

AB Reading

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mrs. Summers and Mrs. Kinikini

Email Address: Email through Canvas Inbox

Office Hours:

Course Description

This course helps students improve their reading ability by focusing on the following: thorough comprehension of academic texts, implementation of reading strategies, acquiring academic vocabulary, extensive reading, and fluency. The texts used in this course tend to be non-fiction and academic in nature.

Course Learning Outcomes

1 . Understands level-appropriate* texts

1.1 Understands explicit main ideas.

1.2 Understands implicit main ideas.

1.3 Understands explicit major details.

1.4 Understands implicit major details.

1.5 Understands salient minor details.

1.6 Identifies author's purpose.

- 1.7 Identifies author's point of view.
2. Effectively implements appropriate reading strategies.
 - 2.1 Previews texts for main idea.
 - 2.2 Scans texts for major and minor details.
 - 2.3 Recognizes basic organization patterns that may include atypical conventions.
 - 2.4 Connects content to background knowledge.
 - 2.5 Makes inferences about concrete ideas.
 - 2.6 Skims texts when appropriate.
3. Acquires new vocabulary words.
 - 3.1 Understands of high frequency academic vocabulary.
 - 3.2 Uses context and background knowledge to infer meaning of unfamiliar words.
 - 3.3 Uses syntactic and morphological cues to infer meaning of unfamiliar words.
4. Reads aloud with comprehensible pronunciation.
 - 4.1 Uses correct stress in words and sentences.
 - 4.2 Pauses when appropriate.
 - 4.3 Uses correct intonation.
 - 4.4 Correctly pronounces phonemes in high frequency general vocabulary words.
5. Increases reading rate.

Required Materials

- *Reading Explorer 4*, Third Edition (9780357116296)

- Please do *not* buy used workbooks or reuse textbooks
- Paper or notebook
- Pencil or pen
- Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World
- Book of Choice
 - *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne (9780385751537)
 - *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell (9780547328614)
 - *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell (9780316010665)

Grades

Students at the ELC receive two different grades: a proficiency grade and a learning experience grade. The ELC uses these grades to help measure language proficiency and student engagement, respectively.

Proficiency

The proficiency grade shows how well the student understands and uses English. It is based on performance on reading comprehension tests and quizzes on vocabulary, phonics, and reading strategies. Generally, students will need a minimum proficiency score above 74% in order to be considered to advance to the next proficiency level. Students who continue to lack progress in their proficiency may be dismissed from the ELC.

Learning Experiences

Learning experience grades at the ELC demonstrate student effort to learn, practice, and apply the language learning principles taught in class. They encompass learning experiences that support the learning outcomes in the curriculum. Students are expected to maintain 80% in this grade category.

Assignments & Assessments

The following is a list of assignments and tests for the class. The dates of these activities can all be seen on the calendar at the end of this document.

Learning Experiences

Many of these learning experiences may occur outside of the classroom, such as completing homework, attending writing conferences, and preparing for in-class experiences. High learning experience grades also suggest that a student meets expectations for contributing to a positive environment that will maximize learning by engaging with in-class projects, presentations, and group work. Attendance is **not** be accounted for in this grade category, although engagement in some learning experiences may be impacted by absence from class.

Reading. Every week you will complete this homework to record your reading. You are required to read at least 30 minutes a day.

Homework Assignments. During the semester, we will have other homework assigned from the textbook. Make sure you complete these assignments by their due date.

Book Projects/Reports. During the semester, you will be required to read at least 2 books and complete accompanying projects or reports. You might read these books as a class, in a group, or individually. Your teacher will give you more information about the books and projects.

Late Learning Experience Policy

Teachers will excuse grades in this category for any and all excused absences as indicated by the Student Life Advisor, but it is up to teacher discretion whether or not an assignment needs to be made up after unexcused absence. Teachers can require completion of a learning experience if it is necessary foundation for an upcoming proficiency or learning experience assignment.

