

**BLINN COLLEGE---BRYAN CAMPUS**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**  
**Reading 0306: Section A2, A8 and A9**  
**FALL 2009**

**Instructor's name:** Essie Childers  
**Office number:** L217  
**Office telephone:** 979-209-7360  
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**Office hours:** MW (12-1:15pm)  
TR (11-11:50am; 2-4pm)

**Course description:**

READ 0306 is designed to prepare students to read college texts. Emphasis is placed on learning and applying study-reading strategies essential to success in academic courses. The course offers a multimedia learning experience as well as whole group and small group interactive instruction.

**Prerequisites for the course:**

Appropriate scores on the THEA or alternative test or successful completion (C or better) of READ 0305 or ESOL 0335 with a grade of "C" or better are the course prerequisites. Three class hours and two laboratory hours per week are required. Credit: Three semester hours (non-transferrable)

**Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:**

After studying the material presented in this course of study, the student is expected to do the following:

- Analyze college-level passages to identify the topic, main idea and central point
- Identify supporting details
- Distinguish between major and minor supporting details
- Select the pattern of organization
- Distinguish before, during and after reading strategies to enhance comprehension and recall of textbook information
- Underline and annotate textbooks effectively
- Construct study aids and write summaries to enhance recall of expository text
- Identify textbook features that enhance comprehension
- Examine a variety of passages in order to determine the most logical inferences
- Determine the author's purpose and tone in a variety of readings
- Evaluate the validity of an argument based on fact and opinion, bias and logical support

**Required textbooks, supplies, and materials:**

Mather, Peter and Rita McCarthy, *The Art of Critical Reading*, The McGraw Hill Companies, 2007. (Students cannot pass reading without this book)

**One**-Flash Drive, Standard College-level dictionary (Optional)

**One**, 1 inch Three-ring binder/**One** pack of dividers

**Three** highlighters (blue, pink, yellow), **One** pack of 3 x 5 ruled index cards

**4** Scantrons-**Form 886-E** (Mini Essay Book)

**Tentative Semester Schedule:** A detailed calendar of assignments (see Course Schedule) is attached at the end of this handout.

**Course Requirements:**

**Major Tests (500 Points)**

Students will demonstrate mastery of the reading objectives on five exams spaced evenly throughout the semester (including the final exam). A pre test (course inventory) will be given at the beginning of the course. A post test will be given at the end of the course. Attendance, participation and doing your homework will enhance your performance on these tests. However, you still have to study in order to do well. **I do not drop any major tests.**

**Lab/Participation (200 Points)**

Participation points will consist of homework, unannounced quizzes, readings (online and in class), *Ethan Frome* Novel Pak, and Vocabulary Units. Students **are required** to work in the lab 2 hours per week. You will be counted 1/2 absence for missing lab. It is not an option. Students will have assignments to enhance their understanding of the lecture or class activity. I will take attendance at every session.

**Novel Project (200 Points)**

Students will have an opportunity to enhance their critical thinking skills, practice strategies and increase their sense of self-efficacy by reading a novel. This novel cost is free to the student. However, if lost, there will be a **replacement fee of \$5**. Engaging activities will include the following: constructing Venn diagrams, WebQuests, questions using Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, contextual clues, character analysis, mapping, cause and effect, predicting outcomes and other activities. See Novel Packet for more information. Each student will make a presentation to show their understanding of the novel. See Novel Packet for guidelines and presentation dates.

**Entry Journals (100 Points)**

Students will be required to submit five, one-page typed journal (see Course Schedule for topics). To receive full credit, all journal entries must be typed (see example on page 10) and turned in at the beginning of the period. Each journal entry is worth 20 points (100 total points). Students are highly encouraged to visit the Writing Center to receive tips on writing their journal. E-mailed journals or journals sent by a classmate, or relative will not be accepted.

