

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2011

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| COURSE NUMBER: | RED 090 (5H1E) | INSTRUCTOR: | Aaron Carpenter |
| COURSE TITLE: | IMPROVED COLLEGE READING | CREDIT HRS/WK: | 4 |
| CONTACT HRS/WK: | 5(4 class, 1 lab) | PHONE NO: | (252) 789-0246 |
| PREREQUISITES: | RED 080 or ENG 080 or appropriate score on placement test. | FAX: | (252)-792-0826 |
| COREQUISITES: | NONE | E-MAIL: | acarpenter@mcc.martincc.edu |

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to improve reading and critical thinking skills. Topics include vocabulary enhancement; extracting implied meaning; analyzing author's purpose, tone, and style; and drawing conclusions and responding to written material. Upon completion, students should be able to comprehend and analyze college-level reading material. *This course satisfies the developmental reading prerequisite for ENG 111 or ENG 111A.*

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem-solving.
2. Demonstrate use of discipline-related technology.
3. Demonstrate entry level skills needed for first college-level course in curriculum.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Analyze author's purpose, tone, style, and bias.
2. Demonstrate comprehension by responding to written material in a variety of methods.
3. Make inferences and draw conclusions from written material.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (TO BE PURCHASED BY THE STUDENT):

- Smith, Brenda D. (2006). *Bridging the gap*. (8th ed.). New York: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.
- Nist and Mohr. (2002). *Advancing vocabulary skills*. (3rd ed.). West Berlin, New Jersey: Townsend Press.
- Waller, R. James. (2002). *The bridges of madison county*. (1st ed.). New York: Warner Books, Inc.
- Dictionary. (2002). *The american heritage college dictionary*. (4th ed.). New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES (SUPPLIES/ SOFTWARE)

TO BE PURCHASED BY THE STUDENT:

- CD ROM (2006). *Reading road trip*. (Interactive Software Program). New York: Addison Wesley Longman.
- College-ruled notebook paper, 3-ring binder and subject dividers, with tabs for the Portfolio.
- Set of note cards 3 ½ x 5
- Four scantron sheets (50 items each).
- One clear folder

LEARNING/ TEACHING METHODS:

In the course of student instruction, lectures, class discussions, outside reading assignments, written evaluations, assigned writings and various collaborative assignments will be utilized to achieve both the program and course learning objectives.

ASSESSMENTS/ METHODS:

The following methods will be used to evaluate student learning

1. **Chapter Exams**- there will be a minimum of eight chapter exams. Chapter exams represent 40% of the student’s overall grade.
2. **Midterm**- a Midterm will be given to students on or about the tenth week of classes. The Midterm will count 10% of the student’s overall grade.
3. **Final**- a comprehensive Final examination will be given on or about the last week of class. The exam will include questions from workbook chapters, assigned readings, novels, and from other relevant material covered in class. The Final will represent 10% of the student’s overall grade.
4. **Portfolio**- the Portfolio is a collection of the student’s work over the semester. It is designed to provide the student with a review of materials covered during the semester. It is also designed to demonstrate how a student has progressed during the semester. The Portfolio is composed of five sections, Classwork, Homework, Reading Summaries, Computer Assignments, and Internet Reading Lessons. The Portfolio is graded on presentation and completeness. It is worth 10% of the student’s overall grade.
5. **Classwork**- a minimum of twenty class work assignments will be given during the semester. Classwork assignments may include, but are not limited too, brief writing prompts, comprehension exercises, computer activities, quizzes and selected internet activities. These assignments are to be placed in the Classwork section of the Portfolio. Classwork is worth 10% of the student’s overall grade.
6. **Homework\ Outside Reading Assignments**- a minimum of twenty homework assignments will be given. Homework may include, but is not limited to, assigned readings, writing prompts, selected internet activities, and computer activities. Homework\ Outside Reading Assignment is worth 10% of the student’s overall grade.
7. **Workbook**- a minimum of thirty chapters will be completed in the workbook. Sections associated with these chapters will be assigned for completion. The workbook is worth 10% of the students overall grade.
8. **Diagnostic Prescriptive Reading Assessment (DPRA)**- The DPRA is a standardized examination for accessing student reading ability. The DPRA will be given to students at the beginning and end of each semester. The DPRA will determine whether a student has successfully mastered the necessary skills to successfully proceed to the next level of instruction, grades notwithstanding. The level of mastery deemed necessary for a student to proceed is a score of 78% or higher on the DPRA. The DPRA does not figure into the alphabetical grade a student receives.

