



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
Common Course Syllabus
ENG 0309
Fall 2025

COURSE TITLE: Basic Integrated Reading and Writing
SECTION, CRN, ENG 0309, CRN 12849
CLASS DAY & TIME: Tue & Thu 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
CLASSROOM: Ferguson 211
PROFESSOR: Edwin Urias
PROFESSOR'S Office: Ferguson 210
PROFESSOR'S PHONE #: 432-837-8725
PROFESSOR'S E-MAIL: edwin.urias@sulross.edu
PROFESSOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 9:20 a.m. – 12:20 a.m

CREDIT HOURS: 3
LECTURE HOURS: 3

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) PLACEMENT:
TSIA2/ELAR:

Essay Score: 3 or 4
Diagnostic Score of 4 or higher, ELAR Score
of 944 or lower

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: ENG 03090 Writing Skills (3-0). This course is designed for students whose score on an approved assessment instrument does not meet minimum requirements on the writing and/or reading portion of the assessment. Students will develop their writing and reading skills through exposure to writing and reading exercises. Topics include grammar, sentence structure, paragraph development, main ideas, supporting details, vocabulary, purpose, and tone. Credit in this course cannot be used to satisfy requirements for any degree.

TEXTBOOK: James, Nick. *The Pearl Wars: Skyship Academy*. Flux, 2011. ISBN-13 978-0545448697

SUPPLIES: Internet access, Sul Ross e-mail account, paper, and pen. Your instructor may require additional supplies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

1. Defining vocabulary using context clues
2. Identifying stated main idea, implied main idea, and central idea
3. Identifying details that support, illustrate, or elaborate
4. Recognizing relationships among ideas in written material
5. Differentiating between fact and opinion
6. Identifying author's purpose and tone
7. Determining points and support of a critical argument
8. Writing a paragraph

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 final exam. Failure to do so could 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."

See your instructor's syllabus addendum for specific attendance criteria.

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: _____

Course Commitment: You will make the decision about how long it takes you to clear your developmental writing requirement. Please keep these thoughts in mind:

- 1) Your registration in this course is the result of *your* test scores and, at this time, those scores do not indicate that you could be successful in an intensive writing college level class. We want you to be successful in your college-level courses, so learn everything that you can in this class.
- 2) It costs as much to take this class (nearly a \$1000) 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 writing 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.

Student Assistance: Tutors are available in the Tutoring and Learning Center, first floor of the Library, free of charge. Please check with the Tutoring and Learning Center for hours and days of tutor availability.

ADA Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M.Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartze@sulross.edu .

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Student Responsibilities Statement: All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. All students are expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

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 the Sul Ross Library on the first floor,

and their phone number is 432-837-8982.

Mr. Urias' Addendum

AI Statement: To maintain academic integrity and uphold the principles of originality, the use of AI-generated material, including but not limited to essays, assignments, and other scholarly work, is strictly prohibited in this course. Students are expected to produce their own work and acknowledge all sources appropriately. Violation of this policy may result in academic penalties, including but not limited to failure of the assignment or the course. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure the authenticity of their submissions. If there are any questions regarding the use of specific tools or technologies, students are encouraged to seek clarification from the instructor.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeeding in this course. If you only attend class twice a week, you will be dropped with an "F" after the 6th absence. If you attend class three times a week, you will be dropped with an "F" after the 9th 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 absent. Students who leave the classroom for extended periods or use cell phones or other electronic devices for anything other than classwork will be marked absent. Come to class, do your work, and you will pass this class.

Late Work: Do all assignments and turn them in when requested. We will do much of our work in class, so that is another excellent reason for you to be in class every day. I will accept late work under only the most egregious of circumstances, and I am the one who will decide if your circumstances are egregious or not. It doesn't happen often. Do not wait until the last minute to complete your work. This is your responsibility.

In other words, come to class, come to class on time, and come to class ready to work.

1. Grades: For your peace of mind and protection, keep all graded assignments. Don't throw away anything until you have received your final grade at the end of the semester. Also, by keeping your work, you will always have an approximate idea of what your current grade is.

