



**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE**  
**Common Course Syllabus**  
**ED 0300**

**COURSE TITLE:** Reading Skills  
**SECTION, CLASS DAYS & TIME:** Section 003, TR 8:00 – 9:15  
**CLASSROOM:** FH 203

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chris Garcia  
**INSTRUCTOR'S Office:** FH 208  
**INSTRUCTOR'S PHONE #:** 432-837-8338  
**INSTRUCTOR'S E-MAIL:** cgarcia@sulross.edu  
**INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:** MW 8:50 am – 10:20 am and 7:15 pm – 7:30 pm  
TR 1:45 – 2:30  
and by appointment

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3  
**LECTURE HOURS:** 3

**PLACEMENT:** TSIA: a score of 345 or lower.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

0300 Reading Skills (3-0). This course is designed for students whose score on an approved assessment instrument does not meet minimum requirements on the reading portion of the assessment. In this course, students will develop reading and study skills. Topics included in this course are defining vocabulary in context; identifying stated, implied main ideas and central point; identifying details that support and differentiate between fact or fiction; identifying author's purpose and tone; determining points and support of a critical argument. This course will emphasize correction of reading problems identified through diagnosis. Credit in this course cannot be used to satisfy requirements for any degree. Students must earn a grade of C or better to progress to any intensive reading course.

**TEXTBOOK:** John Langan, *Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills*, Townsend Press, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2008  
ISBN:1-59194-099-0

**SUPPLIES:** Paper, pen, pocket folder to keep handouts

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

After completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate competency in the following:

- 1.0 Defining vocabulary using context clues
- 2.0 Identifying stated main idea, implied main idea, and central idea
- 3.0 Identifying details that support, illustrate, or elaborate
- 4.0 Recognizing relationships among ideas in written material
- 5.0 Differentiating between fact and opinion
- 6.0 Identifying author's purpose and tone
- 7.0 Determining points and support of a critical argument

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

See your instructor’s syllabus addendum for specific requirements.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

See your instructor’s syllabus addendum for specific requirements.

**ACADEMIC ETHICS:** Please remember that real success comes from learning how to do the work yourself. Your instructors believe that you are an honest individual and expect that all of the work that you do results from your own efforts. You know that a college education costs too much for you to waste your time trying to beat the system rather than figuring out how to learn the material. You know that any form of cheating is dishonest and it makes you look very bad. Your instructor will have specific responses to any academic dishonesty that s/he may encounter. A repeated instance of academic dishonesty may result in your situation being forwarded to the Dean of Student Life. Please see the *SRSU Student Handbook* for a more complete discussion of academic honesty.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Sul Ross State University and the State of Texas require each student liable for any portion of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) to attend and participate in developmental coursework. If you fail to attend and/or participate, you will earn an “F” for the course. Also, it is a course requirement that you take the mid-term and final exams. Failure to do so will result in your earning an “F” for the course.

If you must be absent, you are responsible for finding out what was covered and assigned in class in order to be prepared when you return to class. According to the University catalog, “When a student has to miss class due to an authorized University activity, it will be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of the class in advance [and to complete all assignments] within a reasonable time and at the convenience of the instructor.”

If you are absent from class, you will want to contact a classmate and get the notes that you missed.

Class Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONES:** Cell phones going off during class are disruptive. Be a considerate class member. Turn off your cell phone before class begins and keep it turned off throughout the class period. If you feel that you have an emergency situation that requires your phone being left on, speak with your instructor before class. Should you fail to silence (including the “vibrate” function) your phone, you risk being counted absent.

**COURSE COMMITMENT:** You will make the decision about how long it takes you to clear your developmental reading requirement. Please keep these thoughts in mind:

1. Your registration in this course is the result of *your* reading test scores and, at this time, those scores do not indicate that you could be successful in an intensive reading college level class. We want you to be successful in your college level reading courses, so learn everything that you can in this class.
2. It costs as much to take this class (at least \$564.50) as it does to take any other SRSU three-hour course. Yet you know that this course does not count towards your degree. You will save a lot of money and time if you decide to clear your developmental reading requirement as quickly as possible.
3. You are the only one who can make the commitment to be successful in this class. You will decide how much time you spend doing homework, asking your instructor questions, and visiting with a tutor. So come to class and complete this course with a grade of “C” or better this semester.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY:** You will sign a contract with ACE that notes that if you do not pass all of

your developmental education coursework this semester (ED 0300, ENG 0300, ENG 0310, MATH 0300, and/or MATH 0301), then you will not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular SRSU activities next long semester. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, Student Government Association, Campus Activities, Athletics, and Rodeo.