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| Breakdown | |
| Chapter Exams | 40% |
| Midterm | 10% |
| Final | 10% |
| Portfolio | 10% |
| Classwork | 10% |
| Homework\ Outside Assigned Readings | 10% |
| Workbook | 10% |
| Total | |
| | 100% |

Grading:

Grades will be based on performance on skills tests covering textbook chapters as well as a midterm and a comprehensive final exam. Grades will also be earned on assignments in the Academic Skills Center and on homework/classwork. All homework/classwork assignments must be completed personally by each student before class. Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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| 93 – 100 | A |
| 85 – 92 | B |
| 77 – 84 | C |
| 76 and below | F |
| Incomplete | I |

***Students must receive at least a C to pass the class.**

**Students who do not meet the attendance policy will receive a grade of “WF”, see attendance policy.*

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance Policy:

The MCC Attendance Policy applies. Instructors may have additional attendance requirements. *(See additional information). Students should attend all classes. This course policy allows students to miss a maximum of 15% of the course; however, successful students are those who rarely miss class. Also, students who miss more than six contiguous hours of instruction are in violation of the attendance policy and may be administratively withdrawn. Tardies may also count towards total absences. Three tardy marks count as one absence. Even though a student is late, he/she should attend to benefit from instruction. Special situations should be brought to the instructor’s attention. More than 12 hours of absences results in a “WF” for the course. Tests can be made up only when a legitimate absence can be verified by a doctor’s note, a court document, etc. Such verification for an absence is not needed for the instructor unless the student misses a test, but it should be obtained and kept by the student in the event of an appeal of the “WF” for absenteeism at the end of the term. When a student misses more than fifteen percent of the course he/she will receive a letter advising that unless he/she appeals within 5 days, this student will receive a grade of “WF.” If the student does not appeal the absences, or if his/her appeal is denied by the Instructor, the “WF” will be changed on the student’s record to an “F”. This action will be initiated by the instructor. The “WF” counts as an “F” in calculating GPA.

REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a minimum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by the student’s faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor (s) prior to the census date of each class. The **Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances** form can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work.

COURSE POLICIES:

Class Times

Class will meet Mondays from 6pm-9pm. Each assignment due date will be specified by the instructor and late work will not be accepted. Each student is responsible for getting his/her own MCC email address.

Assignment Due Dates:

All assignments are due at the beginning of a class period.

Make-up Policy:

When you miss a class or classes, you are responsible for the work you miss. Assignments can be made up the following day; however, unless there is proper documentation for an excused absence, 20 points will be penalized each day the assignment is late. Therefore, you must make arrangements with the instructor to make up work as quickly as possible. Exams can be made up within three days with a legitimate note.

Cellular Phones

Cell phones and pagers are not allowed in the classroom.

Academic Skills Center (ASC)

Your chances for succeeding will be greatly enhanced by going to the Academic Skills Center (ASC) at least once/week. A student may receive assignments tailored to his/her individual needs in Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Enhancement.

Academic Integrity Statement

The President or any other authorized college official may dismiss, suspend, or expel any student who disrupts the legal mission, educational processes or function of the college, (Student Governance and Conduct Code). Deliberately cheating or knowingly and intentionally engaging in acts of plagiarism is a violation of the Student Governance and Conduct Code (Student Governance and Conduct page 47). Cheating will result in a failing grade for the course and possible expulsion.

Open Door Policy

Martin Community College is an equal opportunity institution and maintains an “open door policy” for eligible applicants and serves all students regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, handicap, religion, or national origin.

Contact Person

If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services at (252) 789-0246 or (252) 789-0247 by phone, pbroughton@martincc.edu by e-mail, or in person at her office in Building 2, Room 33.

Accessing the MCC Career Catalog

To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to www.martincc.edu.

Disability Statement

Martin Community College Supports the Americans with Disabilities Act and is sensitive to the needs of applicants with documented disabilities. If you have a need for a disability-related accommodation, please notify the Student Services Counselor at (252) 789-0293