

Course: Reading and Vocabulary 5: Analyzing Texts: Reading Successfully in Different Disciplines

Term: Fall 2025 **Office Hours:** By appointment
Instructor: Evrim Dervis **Email:** edervis@noctr.edu
Days and Times: Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday 10:40 am -11:45 am
Location: Business & Entrepreneurship (BE) room #212
Dates: August 20-October 10, 2025

Required Texts and Materials:

- Text: *University Success Reading*, Advanced by Laura Eickhoff, Laurie Frazier, and Maggie Vosters, Lawrence Zwier, Series Editor
<https://northcentralcollege.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/4605723/>
- Supplemental Readings: *Great American Short Stories*
- Folder & Notebook ONLY for reading & vocabulary class
- Calendar for course assignments
- Pens and highlighters for annotations

Course description:

In this course, you will refine your reading and vocabulary skills by reading different genre of texts, including academic book chapters and a short novel. You will practice analyzing and synthesizing texts while practicing extensive and intensive reading skills. You will make critical connections to course texts and continue to develop your knowledge of academic vocabulary. You will reflect on self-monitoring strategies that enable you to adjust to the demands of intensive academic reading.

To pass this course, you should be able to:

1. read and demonstrate understanding of course texts through short answer, reflective writing, multiple-choice, and true false questioning.
2. demonstrate understanding of main ideas and supporting ideas of course texts by writing summaries, and reflections, using appropriate citations.
3. identify genre, protagonist, antagonist, tone, conflict, symbolism, figurative language, and themes in a short novel.
4. apply critical reading skills to distinguish between fact and opinion and follow the central theme in level-appropriate academic texts.
5. identify, explain, and correctly use (in spelling, word form, syllable and stress) vocabulary discussed in class; guess the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues.
6. recognize contrasting ideas, parallel ideas, cause and effect, problem/solution in basic academic texts and novels.
7. synthesize information from two or more texts, when guided by questions.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Assignment	Percent of Grade
Class Participation & Attendance	20%
Homework	20%
Reading Discussion (3)	30%
Reading Responses (2)	10%
Unit Exams (2)	20%
	100%

Class Participation

Active participation is an essential part of this course. You are expected to come prepared, attend every class, and contribute to our discussions. Participation includes both speaking and active listening. The quality of your engagement matters as much as the quantity.

⇒ **Expectations**

- Arrive on time and remain for the full class session.
- Be attentive and respectful to peers and the instructor.
- Contribute to discussions by asking questions, sharing ideas, and responding thoughtfully.
- Demonstrate that you have completed the required readings and assignments.
- Avoid distractions (phones, unrelated browsing, side conversations).

Grading Criteria

Level	Description
Excellent (A)	Attends all or nearly all classes (0–1 absences). Actively participates every week by contributing meaningful comments, asking questions, and responding to peers. Demonstrates preparation and respectful engagement at all times.
Good (B)	Attends regularly (2–3 absences). Participates in most discussions with relevant comments or questions. Shows preparation and listens actively, though contributions may be less consistent.
Fair (C)	Attendance is inconsistent (4–5 absences). Participation is limited—student may speak occasionally but shows little preparation or is distracted during class. Engagement is minimal.
Poor (D/F)	Frequent absences (6+). Rarely participates or is disengaged when present (distracted, disruptive, unprepared). Shows little to no evidence of contributing to the learning environment.

Homework

A lot of work is completed outside of class. Every day, you will have homework assignments that will be assessed by your instructor. Homework assignment details will be given explicitly in class.

Reading Discussion

In groups of three to four, students will select a recent and relevant news article of interest to present to the class. Each group is responsible for summarizing the article, highlighting key vocabulary, and facilitating a discussion with their classmates. The discussion should include prepared questions that encourage critical thinking, interpretation, and personal connections to the text.

This activity is designed to strengthen your reading comprehension, expand your academic vocabulary, and develop your skills in presenting, explaining, and engaging in collaborative discussions.

Reading Responses

You will complete two reading responses this session. Through these assignments, you will practice making critical connections between texts. You will also reflect on your reading strategies. Your instructor will give you detailed descriptions, rubric, and expectations for each assignment.

Exams

You will have exams on which you will demonstrate your knowledge of the materials covered during the course. You will receive a review sheet and have approximately one week to study for each exam.

