Course Syllabus – Advanced Reading/Vocabulary

Instructor Information

Instructor: Shaughn Kern  
E-mail: skern@mtu.edu  
Office Location: 311 Walker Hall  
Office Hours: T, 9:30 – 11:00 am

Course Identification

Course Number: ESL 410 - R02  
Course Name: Advanced Reading/Vocabulary  
Course Location: Walker 145  
Class Times: MTWR, 8:05 – 9:20 am

Course Description

For students of English as a second language, not for native speakers of English. Emphasis is on preparing students for academic study through the development of effective reading strategies, vocabulary acquisition, note-taking, inferring, summarizing, critical thinking and discussion, and understanding American culture.

Course Texts

Topics for Today – Fourth Edition  
Tech Talk

Grading Scheme

Grades will be based on the following:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Work</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocab Tests</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>100</td>
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Grading Scale:

72-100 → Pass  
0-72 → Fail

Promotion to the next level

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<tr>
<th>Post Test</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>= advancement to the next level of ESL classes</th>
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<td>50%</td>
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Learning Objectives

By the end of Advanced Reading/Vocabulary students will be able to:

1. Analyze a text.
   a. Identify the rhetorical function of the text.
   b. Identify the author’s purpose.
   c. Identify the main ideas and supporting details.
   d. Annotate a text to assist in retention of material.
   e. Recognize the use and function of cohesive devices in a text.
   f. Distinguish facts from opinions.
   g. Understand graphic and visual information.
   h. Understand the conceptual relationships between information in a text and how that information is organized.

2. Read and understand university-level texts of various genres.

3. Use strategies for self-learning in order to increase vocabulary.
   a. Take apart a word in order to find the meaning.
   b. Use contextual clues to understand new vocabulary.
   c. Find and use resources to determine meaning and usage of unfamiliar vocabulary.
   d. Read multiple dictionary entries to select the appropriate definition.
   e. Identify synonyms and antonyms in order to expand vocabulary.

4. Follow written directions.

5. Use various strategies for reading (i.e. scanning, skimming, predicting, making inferences, drawing conclusions, etc.).

6. Summarize a text typical of first year academic courses.
   a. Give an accurate and objective account of a text without including personal reactions.

7. Paraphrase portions of a text.

8. Synthesize information from multiple sources.

9. Make an outline of an academic text to illustrate the structure of the text and aid in studying content material.

10. Recognize and articulate their own text processing strategies.

11. Recognize figures of speech and find appropriate resources to understand them.

12. Identify transitional words and “signposts” and understand their use.
Course Policies

Come to class every day. If you miss a class, you should contact me and tell me why you were absent. You should also ask a classmate about homework so that you do not miss any assignments.

If you do not contact me about your absence, you may be reported to IPS, and your visa status may be affected. After three unexcused absences, your final course grade will be lowered 5% for each absence. Excused absences include: if you are sick with a doctor’s note, religious holidays, etc. You can see a full list of excused absences here:
http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/

Make up tests, quizzes, and presentations will not be given unless arranged in advance.

Come to class on time. If you arrive to class late three times, it will be counted as one unexcused absence. If you are 10 minutes late or more, you will be marked absent for the day. Homework is due at the beginning of class. Late homework will receive 0 points.

Participate in class:
1. Use only English in this classroom, so everyone can understand what you are saying.
2. Turn your cell phone to vibrate or silent. Leave all other electronic devices at home. Texting in class is against MTU rules.
3. Come prepared with all of your class materials and homework completed.
4. Actively participate in class. Respect others by listening closely while they are talking.

Don’t plagiarize. Use your own words. A copied or plagiarized assignment will receive 0 points. This is very serious. Plagiarism could result in suspension or expulsion from MTU. If you have questions about plagiarism, ask one of your instructors for help.
University Policies

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies. You are required to read the university’s Academic Integrity policy listed below. Academic Integrity: http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310. Affirmative Action: http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aa/
Disability Services: http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/

This syllabus may be changed during the term to accommodate the needs of either the students or the professor.
Schedule

Week 1
Introductions
Syllabus
TT: Chapter I: Hop, Skip ... and Software
News Headlines
Phrasal Verbs I

Week 2
TT: Chapter 1: Program to Bring Laptop Computers to Rural Schools
Writing Summaries from News Articles

Week 3
TT: Chapter 2: My Husband the Outsider
TT: Chapter 2: Unwelcome in Chinatown
Phrasal Verbs II

Week 4
TT: Chapter 3: Beyond Rivalry
TT: Chapter 3: Middle Children and their Position in the Family
Phrasal Verbs III

Week 5
TT: Chapter 4: Who Lives Longer?
Phrasal Verbs IV
TEST I

Week 6
TT: Chapter 4: More Senior Citizens, Fewer Kids
TT: Chapter 5: How to Behave in a Hospital
Phrasal Verbs V

Week 7
TT: Chapter 7: Assisted Suicide: Multiple Perspectives
TT: Chapter 7: Matters of Life and Death
Phrasal Verbs VI

Week 8
TT: Chapter 8: Trading Flesh around the Globe?
TT: Chapter 8: Sales of Kidneys Prompt New Laws and Debate
Phrasal Verbs VII
Week 9
TT: Chapter 9: The Gift of Life
TT: Chapter 9: Two Parents Offer Their Daughter the Breath of Life-to No Avail
Phrasal Verbs VIII
TEST II

Week 10
TT: Chapter 10: Playing with Fire
TT: Chapter 10: Taking Two Steps Back
Phrasal Verbs IX

Week 11
TT: Chapter 12: A Nuclear Graveyard
Phrasal Verbs X

Week 12
Tech Talk: Unit 2: Flight
Tech Talk: Unit 3: Health Care in Space

Week 13
Tech Talk: Unit 4: Wind Power
Energy Sources
TEST III

Week 14
Tech Talk Unit 7: Engineering Achievements
Tech Talk: Unit 8: Science News and Fun