

English 108 W: Effective College Reading and Vocabulary Development I

4 Credits



Winter 2008

Delta College, University Center, Michigan

Instructor: Elaine Allen Karls, Professor of English

Faculty Office Phone/Rm. S-32: 686-9563 **FCTE Phone:** 686-9791

In the event of absence, please call in that day. Messages may ALWAYS be left at the faculty office voicemail number.

Campus Faculty Office: S-32 (Fine Arts Bldg.-basement).

Email: eakarls@delta.edu (Email and voicemail are checked regularly M-F).

Class meetings: Tues. and Thurs: 8:30 - 10:25 a.m. RM. G-164

Office Hours and other instructor points of contact:

Office hours provide times for one-on-one assistance, clarification of homework and assignments, and just talking to get to know each other better. These times may be used for reviewing an assignment, practice in oral reading, or reviewing and studying material. It is expected that if you miss a class, you will make an extra effort to see the instructor during office hours for review of missed material.

Faculty Office Hours:

Tuesday: 10:30- 11:30 a.m. In the LLIC/Library

Wed: 1:00- 2:00 p.m. S-32

Thursday: 10:30- 11:30 a.m.

Additional hours available by arrangement. Please ask!

Welcome to English 108: Effective College Reading and Vocabulary Development I.

"Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right."

Mahatma Ghandi

It is a privilege to welcome you to this course. It is a first college English course for many of you. As someone who takes pleasure in reading and enormous pleasure in sharing reading with other readers, I have been looking forward to meeting you! Together, I hope this is a memorable journey for us both. May it provide a solid beginning in college, one that helps you to success in all your courses and greater enjoyment in all of your reading from now on. Welcome!



Required Books and Materials:

1. Select **ONE** (after class activity to investigate each): *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls **OR** *Finding Fish* by Antwone Fisher.
2. A college-level dictionary (such as *American Heritage*) paperback edition.
Bring your dictionary to every class.
3. *The Reading Portfolio*, 2nd ED by Diane Bosco and Janice Buchner

Materials for college organization and success:

- A. A **stapler** you'll always have with you.
- B. A **loose leaf three ring notebook with dividers**.
- C. **Index cards**, any size and color, for vocabulary practice, note taking, and various class activities Hint: colored cards allow you to color code certain activities. Large cards are great for detailed note takers and people with large hand writing!
- D. **Pens** in blue or black; **highlighters** for those who find them helpful in marking readings (some people prefer their trusty regular pens).
- E. **Optional:** You will be annotating (marking) reading. Some people like to use post-it notes for this. We will also be doing some visual drawings of readings. Some students enjoy bringing colored pencils or other drawing supplies when we are doing visual drawings.

In order to meet the Learning Outcomes and Objectives for English 108 (see end of this course guide), we will engage in the following types of class activities:

- A. Apply **active reading strategies** to a variety of readings (fiction and non-fiction books, feature articles, academic/textbook selections, dictionaries and reference books, and more).
- B. **Use the library.** We meet in the LLIC at least once this semester. You are encouraged to use the Delta library and/or local libraries, as well.
- C. Engage in **individual reading time** (silent class reading), **group reading** and **discussion activities**, **reading aloud** (students and instructor), **conferences** with the instructor, **presentations**, and interaction with a variety of outside authorities on topics we're reading about.
- D. **Develop strategies** for better comprehension of reading, and better recall and memory of what's been read.
- E. **Develop a wider vocabulary**, and learn strategies for approaching and understanding new unfamiliar words as they present themselves. A good vocabulary is a key predictor of college success in all courses.
- F. **Practice using visual techniques** for understanding reading: visual mapping, outlines, and charts.
- G. **Gain deeper personal enjoyment** and satisfaction in reading.
- H. **Work on computers** to write and research, as possible.

Class Policies, Expectations, and Promises:

As your instructor, I promise to do the very best I can to respect you as an adult, encourage you, prepare for your class, guide you to worthwhile challenges, and remain available to help you learn. I promise to honor you as a learner and a person, and will believe in your potential as a student. I promise to be honest, and as kind as possible. When you are excelling, I will rejoice in your success. If some of your efforts are not making the expected mark—I will level with you on that, as well.

As a service and support to students, Delta recently instituted an "early alert" process which allows instructors to make various support services offices aware of needs a student may be experiencing. If a student in this class would stand to benefit from referral to "early alert" I may, at my discretion, make such a referral. It may open new services and support to you.

About the 10th week of the course, we will conference concerning the best English class for you to attempt next. Delta requires that I give each of you a written evaluation and recommendation for which English course you're next prepared to tackle. I also look forward to hearing from you as to ways to help, encourage, and target the areas in your reading in which you experience difficulty or struggle.

Both I, and College policy, indicate reasonable expectations: These policies can be summed up in the following statement: **Be here, be prepared to participate actively, hand in work on time and in the best form you can possibly complete it, and respect yourself and other classmates in all you do in English 108.** This means I am expecting the following from you:

- **Attend all classes, arriving on time and staying until the class is over.** Any time during which class is scheduled and you aren't here is absence (including late arrival or early departure).
- **Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices (pagers, iPods, etc.) during class.** If you have an exceptional situation (medical emergency at home) please let me know.
- **Due dates are firm.** Make up work and late work don't allow you feedback in the learning process when it is most useful. Moreover, make up is not fair to classmates who work hard to get things done on time. If you have an exceptional circumstance (death in immediate family; very ill child at home) contact me the day of the absence, just as you would if you had to miss work. In exceptional circumstances, we may be able to work out a solution that benefits you and remains fair to all. If missing class and assignments is

habitual, it may not be the best semester for you to consider taking this class. **Late policy:** One time this semester, you may turn in a homework assignment up to **one** class session late at no penalty. This policy **does not** apply to quizzes, midterm, final exam, or scheduled group sessions in reading workshop in which you may have an important role in helping your group with their understanding of the book. The **second** time you attempt to turn in a late assignment, it will be docked 25% of the total points for the assignment. There is no third opportunity to turn in a late assignment. At that time, please consider why it is difficult for you to get the work in on time.

