

Reading for the Regents' Test 0198 Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Cassie Race
Office hours: By appointment
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Texts:

A good, up to date dictionary! You will enjoy having a thesaurus as well.

Materials needed:

One package (ream), 500 sheets, of standard white copy paper (**IMPORTANT!**)
Writing utensils and notebook paper, or a spiral binder.
Highlighter pen, any color, for annotating and marking text.
A pocket folder for keeping all of your work for this class
A small notebook of your choice for your vocabulary journal.

Course Objectives:

- *To pass the Regents' Reading Exam on your next attempt!*
- To gain a better understanding of the reading process and build reading strategies and skills.
- To learn vocabulary-enhancing strategies that will benefit you throughout your academic and personal life.
- To enjoy sharing as a member of a literacy community

Learning Outcomes: In this course, you will:

- Study and review the four major aspects of reading that are tested on the Regents' Reading exam: Vocabulary, Literal Comprehension, Inferential Comprehension, and Analysis.
- Study various texts provided by the instructor and other students for analysis and discussion.
- Practice taking sample Regents' Reading tests to become proficient in pacing and timing.

Class Activities:

In essence, this is a reading class, so most our activities will revolve around reading. You will read not just from practice test items, but from a variety of texts that the teacher will provide, In addition, you will be encouraged to read widely outside of class...the actual practice of reading is the best thing you can do to prepare yourself for exams such as the Regents'. Mark Twain is given credit for the statement, "the man who does not read good books has no advantage over

the man who cannot read them,” and I believe it is true! A reading and vocabulary journal will help you reflect and keep track of your reading. As well, we will spend class time in instruction and practice of reading skills and strategies, test taking strategies, and vocabulary building skills. (If you are also enrolled in the writing class, your vocabulary journal may do double duty).

Individual Conferences: At least one is required, to discuss your progress, give you feedback, and answer your questions about your reading. I am also available to you for individual help by appointment...let me know while there is plenty of time to solve any problems you may be having. Fridays are specifically designated as time for individual assistant and small group study sessions.

Attendance: Your attendance and participation are the keys to your success in preparing for the Regent’s Reading Exam. You will benefit from the experience only if you are here, and the other students in the class value your role as a participant. I know that things happen, so I will allow you 3 absences from class, but after 3, *you may not be eligible to take the reading exam*. I also expect you to keep up with the assignments listed in your syllabus. I will post a calendar on Vista as an additional resource for you.

Being on time is also important. In a short class period; late arrivals are disruptive. 3 tardies will be counted as one absence.

The ATTIC (Advising, Tutoring, Testing, International Student Center) in J210 may be your port in a storm. It is a great place to get additional help academically, and I may ask you to do some extra work there if you are having difficulties in areas that aren’t addressed by our class meetings. Drop in or call 678-915-7361 for information.

Students with Disabilities: If you believe that you may need accommodations in this class or for testing, you should immediately contact the counselor working with disabilities at 678-915-7361 as well as discuss them with the teacher. Do not wait until the last minute, as you want to make sure that you receive any accommodations for which you qualify.

Course Grades: You will receive an S (Satisfactory, passing) or a U (Unsatisfactory, failing) for this course based on whether or not you pass the Regents’ Exam. Your participation in the class is in your best interest to help you prepare for and pass the exam. Individual assignments and homework assignments are not “graded” but will receive feedback from the instructor and peers to assist you. **In order for you to take the Regent’s exam at the end of the course, you must demonstrate satisfactory participation and progress. You will not be allowed to test without my approval.**

Odds and ends from your teacher:

- Please turn off cell phones before you enter class. If you have a real emergency and must be in contact, please let me know your situation.
- Remember that the Regents' testing program has different rules for different groups of students. If you feel that you are eligible for any kind of special consideration, you must let me know *as soon as possible* or contact the counseling center.
- If you are a student whose first language is not English, allow me to provide you with a booklet that is a guide for ESL students.
- My favorite thing in the whole world is to assist students with reading and writing, and I have many years of experience doing so. My job here is to help you pass the Regents' exam, but I will also enjoy helping you become a stronger reader and writer. Do not hesitate to let me know how I can help.
- Please do not come to class to sleep or work on other homework...your simple presence does not constitute satisfactory performance, and most of us construe such activities as rude and unacceptable.