

English 163: Techniques of College Reading
Ohlone College | Prof. Alison Kuehner
Sp. 2012 | MW 9:15-10:50 | Rm. 2201

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Office Hours: Mon 11-12; Tues/Th 10:30-11:30

English Learning Center Hours: Wed. 11-12:30

Books

For the course, you will be using a textbook developed by your professor called The Savvy Reader: Strategies for College Readers. The book, a collection of reading units, can be purchased only through the college bookstore. It includes all the readings you will need for the class, as well as homework exercises and advice about how to improve your reading skills.

- The Savvy Reader: Strategies for College Readers, Kuehner

Course Description

This class is designed to give you strategies and skills to read effectively for your college classes. We will work on techniques to help you understand and remember what you read when you read college textbooks. You will learn how to research a topic, including strategies for locating readings, ways to evaluate articles and authors, compare, contrast and synthesize information from various sources. You will learn how to read new, complex, and challenging material, as well as read and locate academic information online. The goal of this course is for you to become a more confident reader, prepared for any reading task you will encounter in college.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Determine the stated or implied thesis, and understand the organizational pattern in various readings such as essays, newspaper and magazine articles, textbooks, short novels or nonfiction works.
2. Demonstrate critical reading and critical thinking ability by analyzing articles, selections, and essays; making inferences; drawing comparison and contrasts; determining bias, tone, and purpose; separating fact from opinion; formulating conclusions; and making evaluations.
3. Synthesize reading information by means of discussion and writing.
4. Develop college-level academic vocabulary and understand how to use context clues,

- word analysis, and dictionary skills to determine the meaning of new words.
5. Apply study skills by taking careful notes, using strategies for remembering and concentrating, and developing an effective system for studying and text materials, such as outlining and summarizing.
 6. Develop a faster reading rate and use flexible reading skills, such as skimming and scanning.

Course Work

- **Classwork:** Class time will be spent discussing the reading, writing, and homework assignments.
- **Homework:** You should plan to spend about 6 hours each week doing homework for this class: 3 hours of reading and homework for class and 3 hours of lab work. Homework assignments will be listed on the syllabus under "Reading Due" and "Homework Due." Homework should be typed or computer printed. You must turn in homework assignments on the day they are due to receive full credit. Late homework will lose one point.

Homework will be evaluated and awarded points based on the following criteria:

- ✓+ (**5 pts.**) = Homework is complete and well written. All answers are correct or have been corrected properly.
- ✓ (**4 pts.**) = Homework is complete and clearly written. Most answers are correct or have been corrected properly.
- ✓- (**3 pts.**) = Homework may be incomplete or poorly written. Some answers are not correct or have not been corrected.
- 0 (**0 pts.**) = Homework may be incomplete, unreadable, or answers suggest a serious lack of understanding of the material.

NOTE: Late homework will be accepted and “graded” using the check system, but will lose one point for being late. In other words, a late assignment that receives a Check Plus would only earn 4 points, not 5.

- **Tests:** After each unit in the class, you will have some sort of “test.” A test maybe a written test or a research paper or a set of study strategies you have created. If you keep up with the reading and the work in the class, and understand the material, you should do well on tests. If you are absent the day of a test, you must be prepared to take the test the day you return, during the instructor’s office hours.

Reading Lab in the English Learning Center

In addition to class work, you are required to complete reading activities outside of class. You will complete three lab programs, each with multiple assignments. You can download these assignments from the English Learning Center website or complete them online—see link below.

English 163 ELC Component: <http://www.ohlone.edu/instr/english/elc/engl163/>

Plan to spend about 2-3 hours per week on lab assignments. In the beginning of the semester, you will be given a tour of the English Learning Center and an orientation to the programs.

Class Attendance

It is necessary to attend class so you can fully understand assignments. If you miss more than **6 classes**, you will probably not receive credit for the course. Missing class is not an excuse for coming unprepared or for not doing work. Check the syllabus to keep up with class work. It is your responsibility to withdraw if you feel you are unable to complete the course. The instructor, however, reserves the right to withdraw a student who misses too many classes or assignments.

Extra Help

If you feel you are not doing as well as you would like to in this class or you need extra help understanding the reading or writing assignments, help is available to you. You can do the following:

- Request a tutor. Tutors are students who have successfully passed English classes at Ohlone College and are trained to help other students with reading and writing. You can arrange to work with a tutor for one hour per week at your convenience. This service is free. Go to the English Learning Center to request a tutor.
- Visit the English Learning Center for drop-in tutoring. You can request help for a reading or writing assignment at the front desk; tutors are often available on a drop-in basis. Or consult with the English professor on duty at the table.
- See the instructor during office or English Learning Center hours.

Grading

Tests:	70%
Reading Lab Work:	25%
Class work and Homework:	5%

Academic Honesty

Any student who violates the Ohlone College District Policy on Academic Honesty (reprinted below) by cheating or plagiarizing will fail the assignment or the class, and have a letter placed in his or her academic record.

As a student at Ohlone College, you are expected to pursue your course work with integrity and honesty. Academic dishonesty occurs when a student attempts to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill, which he or she does not possess. The two most common kinds of academic dishonesty are "Cheating" and "Plagiarism." Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent means. Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty and for consulting with instructors about questions or concerns.

