



Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus
Advanced Reading Skills
1105



I. Course Description

Advanced Reading Skills

.5 Credit (Semester 1)

Grades 11, 12

Advanced Reading Skills is a course for students who desire to improve those reading, study, and listening skills particularly needed at the college level. They will learn analytic reading skills, skimming and scanning, and test-taking strategies. Perfecting listening and note taking for a lecture setting, expanding vocabulary knowledge, as well as writing an expository essay, are additional skills learned. Skills attained in this course are highly valuable on standardized tests such as the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. Students will focus on the skills needed to succeed on those tests and practice taking released prompts and tests throughout the course.

II. Materials & Equipment

The New SAT Writing Workbook
The New SAT Critical Reading Workbook
The Great Gatsby
Shakespearean Novel
Student selected novel
Released SAT prompts and tests

III. Course Goals & Objectives

Analyze reading skills, skimming and scanning, and test-taking strategies
Improve listening and note taking for a lecture setting
Expand vocabulary knowledge
Write an expository essay
Improve scores on SAT/ACT/PSAT

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

Unit 1

1. Diagnostic essay, convention and terminology tests
2. The SAT essay
3. Review pre-scored prompts
4. How to do impromptu writing
 - a. Impromptus as needed throughout course
 - b. Prompts from released SAT tests
5. SAT sentence completion practice
 - a. Class work
 - b. Group presentations
 - c. Final individual test

Unit 2 – SAT short reading section & novel

1. Vocabulary presentations throughout course: Students define and orally present SAT selected vocab
2. Great Gatsby – critical reading skill work: Impromptus, quizzes, project
3. SAT short-reading comprehension work: Class work, group presentations, individual tests
4. Main idea/purpose/tone work: Newsweek magazine – critical reading skills on identifying and writing throughout course

Unit 3 – SAT long reading, Shakespearean Drama & novel reading project

1. SAT long reading comprehension work: Class discussion, group presentations, individual tests
2. Shakespearean Drama – critical and comprehensive reading work (primarily in-class): Focus on main idea, plot, tone and purpose
3. Student selected novel (see media center for recommended college list): Read during Reading For Growth days and produce creative final project

V. Assignments & Grading

Diagnostic essay
Terminology and conventions testing
SAT impromptus graded using both SAT rubrics and teacher made rubrics to adjust for class grade
Rubrics for Gatsby and novel projects
Objective tests and written projects on Shakespearean drama