

**OHLONE COLLEGE**  
**ENGLISH 163 – Techniques of College Reading**  
**Fall 2015**

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**TEXTS:**

Mather & McCarthy	<u>Reading and All That Jazz</u> 6 <sup>th</sup> ed.
Dubus III, Andre	<u>The House of Sand and Fog</u> (Novel)
Nist, Sherrie	<u>Advancing Vocabulary Skills</u> 4 <sup>th</sup> ed. Short Version

**Lab Work URL:** <http://www.ohlone.edu/instr/english/elc/engl163/>

**OBJECTIVE:**

The purpose of this course is to develop college-level skills in vocabulary, comprehension, critical reading and thinking, study strategies, and reading rate.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The student will:

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.

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Earning an associate degree or certificate from Ohlone can increase your likelihood of getting hired for a new job, increase your earning potential as an employee, and decrease your chance of being unemployed. Ohlone has almost 200 associate degrees and certificates from which you can choose—ranging from Certificates of Accomplishment (7+ units) to an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science with 60+ units. See a counselor and go online to consider available degrees and certificates.

<http://www.ohlone.edu/catalog/20112012/cat058-113-curriculumguides.pdf>

## ASSIGNMENTS:

### *Class work & Homework*

Homework assignments will be handed out in class. Homework assignments must be done **before** class begins and are due on the specified date. Most assignments will be discussed and corrected during class. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Students who have been absent must turn in their assignments one class meeting after their return. **Write “absent” on your work.** I use a class calendar for assignments and due dates.

You will be required to dedicate a lot of out-of-class hours doing extra reading and completing assignments.

### *Recreational Reading*

Recreational reading (for the purpose of this class) refers to novels and other readings of personal interest to you. This is very important in the development of comprehension skills, vocabulary and reading fluency. You should be reading something that you enjoy.

## TESTS AND QUIZZES:

Make-up tests must be arranged with the Instructor the day you return from an absence. **You may make up only one missed test. No make-ups will be given on vocabulary tests and quizzes. Repeat: No make-ups on Vocabulary.**

## GRADING:

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Tests and Quizzes	40% (Vocab, RATZ, HSF)
Class work & Homework	10% (including HSF worksheets)
Attendance & Participation	10% (presentation included)
Lab Work	25%
Final Exam	15%

The following grade scale is used:

90% -- 100%	= A
80% -- 89%	= B
70% -- 79%	= C
60% -- 69%	= D
0% -- 59%	= F

Students must average 70% or better on their test scores, quizzes, and final exam in order to demonstrate reading proficiency and to receive a grade of **C** or better in the class. Once the 70% is achieved, your class work, homework, attendance and participation, and lab work grades will be added to determine your final grade.

## ATTENDANCE & ETIQUETTE:

Because most of the skill building activities for the development of good reading skills must be done during class hours, class attendance is essential. **BE ON TIME.** Since this is a college course, students are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

### **Attendance:**

To succeed in this class, your regular attendance and participation is necessary. Your thoughts and insights are important because they provide different perspectives. Also, to become better readers, it is necessary to practice reading. ***If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the assignments.*** For your information, **more than 4 absences will result in dropping one letter grade. Excessive absences (6 or more) will result in a failing grade. Sick with a doctor’s note count towards your 4 free absences.**

Coming to class late is disruptive, so you should plan on being in class at least five minutes before the beginning. **LATE will be counted as absent. If you come in late during a quiz or test, you will not be allowed to take that quiz or test.** Part of your classroom grade will be based on your attendance when roll is taken at the beginning of class. When I am done with roll, I will not go back to it. **No credit will be given if you are not on time.** Any form of disturbance that interferes with learning in the classroom **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

Review the Fall 2015 Schedule of Classes or consult the Admissions and Records office for all dates regarding withdrawals. ***I will not withdraw any student from the class; therefore, it is your responsibility to meet any drop/ withdrawal dates. I will drop disruptive and habitually absent students.***

The following are some deadlines you must be aware of:

September 13 deadline to drop a class and receive a refund

September 13 deadline to drop a class without a grade

November 19 deadline to drop a class and receive a “W” (withdrawal)

### **English Learning Center (ELC/Reading Lab)**

You are required to complete a set amount of Reading Lab work for this course. **Failure to do this lab work will result in a failing grade.** You can proceed through the lab work as rapidly as you can, but you must put thought and effort in your work. Your lab work is available online at the URL provided in this syllabus. In addition to the ELC staff, reading instructors are also scheduled to work in the ELC to assist you with questions you may have about reading. There will be a detailed orientation to the Reading Lab given by your instructor.

