Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2020

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| **Course Title** | Reading 1 (RDG1-3) (2 credits) |
| **Course Designation for TC** |  |
| **Content Teacher** |  |
| **Instructor** | N/A |
| **E-mail address** | N/A |
| **Office/Ext** | N/A |
| **Office hours** | N/A |
| **Language Teacher** |  |
| **Instructor** | Craig Yamamoto |
| **E-mail address** | [cyamamoto@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp](mailto:cyamamoto@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp) |
| **Office/Ext** | 1-328 / 3769 |
| **Office hours** | Tuesday 13:00-16:00 |

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| **Course Description:** |
| This first semester course focuses on developing reading skills through the use of in-class timed readings and comprehension questions, intensive readings with comprehension and vocabulary building activities, and extensive reading conducted mostly outside of class time. Homework will consist of reading for meaning, for pleasure, and for the purpose of vocabulary building. The overall goals of the course are to increase reading fluency, to improve understanding of grammatical forms and vocabulary encountered in simplified written texts, and to gain skills and strategies necessary for further development of reading comprehension. It is hoped that students will also develop an increased interest in EFL reading. |
| **Course Objectives:** |
| By the end of the course, students will be able to…   * paraphrase and summarize (in speech and/or writing) course reading passages; * demonstrate improved reading fluency (speed) through timed reading practice; * employ dictionaries for learning definitions, collates, and parts of speech; * identify and use (in own examples) grammar forms encountered in simplified texts. * demonstrate working knowledge up to and including band 3 of the New General Service List (NGSL). * employ skills and strategies for improved reading accuracy, such as previewing, goal awareness, predicting, text annotation, structural awareness, scanning, knowledge consolidation and self-monitoring of comprehension. |

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| **Course Schedule (subject to change)** | | |
| **Day** | **Topic** | **Content/Activities** |
| 1 | Course introduction | Introductions; Course outline and objectives; Expectations, Syllabus |
| 2 | Reading 1 | “Masaki’s Story” comprehension and discussion activities, timed reading |
| 3 | Reading 1 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 4 | Reading 1 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 5 | Reading 2 | Reading 1 vocabulary test, “Kana’s Story” comprehension and discussion work |
| 6 | Reading 2 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 7 | Reading 2 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 8 | Reading 3 | Reading 2 vocabulary test, “Learning English at MIC” comprehension and discussion work |
| 9 | Reading 3 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 10 | Reading 3 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 11 | Reading 4 | Reading 3 vocabulary test, “Reading like a Historian” comprehension and discussion work |
| 12 | Reading 4 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 13 | Reading 4 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 14 | Reading 5 | Reading 4 vocabulary test, “Adventures on the Mississippi” comprehension and discussion work |
| 15 | Reading 5 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 16 | Reading 5 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 17 | Reading 6 | Reading 5 vocabulary test, “A Comparison of Japanese and American University Education” comprehension and discussion work |
| 18 | Reading 6 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 19 | Reading 6 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 20 | Reading 7 | Reading 6 vocabulary test, “How to be Great” comprehension and discussion work |
| 21 | Reading 7 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 22 | Reading 7 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 23 | Reading 8 | Reading 7 vocabulary test, “The Amazing Benjamin Franklin” comprehension and discussion work |
| 24 | Reading 8 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 25 | Reading 8 | Homework review, timed reading |
| 26 | Reading 9 | Reading 8 vocabulary test, “The Internet” comprehension and discussion work |
| 27 | Reading 9 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 28 | Reading 10 | Reading 9 vocabulary test, “Allison’s Liberal Arts Story” comprehension and discussion work |
| 29 | Reading 10 | Vocabulary comprehension and practice activities, timed reading |
| 30 | Review | Reading 10 vocabulary test, overview of final exam |
|  | Final Exam | Reading & vocabulary exams |

