Academic Reading Syllabus - Sept 2017
The Islamic University of Gaza - Faculty of Arts  English Department

Instructor contact information
Dr. Nazmi Abdel-Salam Al-Masri Office location: Room 412 - 4th Floor Admin Building
Email: nmasri@iugaza.edu.ps Office Hours: SMW - 11.00 – 13.00 & NT – 11-12
Phone: 264 44 00 Ext ???? Homepage: site.iugaza.edu.ps/nmasri
Feel free to contact me during my office hours, by email, or phone if you have any questions.

Course Information
Course No.: ENGL 1327 Credits: 3
Lecture: approx. 45 Final Exam: Sat 13 Jan, 2017 –Time 11-13 (tentative)
Class Location & time: Group 101 - ???? - NT - 12.30 – 02.00
                                    Group 202 - N518 - SMW - 09.00 - 10.00
                                    Group 203 - N302 - SMW - 10.00 - 11.00

Course description
This course will use a variety of texts to develop first year students’ academic reading skills. The texts cover topics related to different fields: education, religion, politics and media, health and medicine, society and social issues, business and literature. The course provides training and practice in reading college level texts; opportunities for reading and sharing of information; and the chance to select and read authentic and imaginative materials for pleasure and increased self-confidence as skilled and critical readers. Emphasis will be placed on the development and application of reading skills in the interpretation, analysis, criticism, and advocacy of ideas encountered in academic reading.

Goal
To develop students’ strategies to read academic texts, to expand vocabulary and to enhance thinking and critical reading skills
Objectives and Intended Learning Outcomes

1. To enhance students’ active reading strategies to comprehend academic and literary texts efficiently by
   a. previewing and predicting
   b. activating prior knowledge
   c. questioning
   d. recognizing main ideas, key supporting points, and organizational patterns
   e. exploring purposes
   f. analysing and synthesising texts
   g. evaluating ideas, concepts and opinions expressed in texts

2. To develop vocabulary learning skills through
   a. expanding vocabulary repertoire
   b. using linguistic and contextual clues to make meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary used in a variety of academic and literary texts
   c. using word parts (suffixes) and word association (synonyms & antonyms)

3. To improve students’ ability to become active, thinking readers through
   a. applying critical reading and thinking skills to evaluate and revise arguments, opinions, and claims;
   b. applying critical thinking skills to interpretation and analysis of ideas encountered in academic reading.

Methods and Techniques

Instructor will work closely with students to reach the above objectives. Methods of instruction include

- read, think, pair and share.
- guided reading comprehension approach
- self-learning & learner-centred approach
- interactive tasks and discussions
- active participation: individual, pair and small group work,
- exercises in and out of class
- assignments, quizzes and exams

Assessment: on Moodle

1. **Surprise quizzes** (6) in class: only highest 5 will be considered 20%
2. **Unit-related Assignments** (7): only highest 5 will be considered 20%
3. Mid-term exam (texts & self-learning handouts) 20%
4. Final exam 40%
5. 5 marks bonus for Reading selection practice
Assignments

1. Preparation **Surprise** quizzes (6) in class which confirm your attendance, test your preparation & ensures your participation in class. You should always be prepared and ready to have a quiz in any class without prior notice.

2. **Seven unit-based assignments** should be done and submitted on the deadline specified. The assignments include extensive reading practice of long academic & literary texts followed by exercises comprehension questions.

3. **Five-mark** bonus assignment on answering questions on a variety of reading texts available to be available on Moodle. More instructions and clarification will be given in class.

