

Saint Louis Christian College
GEN 020-College Reading

Alice Perrey
3 Credit Hours

Spring, 2012
No course prerequisites

Tuesday and Thursday
3:00-4:15 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

College Reading is required of all students whose entrance-exam scores indicate that they may lack the vocabulary and reading comprehension skills necessary to interpret college material. It is designed to position students for success by helping them find main ideas and supporting details in reading selections. Students must earn a C (80%) or higher and demonstrate at least a 10th grade reading level as determined by the Nelson-Denny Reading Test to receive a satisfactory grade. As with other college preparation courses, credits earned do not apply to graduation requirements, nor are they considered in computation of students' GPA.

COURSE RATIONALE

Some students enter college without a good foundation in reading and have difficulty finding main ideas and supporting details. College Reading is an attempt to build on this foundation so that students can attain the reading comprehension skills necessary to interpret college level material.

This introductory course is designed to position the student for success at SLCC. It contributes to the formation of these Student Learning Objectives:

- to be capable and reliable communicators of the Bible
- Possess a permanent thirst for wisdom
- Engage modern global, pluralistic, diverse cultures from the standpoint of a robust Biblical worldview.

This course partially fulfills General Studies Divisional Goal #1, (Given instruction in the communication skills, the student will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and will be able to use a variety of research and documentation techniques), and Divisional Goal #2 (Upon completion of the study of humanities, the student will be able to analyze major components of culture and will be able to understand the differences between Christianity and other worldviews.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will concentrate on the following skills:

Vocabulary skills, especially the use of context clues. Ways to increase vocabulary will be discussed.

Comprehension skills, including finding the main idea and important details, making inferences, and drawing conclusions. Emphasis is given to the author's purpose, methods of paragraph development and organization, understanding language, and perceiving the author's tone.

Reading for study, including outlining and summarizing. Critical reading skills will be stressed, especially recognizing and evaluating an author's arguments. You will practice reading various types of materials encountered in college, including essays and short stories. You will demonstrate your knowledge by:

1. Completing assigned work in the vocabulary textbook.

2. Demonstrating an ability to find the main idea and supporting details of paragraphs and essays.
3. Identifying the pattern(s) of organization in paragraphs.
4. Distinguishing between fact and opinion.
5. Identifying an author's arguments.
6. Reading and analyzing an assigned book of the Bible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (EXPECTATIONS)

Attendance: Your role in learning will be to come to every class and to give a full effort. Much of the value and meaning of this skills course will come from what happens in class, so you must be here on a steady basis. To really learn communication skills, you need direct experience and practice. So if you miss classes, you are, in effect, missing the course.

According to school policy, if you miss more than 25% of the attendance days for any reason, you will be withdrawn from the class. Missing more than 15 minutes of any class session will constitute an absence.

Examinations and Quizzes: Four examinations will test the student's ability to apply the reading strategies learned in class. All grading will be according to the point system approved by the college. **Missed quizzes and exams may not be made up**, without prior permission from the professor. Exceptions will be granted for *documented* illness or bereavement.

Class Work: Most of the textbook exercises will be done in class. Students are, therefore, expected to bring their textbooks to class every day. You will have assignments from both the reading textbook and the vocabulary book.

Timely Work: Part of being successful in any class is to submit assigned work on time. Therefore, late work will be accepted for a maximum of 1 week past the due date of the assignment, and will be counted at 1/2 the earned score. After 1 week, late work will not be accepted. For **athletic walks**, work must be turned in *before* the absence. If you are ill and must miss class, you may submit work by email. Your work must be turned in no later than roll call at the beginning of the first class period you attend after an absence.

Materials: These are the required materials for the course:

Ten Steps to Advancing College Reading Skills, Fifth Edition, by John Langan. ISBN: 1-59194-201-2

Advancing Vocabulary Skills Short Version, Fourth Edition by Sherrie L. Nist. ISBN: 1-59194-199-7

The Holy Bible: any version

Each student must have a copy of all course materials!

COURSE ASSESSMENT—CRITERIA FOR GRADING

The final grade will be determined by the following criteria:

Assignment	Percentage	Method of Assessment
4 examinations, including vocabulary	40%	Objective—Multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill-in
Textbook assignments	20%	Objective
Vocabulary assignments	10%	Objective
Nelson Denny Test	20%	Objective; Grading scale: all sections above 10 th grade—100%; 1 section 10 th grade or above—80%; no sections at 10 th grade level—0%
Book Report	10%	Parts of the report are due incrementally throughout the semester. Grading scale: 100%--excellent; 90%--good; 80%--fair; 70%--poor; 0%--incomplete

