

**RED 090**  
**ESSENTIAL READING SKILLS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: RED 080, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

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. Some sections may specialize in discipline-specific reading and academic success skills. This course satisfies the developmental reading prerequisite for ENG 111; the developmental English prerequisite for ENG 111 must also be met. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Lab, 2. Semester Hours Credit, 4.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- a. Analyze and evaluate nonfiction materials.
- b. Develop, communicate, and defend an analysis of a text in both written and oral form.
- c. Evaluate research materials and integrate them into academic work.
- d. Connect strategies with argument concepts in order to determine meaning from text.

**OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Vocabulary
  - A. Create meaning for unfamiliar words by deconstructing them by affix.
  - B. Create meaning for unfamiliar words through use of context clues.
  - C. Evaluate denotative and connotative meanings of words.
- II. Text Organization
  - A. Identify the stated or implied thesis statement within a multi-paragraph text.
  - B. Identify the supporting reasons within a multi-paragraph text.
- III. Textual Analysis
  - A. Describe personal conclusions based on a text.
  - B. Recognize figurative statements used by the author of a text.
  - C. Interpret possible meanings of figurative statements used by the author of a text.
  - D. Explain the author's purpose for writing.
  - E. Describe the author's tone within a text.
  - F. Describe possible biases held by the author of a text.

- G. Analyze the ethos (character appeals) of an argument.
- H. Analyze the pathos (emotional appeals) of an argument.
- I. Analyze the logos (logical appeals) of an argument.
- J. Evaluate the author's position within a text.
- K. Interpret visual aids that accompany a text.

#### IV. Study Skills

- A. Create and utilize graphic organizers.
- B. Identify key points of texts through annotations.
- C. Evaluate and utilize resources for academic tasks.
- D. Utilize personal learning styles as part of good study habits.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Textbooks to be determined by department and/or instructor

#### **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from the Disability Services Coordinator within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to the Disability Services Coordinator within the first two weeks of class. The Coordinator can be contacted by calling 686-3652, (V/TT), or by visiting the Student Services Office, Room 1309, in the Wynn Center.