

Academic A Reading (Winter 2025)

Course Description

This course helps students improve their reading ability by focusing on the following:

- a) thorough **comprehension** of the text
- b) implementation of reading **strategies**
- c) acquiring academic **vocabulary**
- d) **extensive reading**
- e) **fluency**

The texts used in this course tend to be non-fiction and contain some academic vocabulary.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. **Understands level-appropriate* texts**
 1. Understands explicit main ideas.
 2. Understands explicit major details.
 3. Understands salient minor details.
 4. Identifies author's purpose.
 5. Identifies author's point of view.
 6. Maintains sufficient reading rate for comprehension.
2. **Effectively implements appropriate reading strategies.**
 1. Previews texts for main idea.
 2. Scans texts for major and minor details.
 3. Recognizes basic organization patterns.
 4. Connects content to background knowledge.
 5. Makes inferences about concrete ideas.
 6. Skims texts when appropriate.
 7. Increases reading rate.
3. **Acquires new vocabulary words.**
 1. Uses context and background knowledge to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words
 2. Uses affixes to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words.
 3. Demonstrates understanding of high-frequency general vocabulary.
4. **Reads level-appropriate text* aloud comprehensibly.**

1. Pauses appropriately for punctuation (,:;—), at sentence boundaries (?!), and passage transitions (titles, headings, paragraphs).
2. Uses correct intonation at all sentence boundaries (?!).
3. Correctly pronounces high-frequency general vocabulary and common academic vocabulary.

Required Materials

1. *Groundwork for College Reading with Phonics*, 5th edition, ISBN 978-1-59194-486-7

[Amazon](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

2. A notebook and a pencil or pen
4. *The Giver* (Ms. Jenna will give you an ELC copy to borrow)
5. Extensive Reading Book 2 (this will be decided in Week 7)

Grades

You have two different grades: a Proficiency grade and a Learning Experience grade. The Proficiency grade shows your language ability, and your Learning Experience grade shows your active participation.

Assignments & Assessments

Here is a list of assignments and tests for this class. You can see the due dates for the assignments on the calendar.

Proficiency

The Proficiency grade shows how well you understand and use English. You usually need a Proficiency grade above 74% to move to the next level at the end of the semester. If your Proficiency grade is low, you may be dismissed.

Reading Comprehension Exams (15% Proficiency)

You will take a midterm and final exam focused on reading comprehension. These timed exams require reading a passage and completing comprehension questions. These tests will prepare you for the LATS, TOEFL, and other university entrance exams.

Vocabulary Exams (15% Proficiency)

You will take a midterm and final exam focused on vocabulary. These exams will assess all the LEAP words that you learned in the semester. The midterm exam will assess vocabulary lists 13-18. The final exam will assess vocabulary lists 13-24.

Weekly Quizzes (25% Proficiency)

Each Tuesday (with a couple of exceptions), you will take a quiz that assesses vocabulary, strategy application, and phonics a vocabulary and strategy quiz.

Reading Fluency (25% Proficiency)

Most weeks, you will use the scrolled reader tool to practice reading fluency for a learning experience grade. In Weeks 4, 7, 10, and 13 you will use the Fluency Builder tool to track your reading fluency. This will include monitoring your rate and comprehension. After completing the activity, you will report your rate and comprehension through a quiz on Canvas.

Oral Fluency & Pronunciation (20% Proficiency)

In weeks 3, 6, 9, and 12 you will record yourself reading a passage for 1 minute. Your teacher will evaluate your oral fluency and pronunciation.

Late Proficiency Assignment Policy

You can complete a late Proficiency assignment. A late assignment does not automatically lose points. You need to complete the assignment before your teacher reports grades (every three weeks: **February 3, February 24, March 17 and April 7.**)

If your absence is too close to the grade report, your teacher can give you an extra week. If you do not complete the late assignment by the new deadline, your grade will be 0.

Your teacher can decide to excuse a missed proficiency assignment.

Learning Experiences

Learning Experience grades show your effort to learn, practice, and apply your ELC lessons. Some Learning Experience grades will be in the class, and some will be assignments you complete at home. Going to class does not mean a good Learning Experience. You need to actively participate and complete assignments on time. You need more than 80% for your Learning Experience grade, or you can be dismissed.

Weekly Reflection Tasks

Each week, you will complete a closing task questionnaire on Canvas. In this questionnaire, you will answer one reflection question about the class that day and self-report your participation. You will be awarded the points if the teacher agrees with your self-report. If the teacher does not agree with your self-report, the teacher will adjust the points awarded for participation.

Extensive Reading Reports

Each day, you should report reading 30 minutes outside of class. You will complete a quiz on Canvas to report your time and share a short summary, opinion, favorite quote, question, connection, etc., to go with your reading for the day.

Book Clubs

You will be required to read and discuss two books throughout the semester. You will meet with your group each Wednesday to discuss your book. Group members will take turns leading the discussions and evaluate their team members' preparation and participation.

Book Reports

This semester, you will read two books as part of a book club. You will produce something to represent the book at the midterm and the end of the course. Options include a book review, a letter to a character, a character diary, an alternate ending, or a YouTube review of the book.

Reading Journals

Each week, you will be asked to write about the reading completed in class. This will be completed on Canvas.

Reading Fluency

Each week, you will practice reading fluency using the scrolled reading tool on Fluency Builder. You will report on which speed you practiced at and your comprehension grade.

Late Learning Experience Policy

Learning experiences need to be completed by the due date. You will automatically lose 10% if the assignment is completed late unless the absence is excused and an arrangement is made with the teacher.

If you have an excused absence, your teacher can choose to accept a late learning experience assignment before the grade report days (every three weeks: **February 3, February 24, March**

17 and April 7.) If your excused absence is too close to the grade report, your teacher can give you an extra week. Your teacher can also choose to excuse the Learning Experience.

You cannot complete every unexcused Learning Experience late, so you need to talk to your teacher. You will have a 0 for some unexcused Learning Experiences. Because the Daily Reflection Tasks and Book Club Discussions will be completed in class, these cannot be completed late.