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE:** Tutors are available in the Academic Learning Center, Ferguson Hall 213, free of charge. Please check with the Academic Learning Center for hours and days of tutor availability.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Counseling and Accessibility Center located in Ferguson Hall, Room 112 (432-837-8203). You are responsible for presenting to the instructor any accommodation letter(s) and instructions.

**TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) ADVISING:** As a developmental education student, you have a TSI hold on your records. In order for you to register for the next semester, you must see a TSI advisor in Lobo Den. Lobo Den is located in Lawrence Hall, Room 102, and their phone number is 432-837-8982.



## Developmental Reading

Fall 2014, ED 0300:003, 8:00 pm-9:15 pm, FH 203

Chris Garcia

**Email:** [cgarcia@sulross.edu](mailto:cgarcia@sulross.edu)

**Phone:** 432-837-8338

**Office Hours:** FH 208, Monday & Wednesday 8:50-10:20 am, 7:15 pm-7:30 pm: Tuesday & Thursday 1:45-2:30 pm and by appointment.

### TEXTBOOKS:

Langan, John. *Ten Steps to Improving College Reading*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. West Berlin, NJ: Townsend, 2008. (ISBN: 1-594-099-0)

You must have this book by the second day of class. If you do not purchase this book, you will not be able to pass this class. You will be writing in as well as turning in pages from the Ten Steps book, so you will not be able to resell it.

**SUPPLIES:** Paper, pen, pocket folder to keep handouts,

**Class Conduct:** Please be respectful to both the other students in the classroom and to your instructor. I have a zero tolerance policy toward bad classroom behavior. Problem students will be dropped from my course, and I will also recommend that you be expelled from the university.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeed in this course.

If you attend class twice a week, you will be dropped from this course with an "F" after the sixth absence. If you attend class three times a week, you will be dropped from the course with an "F" after the ninth absence. Three tardies count as one absence, so please come to class, and be on time. Students who are sleeping in class will be marked as absent. Students who sit and do nothing when in-class work is assigned will be marked as absent. Students who leave the classroom for extended periods of time will be marked absent, and students using cell phones or other electronic devices in class will be marked absent. If you come to class and do your work, you will learn and succeed in this course.

**The Learning Center and Tutor Policy:** Tutors will be available in the learning center (FH 213) for students requiring their services. My policy is this: Any student receiving below a 70 on any test or quiz is required to see a tutor.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** Interruptions from cell phones or other electronic devices will not be tolerated. My suggestion is that you do not bring these devices into the classroom. If you do bring one to class, I will require you to turn it off at the beginning of class. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the class, marked absent, and receive a zero on the next exam, as well as have a meeting set up with the Dean of Student Life. If the problem still persists, the university police will be called and you will be escorted out of class by a campus police officer.

**Participation and Attentiveness:** You are expected to actively participate in this class. I will not let you treat this course as a spectator sport.

**Dean of Student Life:** If you experience other problems that may affect your studies, or you plan on being absent from school for an extended period of time, please contact the Dean of Student Life office in the University Center

211, 837-8037.

**Excused Absences:** Only school functions and emergencies that are recognized by the Dean of Student Life may be excused. If you are going on a school function, you must notify me at least one week prior to that function. Students participating in athletics must provide me with a schedule of events. If you have some kind of emergency, I must receive notification from the Dean of Student Life or it will **not** be excused.

**Grading:** The following is a breakdown of the grading system. Work turned in for a skill that has already been completed will **not** be accepted. It is **your** responsibility to find out what the assignments are if you are absent. Quizzes can be given any day of the week, so please be here.

**Quizzes:** Will be given on the Ten Steps book. These quizzes will not be long, but they will be frequent. I do **not** give make-up quizzes (unless you have a reason cleared through the Dean of Student Life's office), so be here. Quizzes make up **fifty percent** of your grade.

**Homework/Participation:** Every student starts out with 100 points for the Homework/participation grade. For each missed homework assignment, I will deduct 5 points from your 100. I will also deduct 5 points from your next exam. After the third offense, you will receive a zero on the next exam. My hope is that the penalty for not doing homework is so great that you will in fact do it. Sometimes I will collect the homework, other times I will go around the class and check it. I will also call on you to see if you have done it. If you don't have it done, just tell me you don't have it done. Remember, it is **your** responsibility to find out what the assignments are if you are absent. Never use the excuse, "I wasn't here," when called on to answer a problem. If you are absent, find out what you've missed by contacting another student in the class or me.

Participation will be taken into account on a weekly basis. Two points will be deducted each week from students that do not participate in class. Homework/Participation will make up **ten percent** of your grade.

