

ENGLISH 84R – BASIC READING AND VOCABULARY III
SPRING 2009

Ms. Sandi Powazek
Section 2076
T, Th 11:15 am-12:35 pm
Location: DH 215
Mailbox: English Dept., DH 311

Office hrs.: Tu. 10-11 a.m; or, by appt.
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Required Texts:

Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills, 5th edition by John Langan
Improving Vocabulary Skills, 3rd edition by Sherrie Nist & Carole Mohr
A Lesson Before Dying, by Ernest J. Gaines
English 84R Course Packet, ed. Sandra Powazek
Paperback college dictionary (recommended: Webster's New World Dictionary)

Required Supplies:

- Blue or black pens and no. 2 pencils
- 2-3 large blue examination books (for journal entries)
- Small, pocket-sized stapler
- Binder for 8 ½ x 11 notebook paper with dividers OR a spiral-bound notebook
- Manila file folder for lab assignments
- An SMC password (**please get one immediately so you may begin your lab assignments on time**)
- **IMPORTANT: You must bring all texts and supplies to each class.**

Course Description: English 84R is a credit/no credit course for students who want to develop their reading comprehension, rate, and vocabulary beyond English 83B. The course focuses on strengthening analytical reading skills, inferential skills, critical reading, and textbook reading strategies. This course should be taken concurrently with English 84W.

Course Requirements and Policies:

Assignments: Timely completion of all assignments and Reading Lab work, and to prepare and take all quizzes and tests is essential. To be “on time,” work must be turned in the day it is due at the beginning of class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to call a classmate about any missed work or assignment changes, or you can send me an email. **No make-up quizzes are given, and late homework is not accepted.**

Class participation: Active participation is a requirement for this class. To prepare for class, thoroughly read all reading assignments and ensure that your homework is complete. Be ready to participate in class or group discussions: ask questions, listen carefully, and respond respectfully. In addition to discussion, you also will be asked to read and write. Feel free to ask questions, and offer comments and ideas.

Attendance: Active class participation starts with attendance – regular attendance is crucial for you to succeed in this class. **If you miss more than three classes, you may be dropped from the class.** Unless unavoidable, absences are not recommended. However, if you are absent three or fewer classes, no excuse is necessary. If you stop attending class for any reason, it is **your responsibility** to make sure you withdraw to avoid a failing grade.

Be punctual. Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive. Habitual tardiness does affect your overall attendance. However, if you do need to leave early as an exception, please notify me at the beginning of class and leave with as little disruption as possible. Likewise, do not interrupt the class if you arrive late.

****Please turn off and put away all electronic devices, such as cell phones, pagers, and MP3's, before class begins.****

Academic Honesty: As members of the college community, students are expected to participate with honesty and integrity. Cheating or plagiarism of any sort is not tolerated. Penalties for such actions range from a failing grade on an assignment, failing the course, to expulsion from the college. All actions are reported to the dean. The academic honesty policy and the Student Code of Conduct can be found in the SMC Schedule of Classes.

Grading:

Your grade will be based upon the following:

- Final Exam = 300 points
- Midterm = 200 points
- Reading Lab = 150 points
- Common Reading Exam = 50 points
- Improving Vocab. Skills quizzes = 100 points
- Ten Steps quizzes = 100 points
- Word Bank cards = 20 points
- Lesson Before Dying assignments = 80 points

TOTAL 1,000 points

You will not receive a letter grade in this course. If you earn 700 points (70%) or higher, you will receive Credit (CR) for successfully completing the class and three units. 699 points or fewer will result in No Credit (NC).

Disability Accommodations: Disability-related needs will be accommodated with a Disabled Student Center verification and by notifying me at the beginning of the semester. See the DSC located next to Admissions, phone: 310-434-4265 or Learning Disabilities in Math Complex 75&76, phone: 310-434-4684.

Assignment Schedule: First Week – Spring 2009

Textbooks:

Langan, Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills (10 Steps)

Nist, Improving Vocabulary Skills (IVS)

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSWORK</u>	<u>HOMEWORK FOR NEXT CLASS</u>
1	Tu 2/17	Course intro.; syllabus	Buy textbooks & supplies
	Th 2/19	Reading Lab orientation: Class meets in Reading Lab, DH312 Assignment schedule distributed	Read <u>10 Steps</u> , Intro., p 3-18