

Speed Reading RDG163, Section B, CRN 21212
Course Syllabus Spring 2011
T – Th 12:50 – 2:15 PM
Building 6, Room 12

Instructor: Sue Wickham

Academic Achievement Center Hours (Building 6, Room 19)

Monday – Wednesday	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Tuesday - Thursday	8:00 AM – 10:00AM, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Office Hours (Building 6, Room 25 B)

Monday-Wednesday-Friday	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Tuesday-Thursday	2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Please feel free to come in during my AAC hours or office hours for a conference or for extra help.

Phone: 965-7000 (my office) or 965-7004 (Academic Achievement Center)

E-mail: smwickham@dmacc.edu

Web Site: <http://www.dmacc.edu/instructors/smwickham/>

Texts: W. Royce Adams and Becky Patterson, *Developing Reading Versatility*, 11th Edition
Any good collegiate dictionary, such as the *American Heritage Dictionary*
A novel or light nonfiction book of your choice.

Course Purposes:

Speed Reading is a course designed to help you develop speed, flexibility, and good comprehension. The following topics will form the framework of the course:

1. Improving speed and flexibility
2. Improving literal comprehension by
 - Building vocabulary
 - Recognizing patterns of organization
 - Recognizing and summarizing main ideas
 - Skimming/scanning
 - Using efficient textbook study techniques
3. Improving critical comprehension through
 - Distinguishing between fact and opinion
 - Identifying intent, attitude, tone, and bias
 - Making valid inferences
 - Making critical judgments

Class Activities and Assignments:

Class activities will include individual and group work, class discussion and lectures. There will be regular in-class timed readings and group exercises for which no make-up is possible. Assignments will require an average of two hours out of class per hour in class.

Grades:

In-class work and homework assignments--approximately 100 points

Major Assignments--approximately 350 points

These assignments are semester-long projects which allow you to tailor reading activities to your interests and needs. Each assignment will be explained fully during the first week of class.

1. Vocabulary lists - 120 points
2. Quantum reading exercises - 70 points
3. Ten-minute readings and dialogues - approximately 60 points
4. Book review - 100 points

Tests--500 points

There will be four tests including a comprehensive final, which counts as two test grades.

Grading Policy:

93%-100% = A	83%-86.9% = B	73%-76.9% = C	63%-66.9% = D
90%-92.9% = A-	80%-82.9% = B-	70%-72.9% = C-	60%-62.9% = D-
87%-89.9% = B+	77%-79.9% = C+	67%-69.9% = D+	0% - 59.9% = F

Class Policies:

Attendance and Late Work:

Because your work will often require the use of materials available only in class, because much of your daily work including timed readings will be done in class, and because you and your classmates learn best from one another, it is essential that you attend class regularly and arrive on time. Reading is a skill which requires regular, frequent practice for improvement; therefore, completing daily homework assignments is also essential.

1. **There is no make-up for in-class work, including 10-minute readings and logs.**
2. **All homework, including word lists, is due at the beginning of class on the date assigned.**
3. **If you are ill or have some other emergency, you may send your assignment with a friend, e-mail it, or send it by regular mail. I will accept it as long as it is postmarked by the due date. Please use this option sparingly. This is not an on-line class.**

4. **Only two late homework assignments will be accepted. A late-work slip must be attached to each late assignment.**
5. **If you must miss a test, contact me on or before the date of the test so that we can reschedule it. If you do not meet this requirement, a make-up test will be given only at my discretion. (Translation: have an airtight excuse, with written proof!)**

Accommodations:

It is the policy of DMACC to accommodate students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires reasonable accommodation should contact the special needs coordinator at (515) 964-6850 voice or (515) 864-6810 TTY.

Classroom Behavior:

Respect for the learning process and for the people engaged in teaching and learning is central to this class.

1. Please be considerate of both your instructor and your classmates. Arrive early and have reading materials ready when class begins. If you must walk in late, do so quietly. Your classmates will appreciate not being disturbed when doing timed readings.
2. Turn off cell phones, pagers, I-Pods, laptops, etc., before entering the classroom and put them away.
3. Respect both your instructor and your classmates by listening attentively during lectures and class discussions. During class activities, avoid side conversations and other distracting behaviors.
4. Recognize that you and your classmates can disagree on controversial issues without engaging in personal attacks.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is a fundamental value of this class. Cheating of any kind—such as using an instructor's edition of the textbook, using crib notes on a test, plagiarizing from a published source on words lists or book reviews, submitting someone else's work as your own, or allowing someone else to copy yours—will not be tolerated. Academic sanctions will include, but are not limited to, a 0 on the assignment in question. A record of your violation will be placed on file with the Judicial Affairs officer. Please see the Academic Misconduct policy (Education Services Procedure 4670) on pp. 55-56 of the *2010-11 Student Handbook* for a full explanation of the consequences of academic misconduct at DMACC.