Reading Comprehension Tests (30% Proficiency)

During the course of the semester you will have 3 major tests that measure your reading proficiency. You will be given a certain amount of time to read passages and answer questions. Your ability to finish the test and get the answers correctly will be a measure of your proficiency. If you do your homework and participate in class, you shouldn't need to study for these tests.

Vocabulary and Strategy Quizzes (30% Proficiency)

Throughout the semester we will learn vocabulary learning strategies and new vocabulary. We will also learn about phonics and reading strategies. Each Thursday we may have a quiz on one or more of the things we learn. These will be short quizzes. Paying attention in class and reviewing what you learned over the weekend will help you prepare for these quizzes.

Book Projects and Reports (30%)

You are required to read at least 2 books this semester. After reading each book, you will complete a project or write a report relating to book. More information will be available as these assignments get closer.

Miscellaneous (10% Proficiency)

This category is for miscellaneous proficiency assignments, such as oral and silent reading rate improvement.

Late Proficiency Assignment Policy

Proficiency assignments are accepted during the three-week grading period in which they are due. Any assignments submitted after the three-week grading period receive a 0. Students with excused absences are allowed to make up missing proficiency assignments within that grading period without penalty. One point will be deducted per day that the assignment is late.

Language Acquisition Tests (LATs)

Language Acquisition Tests (LATs) are given at the end of each semester. They are used to test your progress in English in each skill area. If you plan to continue studying at the ELC, you must take the LATs. (from The Student Handbook) This semester, you will take your LATs on **April 13th and 14th**.

Attendance Policy

Consistently attending class is a central part of learning and improving your English. When you are absent from class, you miss important information and practice opportunities that you need to improve your English. The US Government allows each English program to establish its own attendance policy. The following requirements reflect the ELC's commitment to create the right environment to help you improve your English.

ELC students must maintain 80% attendance in each and every class at all times. As soon as your attendance drops below 80% in any one of your four classes, you will receive a warning letter. If you have any unexcused absences before raising your attendance back to

80%, you will be dismissed. If your attendance drops below 80% a second time in any one of your four classes, you will be dismissed from the ELC. Once you receive your attendance dismissal letter, you must go to Anna Bailey's office (4056 JFSB) immediately.

The US Government states that if a student is dismissed for violation of a school's attendance policy, then their student visa is immediately terminated and the student will need to leave the US within two weeks. If students want to transfer to another school, they will have to reapply to be reinstated. However, attempts to be reinstated are rarely successful. If you are sick and unable to attend class, please provide a note from your doctor. Within two days of returning to class, the doctor's note must be received in the ELC office (103 UPC). Be aware that forging a doctor's note is a violation of the BYU Honor Code and will result in an immediate dismissal from the ELC.

If you know that you will be absent from class for any reason other than an illness (i.e., a family wedding or a death in the family), you should notify the ELC administration in writing and deliver your letter to UPC 103. These absences will be considered on an individual basis and may not necessarily be excused. Being absent also results in missing class participation points that are part of your citizenship grade. Whenever you are absent from class, please contact each of your teachers to receive information on the assignments that you missed. Students who are ill should go to the Student Health Center (see Health Care or <http://health.byu.edu> for more information).

Students who are more than 10 minutes late, miss more than 10 minutes during class, or leave more than 10 minutes early will be marked as absent. (from the Student Handbook)

Preventing Sexual Discrimination & Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is intended to eliminate sex discrimination and sexual harassment in educational contexts. Any ELC student who becomes aware of sexual harassment, discrimination, or misconduct of any kind, directed toward them or any other member of the ELC community should immediately contact Sandy Hatchett (801-422-5318, sandy_hatchett@byu.edu) or Dr. Ben McMurry (801-422-8521, ben_mcmurry@byu.edu). They will work with you and report to the Title IX office.

Students with Disabilities

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability, please contact the Student Life Coordinator (801-422-5318). After talking with her, she will help you determine what course of action will be best for you. If necessary, the Student Life Coordinator will help you communicate with your teachers and university personnel to make sure that you receive the assistance you need.