Grading Scale

A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92%	B+ = 87-89%	
B = 83-86%	B- = 80-82%	C+ = 77-79%	
C = 73-76%	C- = 70-72%	D = 60-69%	F = below 60%

College Policies

Students are expected to abide by college policies, including:

- [Course Catalogs](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures](#)[Links to an external site.](#) (Cheating, Plagiarism, Citations, Sanctions)
- [Student Handbook](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Resources for Students

North Central College has many staff and resource centers dedicated to student success. They provide support in wide-ranging areas such as writing, tutoring, advising, and financial assistance. To learn more about these resources, click Help in the left side of [Canvas](#) and then click Student Support Units to find the service that best meets your needs. Some of these resources are also highlighted below.

North Central College cares about, and is committed to, the safety and success of all members of the College community. If you or someone you know may be struggling academically and/or personally, College resources and assistance are available. As your instructor, I may seek support for you by passing information on or sharing concern with the Office of Student Affairs or the Center for Student Success by submitting an [Early Alert Referral Form](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Center for Student Success

The [Center for Student Success](#)[Links to an external site.](#) is committed to ensuring that all students have access, opportunities, and resources to achieve their highest level of academic achievement. Our programs, activities, and services support the educational objectives of the faculty and College by emphasizing personal and practical skill development so students become engaged, informed, and confident learners. To help you succeed in your courses, our academic success programs provide a range of support including individual tutoring, structured study groups, academic skills workshops, and supplemental peer-led instruction programs. Additional assistance is provided in our [Writing Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#), [Speaking Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#), [Language Resource Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#) and [Math Resource Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Graduate students are also encouraged to take advantage of coaching and mentoring services offered through their graduate programs.

Student Disability Services

Academic Accommodations through Student Disability Services

North Central College values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation by providing an equal opportunity and meaningful access for all students. Student Disability Services is the office designated by the College to support students with disabilities under Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. If you are a student with a disability, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services at 630-637-5264 or SDS@noctrl.edu. Please visit the [Student Disability Services HUB page](#)[Links to an external site.](#) for additional information.

Please be aware that any accessible tables and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not accessible. Be cognizant of those around you and respect the learning and physical access needs of your fellow classmates.

Clinical/Internship Accommodations

Student Disability Services coordinates accommodations with clinical/internship partners. Assigned academic accommodations do not guarantee clinical/internship accommodations. If you are a student with a disability and need

clinical/internship accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services at 630-637-5264 or SDS@noctrl.edu. Please visit the [Student Disability Services HUB page](#)[Links to an external site.](#) for additional information.

Title IX: Confidentiality and Mandated Reporter Statement

North Central College faculty are committed to creating a safe learning environment for all members of our community, free from sex-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you have (or someone you know has) experienced any form of sex-based discrimination or violence and wish to speak with someone privately about rights, options, and referrals, please contact the Title IX Office at titleix@noctrl.edu, (630) 637-5156, or submit a report at titleixreport.northcentralcollege.edu. Please note that our Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Policy designates all faculty members as Mandated Reporters. Under this policy, all Mandated Reporters must report all disclosures of sex-based discrimination or violence to the Title IX Office. The Title IX Office will reach out to provide resources, support, and information after receiving a report, but community members are not required to respond to such outreach. Reported information will remain private.

For more information regarding North Central College's Title IX procedures, reporting, or supportive measures, please visit the [Title IX webpage](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

Technical Assistance

If you are encountering difficulties with your NCC email, password, network, wireless, printing, or Box cloud storage, consult the [Instructional Technology Services Hub site](#)[Links to an external site.](#) or contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@noctrl.edu or 630-637-5440.

For help with Canvas, click Help on the left and use the Contact 24/7 Canvas Support Now link or call the number listed for assistance. You can learn more about using Canvas through the tutorials gathered for students at [Introduction to Canvas](#).

Assistance with Basic Needs and Textbooks

Several programs are available to provide students assistance with basic needs and textbooks. Cardinal Operation Hope and Help provides emergency financial support for students with basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation and educational supplies. Learn how to apply for such support at the [Cardinal Operation Hope and Help Financial Assistance Application](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

Additionally, through [The Giving Box](#)[Links to an external site.](#), Cardinal Operation Hope and Help provides supplemental assistance to students who are registered for the current semester in the form of items such as canned goods, snacks, laundry pods, hygiene and menstrual products, and more!

Cardinal Textbooks is a library-sponsored textbook affordability program that provides NCC students with the ability to check out high-use and high-cost textbooks for 2 hours at a time for use in the Oesterle Library. To see if a specific textbook is available through this program, search for your textbook at [Cardinal Textbooks](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, please call the Department of Campus Safety at 630-637-5911 and/or 911. Students may also submit an [Early Alert](#) [Links to an external site.](#) referral if you or another member of our campus community needs assistance.



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