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Due	Topics for Class
Jan. 10		Introduction Nelson-Denny Test
Jan. 12		Langan: Vocabulary in Context Nist: Ch. 1
Jan. 17	Nist: Ch. 1, Final Check, p. 11 (For the vocabulary book, please write the answers on notebook paper.)	Langan: Vocabulary in Context Nist: Ch. 2
Jan. 19	Langan: pp. 43-54 Nist: Ch. 2 Final Check, p. 15	Langan: Main Ideas Nist: Ch. 3 Literary setting
Jan. 24	Esther: setting (1-3 paragraphs, MLA format) Nist: Ch. 3 Final Check, p. 19	Langan: Main Ideas Nist: Ch. 4
Jan. 26	Langan: pp. 91-102 Nist: Ch. 4 Final Check, p. 23	Langan: Supporting Details Nist: Ch. 5
Jan. 31	Nist: Ch. 5 Final Check, p. 27	Langan: Supporting Details Nist: Unit 1 Review
Feb. 2	Boatman Leadership Conference: NO CLASS	
Feb. 7	Langan: pp. 131-142 Nist: Unit 1, Tests 1 and 2, pp. 29-32	EXAM 1 over Langan Ch. 1-3 and Nist Unit 1.
Feb. 9		Langan: Implied Main Ideas Nist: Ch. 6 Getting acquainted with Characters
Feb. 14	Esther: 3 character sketches (1 paragraph each, MLA format) Nist: Ch. 6 Final Check, p. 41	Langan: Implied Main Ideas Nist: Ch. 7
Feb. 16	Nist: Ch. 7 Final Check, p. 45	Langan: Implied Main Ideas Nist: Ch. 8
Feb. 21	Langan: pp. 169-180 Nist: Ch. 8 Final Check, p. 49	Langan: Relationships I Nist: Ch. 9
Feb. 23	Nist: Ch. 9 Final Check, p. 53	Langan: Relationships I Nist: Ch. 10 Finding the plot
Feb. 28	Langan: pp. 217-228 Nist: Ch. 10 Final Check, p. 57; Unit 2, Tests 1 and 2, pp. 59-62	EXAM 2 over Langan Ch. 4-5 and Nist, Unit 2
Mar. 1	Esther: Plot summary (3-5 paragraphs, MLA format)	Langan: Relationships II Nist: Ch. 11
Mar. 6	Nist: Ch. 11 Final Check, p. 71	Langan: Relationships II Nist: Ch. 12
Mar. 8	Langan: pp. 263-282 Nist: Ch. 12 Final Check, p. 75	Langan: Inferences Nist: Ch. 13
Mar. 13	Nist: Ch. 13 Final Check, p. 79	Langan: Inferences Nist: Ch. 14
Mar. 15	Nist: Ch. 14 Final Check, p. 83	Langan: Inferences Nist: Ch. 15
Mar. 19-23	Lab Week: NO CLASS	

Mar. 27	Langan: pp. 317-328 Nist: Ch. 15 Final Review, p. 87	Langan: Relationships Review Nist: Vocabulary Review
Mar. 29	Potluck Palooza: NO CLASS	
Apr. 3	Langan: Reading 1, pp. 459-467. Turn in questions 1-15 and the summarizing exercise, pp. 467-472. Nist: Unit 3 Review Test 1, pp. 89-90	EXAM 3 over Langan Ch. 6-7 and Nist Unit 3
April 5	Spring/Easter Break: NO CLASS	
April 10	Esther: 1-3 paragraphs, explaining how the message of the book can be applied to life. (MLA format)	Langan: Purpose and Tone Nist: Ch. 16
April 12	Nist: Ch. 16 Final Check, p. 101	Langan: Purpose and Tone Nist: Ch. 17
April 17	Langan: pp. 359-370 Nist: Ch. 17 Final Check, p. 105	Langan: Argument Nist: Ch. 18
April 19	Nist: Ch. 18 Final Check, p. 109	Langan: Argument Nist: Ch. 19
April 24	Langan: pp. 399-410 Nist: Ch. 19 Final Check, p. 113	Langan: Critical Reading Nist: Ch. 20
April 26	Langan: 445-456 Nist: Ch. 20 Final Check, p. 117, Unit 4, Test 1 pp. 119-120	Langan: Critical Reading Nelson-Denny Post-test
May 1-3	FINAL EXAM—day and time to be announced.	

RESOURCES:

Internet Public Library

www.ipl.org

Dictionary of the English Language

www.bartleby.com/61

St. Louis Christian College

www.slconline.edu

Bible Gateway

www.biblegateway.com

Vocabulary game

www.freerice.com

Adler, Mortimer, and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book*. New York: MJF Books, 1972.

Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. New York: Harper Collins, 2003.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Courtesy and a positive regard for the learning of others is expected at all times.
2. You may not use cell phones, Blackberries, MP3 players, Gameboys, etc. in class. Cell phones must be either off or turned to "vibrate". Laptop computers are not necessary in this class and require either the instructor's permission or must be a necessary accommodation for your disability.
3. Text messaging, social networking, or computer games during class are not allowed.
4. All work must be turned in by the *beginning* of the final exam. No work will be accepted after the final begins.
5. No extra credit will be assigned or accepted.
6. No food or drink is permitted in the classroom.
7. Sleeping in class is done at your own risk.
8. **Violating policies 1-7 will result in dismissal from that day's class. A second violation will be reported to the Dean of Students and the Academic Dean.**
9. All documents not distributed in class will be put in the student's SLCC mailbox.
10. E-mail sent to Mrs. Perrey will be answered in a timely manner—usually within 24 hours, but not on weekends.
11. If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please present your documentation to Professor Karen Duffy (kduffy@slconline.edu, ext. 1521). She can help you with the necessary accommodations. No accommodations can be granted without Prof. Duffy's recommendation.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Alice Perrey

Office: downstairs under Room 102, 2nd door on the left

Office hours: Monday: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 Wednesday and Friday: 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Phone: (314) 837-6777, extension 1515; cell: (636) 395-0607 (either text or voice)

e-mail: aperrey@slcconline.edu