IELI 2460 – Reading from Academic Sources

Catalog Description
Focuses on processes and strategies for a variety of academic and disciplinary genres, with a special emphasis on the basic university textbook; strategies for learning from textbooks and other materials relevant to reading for academic purposes; and vocabulary study.

Course Goals
Students will . . .
 • learn skills and strategies for studying and learning from textbooks and other academic genres
 • use reading as a source for vocabulary development
 • develop information seeking skills

Expected Learner Outcomes
 1) Given a range of discipline-specific texts, students demonstrate reading/study skills and strategies* by . . .
  • identifying the purpose of text by previewing and stating the relevant ideas
  • taking notes that capture the important content and represent the organization of a text
  • writing coherent summaries
  • locating specific items of information and correctly answering content-relevant questions

 2) Given a range of discipline-specific texts, students demonstrate ability to use a text as a source of vocabulary study by . . .
  • identifying key vocabulary
  • providing definitions (bilingual and/or English)
  • providing examples of context-relevant usage

 3) Given a topic, students demonstrate information-seeking skills and strategies by . . .
  • identifying and locating a variety of appropriate text-based and electronic articles.
  • assessing the genre, purpose, and credibility of the article

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* Students can perform the reading tasks at a ***high-intermediate/advanced*** level.   MH (01/2022)

Typical Classroom Topics/Activities

Focusing on Texts

Typical features of textbooks:
    table of contents, headings & subheadings
    charts & graphs, index (subject & author),
    references

Text structure - identify rhetorical organization of texts:
    definition, exemplification, listing (e.g., features/characteristics), cause-effect, chronological ordering, grouping (e.g., classification & division)

Skills & Strategies to Aid Comprehension

Adjusting reading according to purpose
    (e.g., previewing, skimming/scanning,
    close reading)
Identifying keywords & phrases in a text
Identifying main ideas and details
Making inferences
Distinguishing fact from opinion
Summarizing

Reading to Learn (using information to do things)

Study methods (e.g., annotating, notetaking, outlining, SQ3R, summarizing, visual representation, e.g., concept maps, timelines)
Student-generated study guides

Note Taking

Being concise, e.g., using abbreviations, symbols, key words & phrases
Representing content in a systematic/ structured way (e.g., differentiating main ideas & significant details)

Test Taking

Strategies (following instructions,
    analyzing questions and quickly finding
    relevant information, multiple choice
    deconstruction)
Answering test questions

Fluency Development

Extensive reading
Repeated reading
Measurement & monitoring of reading rate
Pushed reading /Timed reading

Vocabulary

Dictionary work
General vocabulary & technical vocabulary
Multiword vocabulary (Collocation)
Prioritizing vocabulary (content-specific
    terminology; K1-K2, academic word
    list)