### **Here are some very important things to pay attention to:**

1. When you are assigned a reading, please DO NOT come to class without reading.
2. All written assignments should be done in its entirety. Half-hearted attempts will not receive any credit. If a question has a few parts, answer all the parts. **Staple all work; I will not collect nor give credit for any unstapled and incomplete work.**
3. Make-up homework or tests are to be made up as soon as possible. I do not allow late make-ups of any sort. **You are allowed only ONE make-up test from RATZ and the Novel. No make-ups from the *Advancing Vocabulary Skills* text.**
4. Part of your college experience is to learn to respect time. I DO NOT LIKE people coming to my class late. **If you come late during a quiz or test, you will not be allowed to take the quiz or test.** Success in life (work, relationships, family, etc.) comes to those who respect time and do things in a timely manner. Our goal here at Ohlone is to model real-life challenges you are likely to face beyond college. One way to do this is to help you manage your time.
5. Leaving early: I dislike people leaving my class early. You have made a commitment to spend a fixed amount of time with me; I will hold you to that commitment **If you leave early, you will be marked absent and no credit will be given for any assignment or quiz done in class.** For extreme emergencies, you should make prior arrangements with me. **NO LAST MINUTE NOTICES!**
6. **I HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING OF ANY TYPE IN MY COURSE.** Plagiarism is also considered a form of cheating. If you are caught cheating in this course, you will receive no credit for your work, dropped from the course, and reported to the VP of Student Services for disciplinary action.
7. Technology: We will be using a certain amount of technology in this course. We will be using laptops/desktops/mobile devices for certain activities. If you have your own laptop, you can bring it to class. Remember, when using technology in the classroom, it is for the prescribed academic purpose only.

They should NOT be used for personal emails, social-networking sites, or other inappropriate or unapproved content. You will use the computers when asked to do so for class-related work.

8. All electronic items should be turned off before class begins. If your phone rings by accident, TURN IT OFF. Do not look to see whose calling or do not answer your phone; it is very rude. Your class is one of the most important events of your life. **Put your phone out of sight.** If you see your phone anywhere (in your hand, on the desk, on the floor, etc.), I will take it away. It will affect your participation grade negatively.
9. Listen, Listen, and Listen! It is imperative that you listen and pay attention. It is VERY RUDE to talk when I am talking or when a classmate is trying to contribute to the class. Besides, it doesn't help your participation grade.

## Course Outline – English 163

<b>Textbooks:</b>	<b>Reading and All That Jazz</b> <b>Advancing Vocabulary Skills</b> <b>House of Sand and Fog</b>	<b>RATZ</b> <b>AVS</b> <b>HSF</b>
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<u>Week</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Text</u>
1	Introductions, Testing, Syllabus Chs. 1&2 Worksheets How We Learn: Finding out about Ourselves Ch.1	AVS RATZ
2	Topics, Main Ideas, Details Ch. 2 Chs. 1&2 Quiz Chs. 3&4 Worksheets Introduction to the Novel	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
3	Chapter 2- Implied Main Idea Ch. 5 Worksheet Chs. 3&4 Quiz Chs.1-5 Quiz (House of Sand and Fog)	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
4	Chapters 3&7 Purpose & Tone Chs. 6&7 Worksheets Unit 1 Quiz (Chs. 1-5) Chs. 6-10	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
5	Chapter 4 Patterns of Organization Chs. 8&9 Worksheets Chs. 6&7 Quiz Chs. 11-15	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
6	Chapter 5 Inference Ch. 10 Worksheet Chs. 8&9 Quiz Chs. 16-20 (Quiz)	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
7	Chapter 6 Figurative Language Chs. 11&12 Worksheets Unit 2 Quiz (Chs. 6-10) Chs. 21-25	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
8	Chs. 13&14 Worksheet Chs. 11&12 Quiz Chs. 26-30	AVS AVS HSF
9	Chapter Ch. 10 Fact and Opinion Ch. 15 Worksheet Chs. 13&14 Quiz Chs. 31-35	RATZ AVS AVS HSF

10	Chapter 11 Bias Chs. 16&17 Worksheets Unit 3 Quiz (Chs. 11-15) Chs. 36-40	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
11	Chapter 13 Evaluating the Evidence Chs. 18&19 Worksheets Chs. 16&17 Quiz Chs. 41-45	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
12	Chapter 13 – continued Ch. 20 Worksheet Chs. 18&19 Quiz Chs. 46-54 (Take-home Quiz Due)	RATZ AVS AVS HSF
13	Ch. 14 Skimming/scanning & Outlining Unit 4 Quiz (Chs. 16-20) Chs.51-54	RATZ AVS HSF
14	Ch. 14 Visual Aids (Reading Tables/charts/graphs Critical Reading/Thinking Presentations Movie	RATZ  HSF
15	Critical Reading/Thinking Presentations Movie Review	  HSF
16	Catch up and Review	

**FINAL Exam:** 163-06 Friday, December 18, 2015 9:30a.m. – 11:30a.m.

*Buy enough scantrons for different quizzes in this course. If you do not have scantrons, you will not be allowed to take the test.*

\* Note: This course outline is subject to change as the semester progresses. Extra reading taken from the textbook and other relevant sources will be added. I always keep the Wiki calendar and notes updated, so it is a good place to go to know what is going on in this course.