



DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC UPGRADING

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014

EN0090 - BASIC ENGLISH SKILLS

INSTRUCTOR: Teresa Wouters

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OFFICE: C405

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OFFICE HOURS: 10:30-noon daily – or by request.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Appropriate English placement score

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- *Essential Reading Skills (4th edition)* by Kathleen T. McWhorter
- *En0080 Building English Skills Workbook*
- *The Slave Dancer* by Paula Fox
- Additional resources may be made available through Moodle.
- A USB memory stick.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This is a skills development course for high school level English competency. Emphasis is on basic writing skills, reading comprehension, and vocabulary development. The course content focuses on the needs of each student (for grades seven to nine reading and writing levels).

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 122.5 Hours

Students meet for 80 minutes daily, Monday to Friday.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Students will work through a series of readings, exercises, and computer-assisted learning with help as required from the instructor. Oral reading is

required, and writing skills are a priority.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course aims to provide each student with the skills to understand and appreciate language and to use it confidently and competently for a range of purposes. Students will explore thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences, and consider diverse opinions while acknowledging the value of the ideas and opinions of others. Students will focus on specific reading and thinking ideas using active reading strategies to help build a positive attitude toward learning.

TRANSFERABILITY:

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

GRADING CRITERIA: This course is graded as CREDIT/NO CREDIT. A student must achieve a final passing mark of 50% on assignments/tests, complete all required course work, and maintain satisfactory attendance. Frequently, students may be required to re-do assignments and make corrections in their work.

ATTENDANCE: It is expected that students will arrive on time and stay for the duration of each class. Should you need to leave the room before the class ends, please do so quietly so that other students are not disrupted. Good attendance is critical for success in this course. If you miss more than 10 classes per semester, you may be debarred from the final exam.

EVALUATIONS: There will be a Unit Test at the end of each unit. You will also be required to submit notes taken on key ideas in each unit prior to writing the test. If you are unsuccessful in the first attempt at writing a unit test, you will need to review the material and rewrite the test. Marks will be averaged. Work closely with the instructor to determine problem areas. At the end of the course will be a final exam.

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: The nature of this course requires regular attendance and constructive participation. You are expected to be in attendance. Assignments and tests are expected to be completed and handed in at the time specified. In order to have late assignments considered for grading, you must make prior arrangements with the instructor. If you miss more than 10 classes per semester, you may be debarred from the final exam.

PRINTING POLICY: Student printing is charged \$0.10 per sheet (each sheet represents 2 pages, when printed double-sided). Each student will have a printing account with a credit balance. Students may purchase additional credits online using a credit card, or

at the library, the cashier's office, the bookstore, or student services. The complete student printing policy is available here:

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/policies/admin/StudentPrintingPolicy.pdf>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

IMPORTANT DATES: Classes run from January 7 to April 28, 2014. January 21, 2014 is the last day for withdrawing with permission from this course. Withdrawing after this date will result in a failing grade. There is a Winter Break with no scheduled classes from February 17 to February 21st, 2014. As final exams will be scheduled during the last week of classes, you should plan to be available at any time during those dates.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: (Each unit is approximately 11 days)

Unit 6 Essential Reading Skills

Identifying supporting details and transitions (pages 216-248)

- What are supporting details?
- What are transitions?
- Putting it all together

Building English Skills Workbook

- Spelling

UNIT 6 Notes _____

UNIT 6 Writing Assignment _____ **UNIT 6 TEST** _____

Unit 7 Essential Reading Skills

Understanding implied main ideas (p. 251-286)

- What does implied mean?
- Remembering the difference between general and specific ideas
- How to find implied ideas in paragraphs
- Working with paragraphs
- New vocabulary

Building English Skills Workbook

- Using pronouns

UNIT 7 Notes _____

UNIT 7 Writing Assignment _____ **UNIT 7 TEST** _____

Unit 8 Essential Reading Skills

Recognizing patterns of organization (p. 288-334)

- What are patterns of organization?
- Example
- Definition
- Chronological order and process
- Comparison and Contrast
- Cause and Effect
- Listing
- New Vocabulary

Building English Skills Workbook

- Using prepositions and conjunctions
- Using compound sentences

UNIT 8 Notes _____

UNIT 8 Writing Assignment _____

UNIT 8 TEST _____

Unit 9

Essential Reading Skills

Reading and thinking critically (p. 336-382)

- What is inference?
- Understanding a writer's purpose
- Identifying tone
- Distinguishing fact and opinion
- Evaluating internet sources
- New vocabulary

Building English Skills Workbook

- Writing to summarize
- Writing a précis

UNIT 9 Notes _____

UNIT 9 Writing Assignment _____

UNIT 9 TEST _____

Unit 10

Essential Reading Skills (p. 428-446)

- Short story: "The Last Leaf" by O. Henry
- Glossary of frequently confused words and phrases

Building English Skills Workbook

- Making subjects and verbs agree
- Adjectives and adverbs

UNIT 10 Notes _____

UNIT 10 Writing Assignment _____

UNIT 10 TEST _____

The class will also read *The Slave Dancer*, submit a novel study, and write a movie review.

Novel study **Due date:** _____

Movie review **Due date:** _____

Final Exam **Date:** _____