**Attendance:** Every student starts out with 100 points for attendance. After two absences, ten points will be deducted for each subsequent absence. After two tardies, five points will be deducted for each subsequent tardy. Attendance will make up **ten percent** of your grade.

**Academic Enhancement Seminars:** Attendance to eight Academic Enhancement Seminars is mandatory. Each seminar is worth twelve and a half points. Seminar attendance will make up **ten percent** of your grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will make up **twenty percent** of your grade.

**Class Structure (A typical class day):** The only way to truly become a better reader is to *read*, so we will be doing a lot of reading. This course is going to be a mixture of self-paced learning, lecture, and one-on-one help. We will be learning the skills necessary to become better readers, so you may apply them to college intensive reading courses.

At the start of each class, I will write an objective on the board. It is your responsibility to do this objective. If you finish this objective early, just continue on with the book; we will be working our way through the first ten chapters. If you have finished with the Ten Steps chapter we are working on early, you may elect to take the quiz early.

Once we have finished a skill, and there are no questions, then we will be quizzed on that skill as well as the assigned vocabulary for the week.

**Accelerated Program:** Any student may finish this course early; all assigned class work must be completed, and you have to have a 70 or better on all the quizzes. Then I will let you take the final. You only have one shot at taking the final early. If you fail it, you will be required to attend class, and you must retake it with everyone else during the week of finals.

**The TSIA Exam:** You may elect to take TSIA exam any time during the course. If you pass the exam, you will no longer be required to attend this course.

**Extra Credit:** These points will be placed on your quizzes. Extra credit will be given to students for attending the Academic Enhancement Seminars. You will receive 5 points for each seminar you attend. Students attending 14 or

more Academic Enhancement Seminars will have their lowest quiz score dropped! Other extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the semester. Each week you will be responsible for knowing five vocabulary words. If you can define and use these words when the quiz is given, you will receive 5 extra points.

**Final grade:**

Quizzes	50%
Home Work/ Participation:	10%
Attendance:	10%
Eight Academic Enhancement Seminars	10%
Final Exam:	20%

A=90-100, B=80-89, C= 70-79, PR=69 and below with diligent effort, F= 69 and below

**Tentative Schedule (Subject to change according to the needs of the class)**

<b>T-8/26</b>	<b>Introduction to course</b>
<b>R- 8/28</b>	<b>The SQ3R Reading System</b>
<b>T-9/2</b>	<b>Vocabulary in Context</b>
<b>R-9/4</b>	<b>The SQ3R Reading System, Diagnostic Exams</b>
<b>T-9/9</b>	<b>Vocabulary in Context 21-44</b>
<b>R-9/11</b>	<b>Quiz 1; Main Ideas 67-90</b>
<b>T-9/16</b>	<b>Main Ideas, Ch. 2, 67-90</b>
<b>R-9/18</b>	<b>Main Ideas 67-90</b>
<b>T-9/23</b>	<b>Main Ideas 67-90</b>
<b>R-9/25</b>	<b>Quiz 2 Main Ideas; Supporting Details 103-120</b>
<b>T-9/30</b>	<b>Supporting Details 130-120</b>
<b>R-10/2</b>	<b>Quiz 3 Supporting Details; Implied Main Ideas 141-158</b>
<b>T-10/7</b>	<b>Implied Main Ideas 141-158</b>
<b>R-10/9</b>	<b>Quiz 4 Implied Main Ideas; Relationships I 181-208</b>
<b>T-10/14</b>	<b>Relationships I 181-208</b>
<b>R-10/16</b>	<b>Relationships I 181-208</b>

<b>T-10/21</b>	<b>Quiz 5 Relationships I; Relationships II 221-252</b>
<b>R-10/23</b>	<b>Relationships II 221-252</b>
<b>T-10/28</b>	<b>Relationships II 221-252</b>
<b>R-10/30</b>	<b>Quiz 6 Relationships II; Inferences 285-306</b>
<b>T-11/4</b>	<b>Inferences 285-306</b>
<b>R-11/6</b>	<b>Quiz 7 Inferences; Purpose and Tone 319-349</b>
<b>T-11/11</b>	<b>Purpose and Tone 319-349</b>
<b>R-11/13</b>	<b>Purpose and Tone 319-349</b>
<b>T-11/18</b>	<b>Quiz 8 Purpose and Tone; Argument 363-386</b>
<b>R-11/20</b>	<b>Argument 363-386</b>
<b>T-11/25</b>	<b>Argument 363-386</b>
<b>R-11/27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Vacation!</b>
<b>T-12/2</b>	<b>Quiz 9 Argument; Critical Reading 399-406; Last Day of Class!</b>
<b>T-12/11</b>	<b>Final Exam 8:00am</b>