**Grading Rubric for Entry Journals:**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Off Course--<br>Journal Entry did not fully address question or statement...too short...too many fragments... | Taking a side road—Journal Entry is complete, but lack clarity and depth...sentences are unclear... | On Course—<br>Journal Entry question or statement is answered completely with paragraph unity and clarity... |
| 0-12 points   | 13-16 points  | 17-20 points   |

**Grading Criteria:**

Your grade is based on 1,000 Points. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

A = 900-1000                      B = 800-899                      C =700-799                      D = 600-699

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Major Exams (5).....     | 500 points          |
| Lab/Participation.....   | 200 points          |
| Novel Project.....       | 200 points          |
| Entry Journals.....      | 100 points          |
| <b>Total Points.....</b> | <b>1,000 points</b> |



**I do not drop any grades.** Students are strongly encouraged to do extra credit work. See the Course Schedule for more information on extra credit work.

| Major Testing Dates |  |   |   |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Test No.            | MWF 10am Class                               | TR 12 noon Class                                | TR 4:15pm Class                               |
| 1                   | September 18 <sup>th</sup>                   | September 17 <sup>th</sup>                      | September 17 <sup>th</sup>                    |
| 2                   | October 9 <sup>th</sup>                      | October 8 <sup>th</sup>                         | October 8 <sup>th</sup>                       |
| 3                   | October 30 <sup>th</sup>                     | October 29 <sup>th</sup>                        | October 29 <sup>th</sup>                      |
| 4                   | November 20 <sup>th</sup>                    | November 19 <sup>th</sup>                       | November 19 <sup>th</sup>                     |
| Final Exam*         | Friday<br>December 11, 2009<br>10:15-12:15pm | Wednesday<br>December 16, 2009<br>10:15-12:15pm | Wednesday<br>December 16, 2009<br>3:15-5:15pm |

**\*Please plan to take the Final Exam at this time as no early or late exams will be given.**

## ***BLINN COLLEGE POLICIES***

**Attendance Policy** The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students place themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster, through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail (every student now has a Blinn College email address to which these notices will be sent) by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. If the student accumulates a total of two weeks' worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class. Religious Holy Days: In accordance with House Bill 256, passed by the 78<sup>th</sup> legislature in 2003, Blinn College shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this section of Texas Education Code Section 51.911 (b) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. The effective date of this policy was September 1, 2003. Documentation is required.

**Excused Absences:** The only excused absences are those relating to an activity sponsored by Blinn College, observance of religious holy days, and military service. Absences for religious reasons must be revealed before the planned absence with documentation. Please refer to page 70 in your Blinn College Catalog for further explanation of excused absences. For students receiving Title IV Financial Aid, attendance in class is mandatory. Students who are found not attending may have the aid removed.

**Disability accommodations:** Students with documented disabilities may seek support from Blinn College's Office of Disability Services (209-7251). Accommodations are not retroactive. Students are encouraged to contact this office as early as possible to initiate services. The student must then discuss requested accommodations with the instructor, and agreement must be reached between student and instructor.

**Scholastic Integrity Policy:** Blinn instructors are responsible for maintaining scholastic integrity by refusing to tolerate any form of scholastic dishonesty. According to the *Blinn College Student Handbook*, violations of the Scholastic Integrity Policy "shall include, but not be limited to,

cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.” This handbook defines “plagiarism” as “the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own written work.” Blinn College stipulates that “collusion” is the “unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements.” Violations of the scholastic integrity policy may result in a “penalty ranging from a grade of zero on the assignment/examination up to and including the imposition on a F for the entire course.”

**Civility in the classroom:** Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff, and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

*If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student **may not return** to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for this conference.*

**Personal Electronic Devices:** All the functions of all **personal electronic devices** designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) **must be turned off and kept out of sight** in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy). Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating will have consequences in accordance with the Blinn College policy section regarding academic dishonesty. Students exempted from this policy include active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only. Any student violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with *Student Handbook*.

**W/WF/WP Grades:** Students who drop, or withdraw from, a course prior to the official drop deadline receive a grade of W. If they drop after this deadline, they automatically receive a grade of WF. If their work is passing on the day they drop, the instructor may change this WF to a WP by submitting a grade change form to the Division Chair.

**Incomplete policy:** A grade of “I” may be given only in emergencies, such as the serious illness of the student or a close family member. This grade is not for students who fall behind in their work. To receive a grade of incomplete the student must have satisfactorily completed all but one or two of the final requirements of the course.