Incomplete and Course Withdrawal:

I want to help you succeed in this class. If you have a legitimate reason to be absent for an extended time, such as illness requiring hospitalization, please contact me. I'll be happy to assign an "Incomplete" grade **if you request it and if, in my opinion, there is a reasonable probability that you will complete the missing assignments by midterm of the following semester.**

If you choose to drop the class, you **must** withdraw by using DMACC's Web Info System or by completing an official drop slip and returning it to Student Records in Building 1. Without this drop slip, you will receive an F for the course. The last day to drop a class this semester is **March 29, 2011.**

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

January 11	Stanford Reading Test
January 13	<i>Due: "Literal Comprehension Inventory"; read pp. xv-xvi, 1-4 in your text.</i> Explanation of syllabus and major assignments. Timed reading.
January 18	<i>Due: Self-evaluation; bring book for 10-minute reads; text, pp. 5-13.</i> First timed session. Differences in reading rate; techniques to improve concentration.
January 20	<i>Due: Word List 1.</i> Chapter 1, "Developing Vocabulary Skills," context and word parts, pp. 13-18, 23-25. Demonstration of Quantum reading exercises.
January 25	<i>Due: pp. 19-20, 25-27, 48-51.</i> Word parts, pp. 28-31. Quiz.
January 27	<i>Due: pp. 41-47; Word List 2.</i> Quiz. Dictionary skills review, pp. 33-40; types of dictionaries.
February 1	<i>Due: library exercise.</i> Fig. language, pp. 217-221, and hand-outs. Review for Test 1.
February 3	<i>Due: Word List 3. TEST 1</i>
February 8	<i>Due: Logs and Quantum readings 1-3; pp. 58-66.</i> Chapter 2, "Developing Literal Recall." Main ideas and supporting details, pp. 67-78.
February 10	<i>Due: pp. 78-80, 80-86; Word List 4.</i> Paragraph patterns, pp. 86-89.
February 15	<i>Due: pp. 89-94.</i> Quiz. Finding the thesis, pp. 94-99.
February 17	<i>Due: Word List 5.</i> Writing a summary, pp. 99-100. In-class summary.
February 22	<i>Due: Article summary (handout).</i> In-class summary, pp. 107-108. Review for Test 2.
February 24	<i>Due: Word List 6; TEST 2</i>
March 1	<i>Due: pp. 119-122; Logs and Quantum readings 4-6.</i> Study reading, 123-126; Annotating, pp. 131-133
March 3	<i>Due: Word List 7; annotated handout.</i> Mapping, pp. 144-5.
March 8	<i>Due: Note-taking assignment, including text marking and separate notes.</i> Scanning, pp. 150-158. Skimming.
March 10	<i>Due: Word List 8. Bring a magazine to use in class.</i> Skimming; skim a magazine exercise
March 22	<i>Due: pp. 103-107.</i> Rapid reading, pp. 52-56, 110-113.
March 24	<i>Due: Word List 9.</i> In class: Timed reading, pp. 293-294. Progress Check. Review for Test 3.
March 29	<i>Due: Completed Progress Check. TEST 3</i>
March 31	<i>Due: Word List 10; Critical Comprehension Introduction, pp. 163-168; logs and Quantum readings 7-10.</i> Questions for critical analysis. Fact and opinion, pp. 168-171.

April 5 *Due: pp. 172-176, 176-181. Kinds of evidence.*

April 7 *Due: Word List 11; pp. 181-186. Quiz, pp. 186-187.*

April 12 *Propaganda, pp. 187-192.*

April 14 *Due: Word List 12; pp. 192-199, including example of propaganda.*

April 19 *Intent, attitude, and tone, pp. 211-216 and handouts. Humor, sarcasm, and irony.*

April 21 *Due: Rough draft of book review. In-class group work: Inference, pp. 260-274.*

April 26 *Due: Quantum readings 11-12, book review, logs. Underlying social values, induction and deduction; fallacies, pp. 274-283.*

April 28 *Review for final exam.*

May 3 **FINAL EXAM 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**