

Northern Marianas College

Course Guide

Course: EN 071 Beginning English: Reading & Writing

1. Department

Languages & Humanities

2. Purpose

This course provides basic English skills for low-beginning level students. Although the texts and approach integrate reading, writing, listening, and speaking, the emphasis is on developing reading, writing, and test-taking skills in order for the student to achieve a basic communicative competence in written English, which includes responding appropriately to test items on the listening and reading sections of the NMC English Proficiency Test.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Briggs, Sandra J. *Grammar: Strategies and Practice (Beginning)*.

Glenview, IL: Scott Foresman & Co., 1994.

Readability Level: 4.3

Pickett, William P. *The Chicken Smells Good*.

Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall Regents, 1997.

Readability level: 3.3

Rainsbury, Robert. *Written English*.

Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall Regents, 1977.

Readability level: 2.9

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 6 per week / 90 per semester

2. **Lab:** Recommended 75 hours per semester

3. **Other:** None

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 6

2. **Type:** Non-degree units (NDU's)

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D. Catalogue Course Description

This is an intensive, beginning-level ESL course for students with very limited proficiency in English reading and writing. Supplemental laboratory work in the Educational Enrichment Center is required and is assigned by the instructor. This class is designed for students who test below 38 on the reading section of the NMC English Placement Test. It is recommended that students whose aggregate scores on the NMC English Placement Test fall below 380 take this class with EN 070. Students taking this course usually score below 3 on the NMC Written Essay Placement Test.

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

None

F. Course Activities and Design

Students work through a communicatively based text, workbook, and reader which provide integrated activities for a variety of themes. Audio tapes supplement the text and workbook for listening exercises. Activities are structured to allow ample opportunities for reading and writing as well as listening and speaking practice. Activities and themes emphasize critical thinking.

Through a combination of activities, including exercises, drills, and quizzes, as well as pair work and cooperative learning group tasks, this course familiarizes students with the English alphabet in printed and cursive forms, the practice of decoding text using the sight-sound relationships of words, and the spellings, pronunciations, meanings, and usages of approximately 100 commonly occurring English words. The course also covers punctuation and capitalization.

Educational Enrichment Center activities allow students to improve their reading, writing, and syntactic skills.

The design of the course is based on the premise that low-beginning level students would be better served by a course which, although integrated, focuses mainly on developing reading and writing skills.

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4. **Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)**

This class is designed for students who test below 38 on the reading section of the NMC English Placement Test. It is recommended that the students whose aggregate scores on the NMC English Placement Test fall below 380 take this class with EN 070. Students taking this course usually score below 3 on the NMC Written Essay Placement Test.

Students who do not take the English Placement Test must take EN 070/EN 071.

5. **Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed**

To the Student: Tuition for a six-credit course, textbooks, and lab and materials fees.

To the College: Salary of instructor.

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, TV/ VCR and videotapes, tape recorder and audiotapes, overhead projector and transparency sheets. The NMC Educational Enrichment Center has its own printed materials, kits, and computer software to enhance student learning.

6. **Method of Evaluation**

Only P (Pass) or NP (No Pass) or TF (technical failure) grades are given in this NDU course. (TF is assigned only for excessive absences, i.e., > 9 absences.) NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

The following is a topical outline of the course, and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Introducing Self and Personal Communication
- 2.0 Talking about What People Do; Introducing Others
- 3.0 Families; Abilities
- 4.0 Shopping and Clothing; Expressing Likes / Dislikes
- 5.0 Food; Expressing Needs
- 6.0 Talking about What Is Happening; Making Inferences
- 7.0 Health and Exercise; Schedules and Routines
- 8.0 Talking about What Happened; Expressing Feelings / Emotions
- 9.0 Discussing Historical Events
- 10.0 Giving Opinions; Agreeing / Disagreeing; Stating Requests
- 11.0 Talking about the Future; Stating Plans / Predictions; Talking about Weather
- 12.0 Describing People; Making Inferences; Drawing Conclusions

8.0 Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 How to apply the reading and writing structures they learn in class and in lab when in real-communication situations;
- 2.0 How to understand the reading and writing skills necessary to function in an English-speaking society; and

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3.0 How to achieve their potential in an academic setting through reading and writing.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Use written English to communicate their basic wants and needs within the community and in real-life situations;
- 2.0 Demonstrate substantially improved communicative competence in classroom reading and writing activities; and
- 3.0 Be able to read and write simple sentences in English in present and past tenses, and future forms: these include statements, questions, commands, and requests.

10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning outcomes may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Regular class attendance
- 2.0 Class and lab assignments
- 3.0 Classroom and homework exercises
- 4.0 Peer interaction
- 5.0 Periodic quizzes
- 6.0 Two post-tests: the NMC English Proficiency Test and the SLEP Reading Test. (The student should score above 38 on the reading section of the NMC English Proficiency Test and demonstrate significant improvement on the reading section of the SLEP.)
- 7.0 A short essay that receives an instructor's evaluation greater than 3 on a 12-point scale.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.