The instructor and student must agree on this grade before it can be assigned, then a course completion contract must be signed by student, instructor, and division chair. All work must be made up within 90 days of signing the course completion contract, or zeroes will be assigned for the uncompleted work.

**Student e-mail accounts:** Every Blinn College student is assigned an email account to facilitate official College correspondence. Students must activate their accounts initially through the Student E-mail Accounts link at the Blinn home page. Students need to check their Blinn accounts regularly for important communications, including excessive absence reports.

## **HUMANITIES DIVISION POLICIES**

**Mid-term grades:** Although not required by Blinn College, this Division requires that all instructors inform their students in writing of their standing at mid-term of each semester, including summer semesters. Accordingly, you will be notified at mid-term of your grades, and if appropriate, advised how to improve your performance.

**20 % Rule:** Students who miss over 20 percent of the coursework due to absences, excused or unexcused, will not be allowed to make up the work. They miss out on too much of the material/skills taught to successfully make up missed work. Even though students may keep up on the assigned reading, there is no way to make up missed lectures, class discussions, group work, etc., all very important and necessary methods of learning the skills required for this course.

**Papers:** Formal papers are to be submitted on time in two ways: in hard copy and electronically. Papers not submitted in class will be considered late, and the paper grade will be docked ten points per day, including weekends. To submit papers electronically, send them to [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) PRIOR TO the start of class on the day each paper is due. Major essays are not considered turned in until they are submitted to [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) before class AND submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the due date.

**The Writing Center:** The Writing Center is located in A-119 offers tutoring in writing for all students enrolled in Humanities Division classes. The mission of the Writing Center is to make better writers. This is accomplished in a comfortable environment through one-on-one consultations with experienced writing tutors. Tutors help students identify and address writing concerns. Student writers themselves direct each session as tutors guide them through any stage of the writing process, from understanding an assignment to documentation of sources. To set up an appointment, call (979) 209-7591 or visit [www.blinn.edu/brazos/humanities/writingcenter](http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/humanities/writingcenter).

**Printing:** All students have \$15 in their printing account as part of registration.

***No food or drink allowed in Blinn College classrooms***

## MRS. CHILDERS' COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes. I will take attendance from the first day of class until the final exam. It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class he or she is no longer attending. A student who acquires more than the equivalent of two weeks of absences (excused or unexcused) in a developmental course(s) will be administratively withdrawn from the class. There is recourse to appeal this drop. The student may request a form from the Division Chairman, Dr. Nancy Wright in A264.
  - 4 absences in a MW or TR class
  - 6 absences in a MWF class
  - Missing lab=1/2 absence
- **Tardies:** Three tardies equal one absence. A student is tardy if he/she enters class after roll has been checked. Tardy students are responsible for checking with the instructor (after class) to assure the attendance is noted and to discuss the reason for the tardy entrance. You will be counted tardy if you arrive ten minutes late.
- **Late Enrollees:** Students who enter the course after the "beginning date" of the course are subject to the same guidelines and due dates stated in the Course Syllabi and on the Course Schedule.
- **Emergencies:** Most emergencies can be verified by documentation (doctor's note, hospital receipt, accident report, etc.). Students have twenty-four hours to inform me by email or phone message of an emergency to qualify for discussion of possible make up. Documentation is also required and must be submitted the first class meeting after an emergency or before. Regular checkup appointments are NOT emergencies and will be counted as unexcused absences. Any appointment that can be scheduled and is scheduled during class time will be considered **unexcused**. (The instructor reserves the right not to accept an excuse.)

## CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to attend class for the entire period, to be attentive, to participate in class activities, and to be respectful of others. Habitual violations (3) of these policies will be considered a violation of Blinn's civility policy and will be dealt with accordingly. Please review Blinn's Civility Policy stated above. Offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Leaving class without an instructor's formal dismissal. Students should be prepared to stay in class during its entirety unless an emergency occurs. Attend to restroom needs before or after class. Remember you are in a college environment.
- Using cell phones, ear phones, or other electronic devices without permission. Students are to avoid texting in class, checking messages or receiving phone calls.
- Talking while the instructor is talking, sleeping, doing homework for other classes or other students. Comments in class must be professional and academic. Profanity is not permitted.
- Coming to class inappropriately dressed. Undergarments must be covered by outer garments at all times.
- Bringing children, visitors, or pets to class without permission.
- Having combs, picks, or other objects projecting from the hair to distract from the teaching process.
- Wearing sunglasses in class.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKEUP WORK

- Excused absences cover **emergency** situations (medical emergency, death in the immediate family). Students must provide a written explanation and adequate proof of the emergency in order to make up a major exam.
- **Extra Credit:** Students will be given opportunities for extra credit during the semester through the completion of Vocabulary Units (see Course Schedule). Completing the Vocabulary Units will help students to enrich their college vocabulary and improve their comprehension. Each opportunity carries a due date. Once the due date has passed, that extra credit opportunity is gone. Students will receive time in lab to work on the Vocabulary Units. NO extra credit is offered at the end of the semester.
- Students are given a daily plan of all assignments for the semester (see assignment calendar). Therefore, **all students** are responsible for **all assignments** whether they attend class or not. I do not accept incomplete assignments.
- To encourage students to develop academic behaviors for college success, **I reserve the right to accept or offer makeup work after evaluating documentation for an absence.**
- Pop quizzes, group work, or other work done in class is NOT eligible for makeup.

## **Read 0306-Attached Lab**

All students enrolled in Reading 0306 are required to work in the lab 2 hours a week. Our lab will take place directly after class. Attendance is mandatory. If you skip lab, you will be counted absent from lab (.5 absence). This absence will be added to your class absence (s). So, it is unwise to skip lab. The following activities will count toward your participation grade:

- Quizzes from course website or textbook
- Novel assignments
- Internet assignments from textbook
- Newsweek activities
- Vocabulary Units
- Test review assignments
- Readings (text or online)
- Other enrichment activities

These activities and others will be completed in lab. If you have any questions or need help, I will be there to help you. There will be times where you will have to complete your assignment outside of class. Use your time wisely.

**Note:** It is my pleasure to be a part of your journey to academic success. This is an exciting time for you. Please feel free to call, e-mail, or come by my office for a visit if you have any questions or concerns about the course. I want you to have a great semester!!!

### **Class Motto**

**“The Desire to Pass is Useless without the Desire to Prepare”**

**~Mrs. Childers~**

# Journal Example

Your Name  
Reading 0306-MWF  
September 15, 2009

## Entrance Journal 1

**Write about what is new in Parkinson's research.**

I am using this space to give you more information about your entrance journals. This is an example of how you will type all of your guided journals. This area must be **double-spaced**. It may help you to write a draft in your spiral notebook before typing your journal. Read over your journal question or statement to make sure you understand the question or statement. Take time to “think” about what you are going to write. Be sure to check for spelling and use correct grammar. The “spell check” feature on your computer will check for misspelled words and for fragments. It **will not** identify incorrect usage of homonyms. Remember the font should be **10 or 12**.

A journal entry is complete if you have followed all directions. Please be honest in your responses. Reading your journals will help me to know you better. I will not comment on every journal but I will read every journal. At various times, you will be asked to share one of your entry journals.

Remember to do your “own” work and use your “own” words. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please refer to the Student Manual regarding the policies and procedures related to dealing with academic dishonesty.

**Please e-mail the statement below “Contract for Academic Success” to Mrs. Childers from your Blinn e-mail account after reading your syllabus. Be sure to type the information shown below in the subject area so I will know who you are.**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Subject: Your First and Last Name-Read0306 MWF or TR</b> |
|---|

### **Contract for Academic Success**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am enrolled in Reading 0306, Fall 2009 Semester. “I” understand that “I” create the grade. “I” am responsible for exhibiting successful behaviors in class and showing respect to others. “I” understand that in order to achieve success, “I” must be in attendance, participate in class, study and make wise choices. “I” also understand that if “I” am having any questions or concerns, “I” must contact the instructor immediately to seek help.

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