2. Respect: I want you to feel free to speak your mind in this class. However, we will respectfully share our ideas. We don't have to agree with each other, but we do have to support each other's right to have a differing point of view.

3. E-Mail: You will want to check your Sul Ross e-mail regularly. It is an easy way for me to stay in contact with you and for you to stay in contact with me.

4. Course Requirements: This course is designed to help you become a stronger reader and writer. Therefore, you will do a LOT of reading and writing this semester. I do not expect perfection from you, but I do expect your best effort. Becoming a better reader and writer requires you to work very hard, so that is what I expect from you – hard work and commitment. ENG 0309 can provide the foundation for your success in the university environment. You must take advantage of all the opportunities provided to you this semester in this course.

5. Journal: For the entirety of the semester, you will be tasked with keeping a journal where you will keep your sentences and paragraphs that you will be writing during the semester. Each page with the

sentence and paragraph assignments MUST BE DATED. You will submit this journal at the end of the semester, and it will be a considerable part of your grade.

6. Paragraph Prompts: At the end of every week, you will be assigned a random prompt. You must write a COMPLETE PARAGRAPH to answer the prompt, date it in your journal, and show it to me to get the grade for it.

7. Mid-Term Exam: The Midterm Exam will consist of the Lessons and Chapters we have read at that point in the semester.

8. Final Exam: The Final exam will consist of all the lessons we have reviewed throughout the semester.

9. 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 will be a mixture of self-paced learning, lectures, and one-on-one help. We will be learning the skills necessary to become better readers so that you may apply them to college-intensive reading courses.

10. Communication: If you need any kind of help with the course, please contact me; I cannot help you if you do not maintain effective communication.

Course Requirements	
Assignments	Percentage
Journals	20%
Daily Grades: In-class assignments, participation, quizzes	50%
Mid-Term Exam	10%
Paragraph Prompts	10%
Final Exam	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

F = 69% or lower

ENG 0309 Tentative Schedule

Course Text: *The Pearl Wars: Skyship Academy* by Nick James

1st Week

- Syllabus and Introductions
- Yin and Yang of Reading
- The SQ3R Method

2nd Week

- Vocabulary in Context
- Chapters 1 – 3 *The Pearl Wars*

3rd Week

- Chapter 4 *The Pearl Wars*; Main Idea
- Chapter 5 *The Pearl Wars*; Supporting Details
- Chapter 6 *The Pearl Wars*; Conclusion

4th Week

- Chapter 7 *The Pearl Wars*; Identify Nouns and Verbs
- Chapter 8 *The Pearl Wars*; Identify Antecedents and Articles
- Chapter 9 *The Pearl Wars*; Note Taking Techniques: Outline, Summary, and Mapping

5th Week

- Chapter 10 *The Pearl Wars*; Identify Pronouns
- Chapter 11 *The Pearl Wars*; Identify Adjectives
- Chapter 12 *The Pearl Wars*; Identify Adverbs

6th Week

- Identify and Practice Sentence Structure
- Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound Complex Sentences
- Chapters 13 – 15 *The Pearl Wars*

7th Week

- Coordination
- Chapters 16 – 19 *The Pearl Wars*

8th Week

- Summarization
- Chapters 20 – 23 *The Pearl Wars*;
- MIDTERM EXAM

9th Week

- Transitions
- Chapters 24 – 27

10th Week

- Purpose
- Chapters 28 – 31

11th Week

- Tone
- Chapters 32 – 35

12th Week

- Chapter 36 *The Pearl Wars*; Facts
- Chapter 37 *The Pearl Wars*; Opinions
- Chapter 38 *The Pearl Wars*; Facts vs Opinions

13th Week

- Inferences
- Chapters 39 – 42

14th Week

- Chapter Discussions
- Chapters 43 – 45

15th Week

- Chapter 46 *The Pearl Wars*
- Chapter 47 *The Pearl Wars*
- Chapter 48 *The Pearl Wars*; Book Discussion

16th Week

- Final Exam Review
- Final Exam