

## CRITICAL READING AND STUDY SKILLS ENG 108-35

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Office hours: See Blackboard for office hours

#### **IMPORTANT:**

- The recommended browser to use with the current version of Blackboard is Mozilla Firefox. Other browsers are inconsistent in their performance with Blackboard. When taking tests or quizzes, USE a wired connection.
- Check your VCCS email regularly and respond/keep in touch with your instructor.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Description: English 108 helps students improve their reading and learning processes. Includes advanced comprehension strategies and study skills such as time management, note-taking, studying from textbooks and other reading materials, taking examinations, and using the library through print and on-line resources.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 3  
Online Activities: Required

### COURSE MATERIALS

**Textbook:** There is no required textbook for this course. The instructor will provide information about accessing required reading materials in a separate document(s) and through the Blackboard learning system.

**Note:** NRCC assumes no liability for virus, loss of data, or damage to software or computer when a student downloads software for classes.

*The Student's Guide to Distance Education* is available at <http://www.nr.edu/de/pdf/stuguide.pdf>.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Prepared By:** Dr. Paige Cash

**Approved By:** Mrs. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz

### A. INTRODUCTION

English 108 has been developed to build students' reading and study skills to prepare them for success in other college courses, the workplace, and other endeavors. Course content emphasizes reading and learning as active processes.

This is a Distance Education course designed specifically for those students whose learning styles are best served by providing instructional opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting.

### B. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate improved critical reading skills, by building general processes and strategies for problem solving, learning, and thinking

To achieve the above goal, students will meet the following objectives:

- ✓ Learn and apply reading strategies, such as SQ3R and PRWR
- ✓ Identify, paraphrase, and infer the main idea of a paragraph and/or whole reading selection
- ✓ Detect patterns of development in a reading selection
- ✓ Determine author's rhetorical mode, purpose, and tone
- ✓ Make logical inferences
- ✓ Differentiate fact from opinion
- ✓ Interpret tables, graphs, and diagrams
- ✓ Evaluate reading material by asking and exploring critical questions in writing activities
- ✓ Vary reading strategies and rate depending on reading content

- B. Demonstrate improved study and test-taking skills

To achieve the above goal, students will meet the following objectives:

- ✓ Develop time-management methods
- ✓ Employ specific methods of keeping track of information and note-taking, such as outlining, summarizing, mapping, and highlighting
- ✓ Develop memory devices
- ✓ Select and apply appropriate test-taking strategies
- ✓ Locate appropriate library resources, both print and online, and effectively incorporate these resources into course work

**C. COURSE CONTENT**

- Active reading strategies
- Main ideas and supporting details
- Patterns of development
- Rhetorical mode
- Author's purpose
- Author's tone
- Inferences
- Fact and opinion
- Tables, graphs, and diagrams
- Evaluation of reading material
- Reading rate
- Time management methods
- Outlining, summarizing, mapping, and highlighting
- Memory devices
- Test-taking strategies
- Library resources

**D. GRADING/EVALUATION**

1. The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Weekly Activities, including Discussions	30%
Portfolio Projects-Midterm and Final	40%
Reader's Response Logs	30%

2. Grading Scale:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70– 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	Below 60%

**E. WITHDRAWAL POLICY****Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first sixty percent (60%) of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- a. If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.

- b. After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of sixty percent (60%) of a session, a student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a course will be assigned a grade of "W." A grade of "W" implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.
- c. After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of "F" will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of "W" may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a "W" on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for a distance education course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be revised and a decision made by the Coordinator of Admissions and Records.

### **No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in distance learning courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student's financial aid award.

### **Instructor Initiated Withdrawal**

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for Distance Education (DE) courses, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her DE course plan for the instructor's policy.

In accordance with the No-Show Policy, a student who has not attended class or requested/accessed distance learning materials by the last day to drop the class and receive a refund must be withdrawn by the instructor during the following week. No refund will be applicable.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor.

## **F. CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY**

To plagiarize is "To use and pass off as one's own the ideas or writings of another." (Definition adapted from the American Heritage Dictionary.) Remember that plagiarism includes lifting words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

Students who plagiarize assignments in ENG 108 will earn a zero for the assignment with no opportunity to redo the assignment.

**G. DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

The NRCC community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.

New River Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations, 217 Edwards Hall, 540-674-3600, ext. 4241.

**H. DISABILITY STATEMENT**

If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with the Center for Disabilities Services located in the Advising Center in Rooker Hall for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.