



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
ENG 0309
Spring 2026

COURSE TITLE: Basic Integrated Reading and Writing
SECTION: CRN 21939 Section C01 / CRN 21108 Section C02
CLASS DAY & TIME: MWF 9:00am-9:50am / MWF 10:00am-10:50am
CLASSROOM: FH 213
INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Anne Marie Hilscher
INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE: FH 208
INSTRUCTOR'S PHONE #: 432-837-8338
INSTRUCTOR'S E-MAIL: ahilscher@sulross.edu
INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: MW 11:00-1:00 & 2:00-3:15; Tues/Thurs 1:30-3:15
and by appt.
CREDIT HOURS: 3
LECTURE HOURS: 3

TSIA2 PLACEMENT: ELAR Score of 944 or lower; Diagnostic Score of 4 or higher,
Essay Score: 3 or 4

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

SUPPLIES: Internet access, Sul Ross e-mail account, paper, pen, and a spiral-bound notebook. 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 the 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 genuine success stems from learning how to do the work independently. 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 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 (Americans with Disabilities Act): Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mr. Ronnie Harris, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 (email ronnie.harris@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

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 on the first floor of the Sul Ross Library, and their phone number is 432-837-8982.

Ms. Hilscher's Addendum

SRSU's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statement: The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

The emergence of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT and DALL-E) has sparked interest among many students in our discipline. The use of these tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses to class assignments. While there is no substitute for working directly with your instructor, the potential for generative AI tools to provide automatic feedback, assistive technology and language assistance is clearly developing. Please feel free to reach out to me well in advance of the due date of assignments for which you may be using generative AI tools and I will be happy to discuss what is acceptable.

It is a violation of university policy to misrepresent work that you submit or exchange with your instructor by characterizing it as your own, such as submitting responses to assignments that do not acknowledge the use of generative AI tools. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about the use of generative AI tools before submitting any content that has been substantially informed by these tools.

In this course, we may use generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) to examine the ways in which these kinds of tools may inform our exploration of the topics of the class. You will be informed as to when and how these tools will be used, along with guidance for attribution if/as needed. Any use of generative AI tools outside of these parameters constitutes plagiarism and will be treated as such.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Course Requirements: This course is designed to help you become a stronger reader and writer. This class involves extensive reading and writing. 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.

1. Journal: For the entirety of the semester, you will be tasked with keeping a journal where you will be given a daily prompt and time at the beginning of class to write. Each entry must be at least half a page long. You will submit this journal at various times during the semester, so please bring it to each class.

2. In-class/Blackboard Assignments: Each week, you'll be given an assignment to be completed in class. This could be in the form of a handout/worksheet, discussion, or reading. If you miss an in-class assignment, it is YOUR responsibility to reach out about the possibility of a makeup. A zero will be entered in the gradebook until then.

3. Quizzes/Exams:

- **Quizzes:** You will have several quizzes throughout the semester that will consist of questions from the readings and from the grammar lessons.
- **Mid-Term Exam:** The Midterm Exam will consist of the lessons and chapters we have read up to that point in the semester.
- **Final Exam:** The Final exam will consist of all the lessons we have reviewed throughout the semester, as well as the book chapters from the Midterm to the end of the book.
- If you miss a quiz or the mid-term, it is YOUR responsibility to reach out about the possibility of makeup. A zero will be entered in the gradebook until then.

Class Structure (A Typical Class Day): The only way to truly become a better reader is to read, so we will spend much time on reading. This course will combine self-paced learning, lectures, and one-on-one assistance. We will learn the skills necessary to become better readers, so you can apply them to college-intensive reading courses.

Communication: If you need any assistance with the course, please don't hesitate to contact me. I cannot help you if you do not maintain effective communication.

Your final grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

Journals	25%
In-class/Blackboard assignments	50%
Quizzes/Midterm/Final	25%

****Grading Scale**

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

F=69% and below

ENG 0309
Tentative Schedule

1st Week: Jan 14-16

- Syllabus and Introductions; Yin and Yang of Reading
- The SQ4R Method

2nd Week: 19-23

- **Mon, Jan 19, MLK, Jr. Birthday – NO CLASS**
- Vocabulary in Context
- Chapters 1 – 3 *The Pearl Wars*

3rd Week: Jan 26-30

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

4th Week: Feb 02-06

- 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: Feb 09-13

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

6th Week: Feb 16-20

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

7th Week: Feb 23-27

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

8th Week: Mar 02-06

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

Mar 9-13 SPRING BREAK--NO CLASSES

- Transitions
- Chapters 24–27 *The Pearl Wars*

9th Week: Mar 16-20

- Purpose
- Chapters 28–31 *The Pearl Wars*

10th Week: Mar 23-27

- Tone
- Chapters 32–35 *The Pearl Wars*

11th Week: Mar 30-Apr 03

- Facts & Opinions
- Chapter 36–38 *The Pearl Wars*

12th Week: Apr 06-10

- Inferences
- Chapters 39–42 *The Pearl Wars*

13th Week 9: Apr 13-17

- Chapters 43–45 *The Pearl Wars*

14th Week: Apr 20-24

- Chapter 46–48 *The Pearl Wars*
- Book Discussion

15th Week: Apr 27-29

Book Discussion; Final Exam Review

16th Week: May 1, and May 4-6

FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM DATE/TIME: _____