- **Participate respectfully with classmates.** This, of course, means everything from contributing to group activities to working cooperatively on projects, to listening encouragingly to others. Class can be like a “family” if everyone enters into that spirit. This usually does happen in courses I teach! Uncivil, threatening, or harassing behavior is exceedingly rare, but if it happens here, I will fully invoke Delta’s “Disruptive Student” policy, which prohibits such behavior, and which can result in dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from Delta. Again—this is highly unusual. Let’s plan for a positive, adult, civil, engaging learning atmosphere.
- **Practice academic honesty.** No cheating of any kind, and no copying—of course. Delta has adopted a policy related to Academic Integrity (Policy 4.060), which states that plagiarism, cheating on tests and quizzes, fabricating (making up) portions of work and presenting it falsely, helping others cheat, or falsifying any document is strictly against Delta’s code. Verified cheating will receive a “O” and will be reported to officials at Delta—per our policy.

GRADING:

- **Your course achievement determines your placement in your next college English course:** As part of our “Enrollment by Pre-Requisites” policy at Delta College, a grade of “B” in English 108 is a pre-requisite for enrolling in English 111, English 111-A, or English 111-H (all versions of College Composition I). To attain the “B” grade, you will need to perform very well on all the Course Learning Outcomes published at the end of this syllabus. Delta had your future college success in mind in developing this policy. You are invited to review your grade or progress with me at any time. Please ask.

All graded work receives points.

You can keep a current record of your grade by recording each assignment in class, how many points it was worth, and how many points you received. Your percentage of the points possible is the letter grade you earned (see chart below). Your grade in English 108 will be cumulative: that is, the total points in the semester, when

divided into the total points you've earned, will result in a percentage that indicates your letter grade.

I keep a computer record of your grade, which can be printed out and shared with you at any time. You will receive a grade update at midterm, 10th week, and the end of the semester, but may request an update more frequently. Usually I can supply a grade sheet within one class period after you request it—and can look over the grade book with you before or after class most any time.

Letter grades are determined as follows:

94-100%=A	77-79%=C+	60-63%=D-
90-93% =A-	74-76%=C	59% and below=E
87-89% =B+	70-73%=C-	
84-86% =B	67-69%=D+	
80-83% =B-	64-66%=D	

Typical Assignments and their approximate point value:

1. Reading Workshop activities with Glass Castle and Finding Fish 20 pts each (X3) including 5-10 pt "Did You Read and Prepare?" exercise at start of most Reading Workshop sessions. This will total 80-100 points this semester.
2. Quizzes on Reading Portfolio and related reading and vocabulary activities: 25-35 points each (expect 4-6).
3. Midterm and Final Exam: Approximately 80 points each.
4. Personal Reading Project (PRP) (100 pts)
5. Index Cards: Short 5-10 point comprehension and thinking exercises usually conducted at the start of many, but not all, class sessions.
6. Several small homework and in-class assignments related to our reading : 15-25 points each (totaling 60-100 points this semester)

Weather Cancellations: Please check the Delta website (www.delta.edu) or listen to radio station 90.1 fm (Delta radio), or check local television programming regarding class cancellation because of adverse weather. Delta is often open when local K-12 school districts are closed (just as many businesses are open). **Please**—if you cannot make it to class because of adverse weather complications at a time when class is officially "on"—leave me a voicemail at 686-9563. If you have missed on a day when we will be taking a quiz or having a reading workshop where your presence is needed by your group, this is especially important. Please see Delta's official statement, next page:

College-Wide Delta College Adverse Weather Statement:

A College-Wide Statement Adverse weather may affect the regular operations of Delta College. Recognizing its responsibility to students and the community, the College will close only under extreme circumstances. The decision to cancel classes and/or close the main campus of the College will be made by the President (Dr. Jean Goodnow) or designate, in consultation with the Facilities Director (Larry Ramseyer), the Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services (Don Halog) and others as appropriate. Maximum effort will be made to decide on closing the school, if necessary, prior to 6 a.m. for day classes, and prior to 3:30 p.m. for evening classes.

The College does not encourage students to take unnecessary risks in order to attend classes. If the College remains open during adverse weather conditions, it is each student's responsibility to decide whether to travel to the College, based on road conditions, driving skills and vehicle conditions. However, the College is training its students for the workplace. If weather conditions permit them to travel to work, they will also be expected to travel to the College. Since Delta students are adults the College has a closing policy more like area businesses and governmental agencies.

If faculty members are unable to teach classes during adverse weather and the College remains open, they are advised to contact the appropriate Division Chair or Support Staff to make arrangements for their classes. In addition, if a class is scheduled to begin during the time the College is closed, it will not meet regardless of the end time



An Open Invitation: Create a "Dream" Class!

You and your classmates have an opportunity to take the lead in creating a memorable class that we all look forward to attending. To that end, I am interested in knowing about activities you find valuable to your learning, approaches that deepen your commitment to attending and participating in class, and strategies that make learning worthwhile. I hope you make friends in this class who help you achieve your personal goals and encourage you. We can all decide—starting on our first day together—that this is going to be a class we all remember and find meaningful to our growth always. Help make it happen.