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.**

**September 18**

**Thur. 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**

**September 23**

**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.**

**September 25**

**Thur. 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**

**September 30**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 3  
Topics and Main Ideas, pp.120 - 146.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.  
**Reading Quiz # 3.**

**October 2**

**Thur. 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**

**October 7**

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

**October 9**

**Thur. 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**

**October 14**

**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.**

**October 16**

**Thur. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization: Where We Live, pp. 229 - 252.  
**Reading Response # 5,**  
Student Choice.

**Week 8**

**October 21**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization: Where We Live, pp. 253 - 264.  
**Reading Response # 6,**  
"Working with Our Hands" by Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter,  
pp. 485 - 491.

**October 23**

**Thur. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 5  
Patterns of Organization, pp. 265 - 273.  
**Reading Quiz # 5.**

**Week 9**

**October 28**

**Tue. 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.**

**October 30**

**Thur. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature: Dealing with Gender,  
pp. 287 - 299.  
Large Group Discussion.  
**Reading Response # 7,**  
"Shame" by Dick Gregory, pp. 491 - 497.

**Week 10**

**November 4**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 300 - 314.  
In class Writing / Discussion.

**Reading Response # 8,**  
Student Letter to the Editor.

**November 6**

**Thur. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 6  
Inferences and Reading Literature, pp. 314 - 332.  
Small Group Work / Discussion.

**Reading Quiz # 6.**

**Week 11**

**November 11**

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

**Inferences and Reading Literature Test.**

**November 13**

**Thur. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 7  
Facts and Opinions: Living in a Diverse Society, pp. 351 - 379.  
In class Writing / Discussion.

**Reading Response # 9,**  
Student Choice.

**Week 12**

**November 18**

**Tue. Reading:** *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 7  
Facts and Opinions, pp. 379 - 404.  
In class Writing / Discussion.

**Facts and Opinions Test.**

**November 20**

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

**Reading Response # 10,**  
"Ethical Issues Surrounding Death" by John Macionis,  
pp. 503 - 507.



**Week 13**      **November 25**  
**Tue.            No Class – Thanksgiving Break!**

**November 27**  
**Thur.            No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Week 14**      **December 2**  
**Tue.    Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8**  
Critical Thinking, pp. 422 - 437 .  
Large Group Discussion.  
**Reading Quiz # 7.**

**December 4**  
**Thur. Reading: *A Community of Readers*, Chapter 8**  
Critical Thinking, pp. 437 - 458.  
**Critical Thinking Test.**

**Week 15**      **December 9**  
**Tue.    Reading: Cumulative Mastery Test 1B, pp. 519 - 527.**  
Review course work - Bring written questions.

**December 11**  
**Thur. Exit Exam.**