

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 4

Credits: 5

Course Title: Reading Improvement I

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Helps students improve their reading processes to increase their understanding of reading materials. Includes word forms and meanings, comprehension techniques, and ways to control reading pace. Lecture 5 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is the first in a sequence of three developmental reading courses designed to assist students to adjust to college and develop college reading and behavioral skills. ENG 4 helps students who have demonstrated an ability to benefit from college instruction but who have not displayed intermediate or higher reading skills. Working with easy-to-read materials, students learn the basics of academic analysis, as well as academic behavior.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required for enrollment*)**

Placement requires a satisfactory score on a reading placement test to demonstrate an ability to benefit from college instruction.

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Identify a task and set purposes for reading.
- b. Apply strategies: skim for an overview, predict main ideas, recognize text patterns, establish prior knowledge, relate new information to prior knowledge, question, see idea relationships, answer questions, summarize, and paraphrase.
- c. Monitor comprehension: know what is comprehended; know what is not comprehended; apply fix-up strategies; maintain a speed appropriate to the purpose for reading.
- d. Respond critically to texts by making inferences and drawing appropriate conclusions.

A series of assessment activities near the end of the course will be the basis for exit recommendations. A student's ability to meet the above objectives will determine whether he or she is recommended for more developmental work, for the college-level reading course, or for no further coursework in reading.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Reasons for reading: setting purposes and asking questions.
- b. Building strategies: predicting and verifying ideas, applying prior knowledge, seeing patterns of organization, analyzing and interpreting information, and drawing conclusions
- c. Self-reflective strategies: monitoring comprehension

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): February 13, 2009