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| **Required Materials:** |
| * Reading for Speed & Fluency 1 by Paul Nation and Casey Malarcher * A4 writing paper, pens, pencils * Japanese-English, English Japanese dictionary (if you have a smartphone, download the EIJIRO app; also try <http://www.alc.co.jp>) * Graded readers from the MIC library (if not available online) * Handouts provided by teacher/ downloaded by students as necessary * Online accounts with online systems used in the course for reading and vocabulary * Tablet and/or smartphone |
| **Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)** |
| Attendance  You will not get any points for attendance because it is expected that you will attend 100% of classes.  Academic Honesty  You are not allowed to use translation software or Internet translation sites in this or any course at MIC. Although it is fine to work with classmates on homework assignments together, **copying homework from your classmates, from the readings, or from an outside source is unacceptable and will result in 0% on that assignment for both parties.**  Assignment Submission   * Any written work (not in the textbook or on the handouts) that you are assigned should submitted in printed form. Keep backups! Handwritten work may not be accepted. Be sure to always write your full name in English, your student number, the teacher’s name, the date, a title, and the page number and exercise of such assignment as appropriate. Failure to do so may affect your grade.   Any homework assignments written directly in the textbook or on the handouts must be completed on time to earn full marks. **Late worksheet homework will not get feedback from the teacher, and worksheets submitted more than 24 hours late results in a deduction 50% or more. This is because we review the answers in class.** |
| **Class Preparation and Review:** |
| * You are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. You are also expected to spend many hours reading outside of class time every week. * “I was absent” is not an excuse for not completing assignments. If you miss a class, be sure to talk with your classmates first to find out what you have missed. Contact the teacher only after trying to consult with your classmates. * If you do not understand anything at any time, it is your responsibility to ask questions. If you do not ask questions, the teacher will assume you understand everything. |

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| **Grades and Grading Standards:** |
| Extensive Reading – 20%  *Extensive reading* refers to reading a large amount of longer, easier texts, focusing on the meaning. Although some class time will be used for extensive reading, most of it will be done online on your own time, and you can decide what you read.  Intensive Reading – 20%  In class and as homework, you will work on *intensive reading*, which is slow, careful reading of a small amount of challenging text, focusing on the language. Assignments consist of reading, preparing for discussion, and completing text or handout exercises. We will typically go over previously assigned homework in class, so if you do not complete the assignment(s), you will also not be able to participate in the class activity and may get 0%. It is therefore essential that you complete the assignments to the best of your ability on time. Discussion work is included in this section. There will also be up to 10 short vocabulary tests based on the intensive readings throughout the semester.  Timed Reading – 10%  To increase your reading speed and fluency, you will complete several timed reading assignments in class every week. Your reading speed and comprehension quiz results will be regularly recorded.  Course Activities – 30%  Students will be required to do online vocabulary practice several times a week online. The web-based system used will keep track of the quantity, quality, and regularity of work completed. Short reading practice will also be conducted online though another system. Other activities may be assigned at the teacher’s discretion.  Final Exam – 20%  The final exam, including reading and vocabulary sections, will take place during exam week. Information on the content of the exam will be given in class. |
| **Methods of Feedback:** |
| Online student work will be assessed several times each semester to confirm that periodic assignment goals are being met. Particularly struggling students will be contacted by email for one-on-one consultations with the teacher. Students will be formatively assessed on class performance. |
| **Diploma Policy Objectives:** |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):   * Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought) * The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations * The ability to identify and solve problems * Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English * Proficiency in the use of information technology |
| **Notes:** |
| It is your responsibility to seek help if you need it. Please visit during the teacher’s office hours if you need study advice, and feel free to contact your teacher via email. You will be given information for certain apps to help in your studies for this course, in addition to MIC Moodle (if used) in class. Several online platforms in this course will be used, such as the following:   * <http://praxised.com/> (used for online vocabulary practice) * <http://www.xreading.com> (used for extensive reading) * <http://www.readtheory.org> (used for short reading passage practice)   In addition to handouts and the timed reading text, please bring your tablet and/or smart phone to all classes. |