Academic honesty
The principles of truth and honesty are fundamental to a community of learners. All students are expected to honor these principles. Examples of academic dishonesty (violations) include,

a. Cheating in any form partial or complete.

b. Plagiarism or false representation of another’s work as one’s own

At the discretion of the instructor, a student who violates this code may receive any or all of the following:

1. Failing grade for the assignment.
2. Failing grade for the course.

Required Materials

1. Compiled selected texts available in print and electronic form on Moodle. (You must have the print in class).
2. Additional reading selections (to be announced)
3. Access to Internet, word processing, Moodle, and printing
4. A paperback or electronic English-English dictionary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unit theme</th>
<th>Topic /skill</th>
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| 1-4   | Unit (1) Understanding Academic Reading | - Active reading and thinking skills  
- Fast Reading strategies/ habits  
- Academic Reading skills/ strategies/ techniques  
- Building Vocabulary: Using Dictionaries  
- Using Context Clues to Learn Word Meaning  
- Denotations and connotations of vocabulary  
- Collocation of vocabulary/ word combinations  
- Assignment (1) on Moodle |
| 5 – 6 | Unit (2) Education | - School Vocabulary  
- Spoon-fed feel lost at the cutting edge  
- Abraham Lincoln Education  
- Assignment (2) on Moodle |
| 7 -8  | Unit (3) Politics & Media | - Prison Vocabulary  
- Israel, Palestine Prisoner Swap in Process  
- Israel and Hamas declare 72-hour truce  
- Assignment (3) |
| 9-10  | Unit (4) Health & Medicine | - Health Vocabulary  
- Breastfeeding mums healthier in old age  
- Disability: WHO Says One Billion People Disabled  
- Assignment (4) on Moodle |
| 10    | Revision of assignments and Mid-term Exam |  |
| 11-12 | Unit (5) Islam & the West | - Quranic verses and Prophet's sayings (Hadiths)  
- Islam Vocabulary  
- Why British Women are turning to Islam  
- Assignment (5) on Moodle |
| 13-14 | Unit (6) Reading & Discussing Fiction | - Short Story Reading Strategies  
- “All Summer in a Day” ~~ Ray Bradbury  
- Selected Poems  
  - Patriotism Sir Walter Scott  
  - You by Charles Heffner  
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| 15    | - Revision & reflection on assignments  
- 5 marks bonus for Reading selection practice |  |
Course Policy & Class Rules

1. **Prepare** all daily reading assignments *before* coming to class. Daily preparation and doing the assignments will increase your achievement.

2. **Attendance** is a university policy and **mandatory**. Failure to attend class will lower your final grade. You cannot expect to improve your English if you do not come to class. A low level of attendance may result in a student failing the course.

3. Classwork and attendance are vital for at least 20% of your grade. **Credit is given for quizzes taken in class. If you miss a class, you miss 4 marks.**

4. If you **miss a class**, do see another student or me for info about what we had focused on.

5. **Phone**: switch your mobile off or turn it to silent if you want to use it as a dictionary, no texting/messaging.

6. **Chatting**: No chatting when teacher or others are talking.

7. **Punctuality**: Students are expected to arrive **on time**, be prepared, and remain until the end of class.

8. **Homework**: late homework **WILL NOT** be accepted. I always conduct **quizzes** at the beginning of the session. Anything after that (**even 5 minutes**) will not be accepted.

9. No make-ups or extensions for exam will be given for any reason except a documented medical emergency.

10. **Advice**: Improving your academic reading and critical thinking skills depends on how much you prepare at home, participate and ask questions in class. You are strongly encouraged to see me whenever you encounter any difficulties or have questions about the class or a specific assignment.

Supplementary Reference Material


Useful links

3. ESL/EFL Teaching/Learning Resources Reading: [http://academics.smcvt.edu/cbauer-ramazani/Links/esl_reading.htm#Reading-Comprehension-Exercises](http://academics.smcvt.edu/cbauer-ramazani/Links/esl_reading.htm#Reading-Comprehension-Exercises)
4. ESL/EFL Teaching/Learning Resources Reading: [http://academics.smcvt.edu/cbauer-ramazani/Links/esl_reading.htm](http://academics.smcvt.edu/cbauer-ramazani/Links/esl_reading.htm)
5. [Free English Reading comprehension tests and exercises online](http://www.freecomputerbooks.com/reading.html)
7. RHL School: [http://www.rhlschool.com/reading.htm](http://www.rhlschool.com/reading.htm)