

Academic Learning Services, 68 PLC, 346-3226

<http://als.uoregon.edu>

## SAMPLE SYLLABUS



### ALS 199: TACKLING TEXTS

CRN 30227—WINTER 2007—122 MCK

Weeks 1-3—MW 12-1:20pm

Elly Vandegrift

[ellyvan@uoregon.edu](mailto:ellyvan@uoregon.edu), 346-3226, 56 PLC

drop in for office hours T 10:00-11:00 or F 9-10am

or make an appointment through ALS: 346-3226, 68 PLC

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Tackling Texts focuses on developing effective approaches to reading, writing, and learning at the university. We'll explore strategies for improving reading efficiency, comprehension, recall, and critical thinking. Since writing is integral to reading, we will also discuss how to tackle writing assignments, including planning, drafting, revising, and incorporating outside sources.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of Tackling Texts is to provide students with an opportunity to practice and improve interactions with college texts. By the end of the course students will be able to

- Identify how texts fit in the context of a course
- Read actively and take reading notes to improve concentration, comprehension, and retention of reading material
- Write a thesis statement and provide supporting information for a short essay about an article
- Critically read, look for bias, and recognize meaning in texts
- Identify when and how sources should be cited

#### COURSE MATERIALS:

Required readings are available at our course Blackboard site, which you can access at <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. Use your UO e-mail address and password to log in to Blackboard. Once you find our course site, click on "Course Materials" to access the syllabus, assignment guidelines, and links to readings and videos.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

**Attendance and Participation**—Your presence and participation are necessary in order to make this course successful for you and for your learning community. Personal circumstances may prevent you from attending a class meeting, but keep in mind that with such a short, intensive course, each class meeting represents a big chunk of the overall course. If you have difficulties getting to class, whatever the reason, please let me know—and remember that you are responsible for any missed work and information. *If you miss more than one class meeting, you will not receive credit for the course.*

*Participation* does not only entail sitting as a warm body in the class. You should come to class prepared to participate in self reflection, group work, and class discussions. Participation includes respect for your fellow classmates and instructor by coming to class on time, turning off cell phones, and paying attention during class (i.e. don't do other homework, surf the internet, or read the newspaper).

**Assignments**—Assignments for the class are designed to provide you with opportunities to practice working with different texts including how you read the text and what to do once you’ve read it. Before each Wednesday class you will read an article or watch a video and answer questions on Blackboard. You will complete a response essay on an article handed out in class that will be submitted first as a rough draft and later as a polished copy. Finally, you will practice a variety of note-taking skills with your readings for the term and reflect on the benefits and weakness of each.

**GRADING:**

This is a one-credit, pass/no pass course. You will receive feedback on individual assignments that includes an overall assessment in one of the following categories: *exceeds expectations (EE)*, *meets expectations (ME)*, *approaches expectations (AE)*, or *does not meet expectations (DNME)*. If your overall assessment is *approaches expectations* or *does not meet expectations*, you will need to revise your assignment for resubmission at the next class meeting.

**To pass the course**, you must submit every assignment on time, *meet* or *exceed* expectations on every assignment, and miss no more than one class meeting.

I am interested in working with you individually and helping you learn in the way that suits you best. Please come see me during office hours or after class if you need special accommodations or have concerns about particular aspects of the course.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

| Date   | Topic                                       | Assignment Due for Class   |
|--------|---|--|
| M 4/2  | Introductions<br>Creating a Reading Context |  |
| W 4/4  | Active Reading                              | * View/Respond Online: “Reading Improvement”<br>* Read Richard Wright Article “Discovering Reading”<br>* Bring: Textbook from another course |
| M 4/9  | Note-Taking                                 | * Response Essay (draft)   |
| W 4/11 | Critical Thinking                           | * Read/Respond Online: “Critical Reading”  |
| M 4/16 | Writing Process                             | * Note-Taking Project  |
| W 4/18 | Using Sources<br>Reflections                | * Read/Respond Online: “Proofreading Your Writing”<br>* Response Essay (final)   |
| M 4/23 |   | * Last Day to submit any assignments needing revisions.  |