

I. Course Title: Reading Comprehension & Précis 1

II. Course description :

The overall aim of this course is both to empower students with the necessary reading skills needed to do effective work in other college courses and to think in a clear and logical way. Thus, students, in this course, will be exposed to different text types (expository, narrative, descriptive, argumentative) with a variety of organizational patterns (sequence or process, illustration, comparison & contrast, cause & effect, and problem/solution). Through studying the different text structures, students are required to employ a variety of reading strategies depending on their purpose of reading. As stated above, the main goal is to help students become effective readers and clear thinkers.

To achieve this goal, students will be introduced and, subsequently, practice a sequence of five reading skills that are essential for basic reading comprehension. These are:

- Guessing unfamiliar words,
- recognizing main ideas,
- figuring out implied main ideas and the central point,
- understanding transitions that show relationships between ideas in sentences,
- understanding different patterns of organization that show the relationships between supporting details in paragraphs and longer passages.

The reading material includes academic and authentic texts. The purpose is for students to experience readings they may encounter not only in other related course but also in real-life contexts.

III. Course objectives :

By the end of the course, Students will be able to:

- Use context to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words,
- Use word parts to figure out the meaning of new words,
- Recognize the main idea of the text,
- Locate supporting details,
- Find out the implied main idea of short texts and the central point of longer passages,
- Identify and understand different patterns of text organization,
- Preview texts for basic information,
- Skim (to obtain gist) and scan texts (for specific details),
- Read fast to meet the academic requirements,
- Make notes as a step towards writing a summary.

IV. Course Evaluation:

This course is subject to different types of evaluation. These are repartitioned as follows:

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| - Attendance / participation | 10 % |
| - In-class assignment (Individual) | 10 % |
| - After-class assignment (Individual) | 10 % |
| - Final Written Exam | 70 % |

- **NOTE:** The *Final Exam* is designed to test the sum of the reading sub-skills that you are supposed to have practiced inside and outside the class. The exam is composed of a set of short texts and a longer passage with follow-up comprehension questions.
- *The final exam will be given only on the scheduled date and at the scheduled time.*
- *Students who scored less than 10 in the final exam can take a makeup exam that is scheduled after the grades appeal period.*

V. Reading Materials:

- Langan, J. (2004). Ten steps to advancing college reading skills (4th.Ed). New Jersey: Townsend Press.
- - Selected texts and longer passages to practice the different reading skills and strategies.

Course Remark

The students are fully responsible for doing and submitting the tasks assigned in timely manner without following-up notice. The teacher reserves the right to score each task according to the appropriateness and rightness.