

COMPREHENSIVE COURSE GUIDE

Spring 2008

(Revised 12-5-07)

Course Department and Number: RGTR 0198

Title: Regents' Reading Skills

Credit Hours: 2* (Institutional)

Contact Hours: 30 hours before Regents' Test

Course Description: The Regents' Reading Skills course is intended to ensure that all graduates of USG institutions possess certain minimum skills in reading comprehension. Students work on improving their comprehension of material drawn from a variety of subject areas (social science, natural science and humanities) with various modes of discourse (exposition, narration and argumentation). Critical thinking and the following four major aspects of reading are emphasized: vocabulary in context, inferential and literal comprehension, and analysis.

Prerequisite: Failure of the reading portion of the Regents' Test or those who want structured preparation for the Regents' Test

Frequency of Offering: All semesters

Required Texts: Assigned by instructors from a departmentally approved list. Check with your instructor before purchasing your textbooks.

Supplemental Reading Materials: Lab (some online classes do not have mandatory lab requirements) materials assigned by the instructor.

Course Objectives:

- I. Each student will demonstrate the following reading skills in college-level reading materials:
 - A. Vocabulary Skills
 1. Identify the meaning of a word by using context clues
 2. Identify the meaning of a word by using knowledge of affixes
 - B. Literal Comprehension Skills
 1. Recognize facts and details explicitly stated in a reading selection
 2. Identify time and order, likenesses and differences, and cause-effect relationships explicitly stated in a reading selection
 3. Use sentence components to determine facts and ideas explicitly stated in a reading selection
 - C. Inferential Comprehension
 1. Recognize main idea

2. Use inductive reasoning to recognize implied conclusions, generalizations, and summaries of ideas, as well as likenesses and differences, spatial relationships, time order, and cause-effect relationships
3. Use deductive reasoning to apply one or more ideas presented in a reading selection to a situation not referred to in the reading selection
4. Recognize author's beliefs and assumptions about a subject discussed in a reading selection
5. Interpret figurative language or other language used to convey an idea, the meaning of which goes beyond a mere paraphrase of the author's language

D. Analytical Comprehension

1. Identify literary devices, including the author's means of development, in a reading selection
2. Identify the author's tone toward him/herself, the reader, and/or the subject of a reading selection
3. Recognize the difference between fact and opinion statements
4. Identify the author's purpose in writing a reading selection
5. Identify the functional relation between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs in a reading selection

- II. Each student will apply skills listed in Section I to reading materials from textbooks, literary works, magazines, newspapers, and other writings treating topics drawn from various subject areas.
- III. Each student will practice test-taking skills appropriate for the Regents' Test by taking a minimum of two Mock Regents' tests.
- IV. Each student will achieve at least a minimum passing score on the reading portion of the Regents' Test.

Minimum Procedural Requirements:

- I. Each student will complete an individualized program of reading designed by the instructor, including work in the social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, and humanities.
- II. Materials in the students' individual programs may include the following:
 - A. Reading Tactics
 - B. SRA
 - C. 100 Passages to Develop Reading Comprehension
 - D. Reading for Understanding Kits
 - E. Computer-assisted programs

Policies:

- I. Attendance - A student must complete 30 hours of reading instruction prior to the Regents' Test to be eligible for referral. Absence greater than the equivalent of two 50-minute periods is excessive.

NOTE: Excessive absences are reported to the registrar and to the various agencies administering financial aid. These absences can result in disruption or loss of financial support unless work is completed to the instructor's satisfaction. **Under certain circumstances the instructor may refuse to accept make-up work.**

- II. Federal Financial Aid For Students With Learning Support Requirements – A limited amount of remedial coursework in the student's enrollment status may be counted for financial aid purposes. A student may receive federal aid for up to one academic year of remedial classes. One academic year consists of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of remedial coursework.
- III. Make-Up Work - Students who miss instruction time or an assignment will receive a grade of 0. Students may complete a substitute for the instruction, if one is available, and complete missed assignments at the discretion of the instructor.
- IV. Testing Under Special Conditions - Written requests for consideration of physical or emotional problems that would interfere with test performance, as verified by the instructor and a Darton counselor and approved by the division chair, will be directed to the test administrator. Students are responsible for making such requests far enough in advance of the administration of the test to give the test administrator adequate time to respond appropriately to the request. Emergencies will be addressed case by case.
- V. Disability Accommodations - In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Darton College will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Students must self disclose their disability to the office of Disability Services before academic accommodations can be implemented.
- VI. Electronic Devices - It is the individual student's responsibility to silence the ringer of his or her cell phone, beeper, or any other device before entering a class (including guest lectures and performances/recitals). The production of any audible alert by these devices when a class is in session is considered disruptive classroom behavior. The instructor may take appropriate actions to curb such disruption in accordance with the College's Policies of Disruptive and Obstructive Behavior under Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.
- VII. Methods of Evaluation - Students will be eligible to take the Regents' Test

when they have fulfilled the following criteria:

- A. Completion of all homework and all assignments by the class period before the administration of the Regents' Test.
- B. Fulfillment of the attendance policy.
- C. Satisfactory minimum raw score on exit tests. Testing instruments used will be determined by the instructor.

VIII. Referral for Testing - Students who have failed both portions of the Regents' Test must enroll in remediation courses in both areas. They do not, however, have to take both parts of the test at the same time.

Students who have not passed the reading portion of the Regents' Test cannot take the Regents' Test reading section until they consistently read at the Regents' Test level in RGTR 0198.

All students enrolled in RGTR 0198 must complete course requirements and receive the RGTR 0198 instructor's referral in order to take the reading portion of the Regents' Test.

The referral is good for that one semester only. Students who do not pass the reading portion of the Regents' Test during the semester of referral must repeat RGTR 0198 and be referred again to take the test.

IX. Course Grades

S The student passed the Regents' Reading Test.

U The student did not pass the Regents' Reading Test.

X. Individual Conferences - Institutional responsibilities often call instructors out of their offices - even during posted office hours. Students are encouraged to schedule conferences with the instructor as needed.

XI. All students enrolled in RGTR 0198 must continue to re-enroll in the course until successfully passing the reading portion of the test. Students should enroll during advising week of the current term for the next term. When the test scores are received, usually at the end of the term, students who have passed the reading portion of the test may withdraw from RGTR 0198.