Instructor:
Dr. Radha M. Parikh
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Office hours: Open hours

Structure: 2-0-0-2

Overview: This course is designed to provide students with the following skills: (a) to communicate ideas effectively – verbal and written, (b) assist in enhancing critical thinking and ethical decision making, and (c) provide learning strategies. Emphasis will be on learning through selected readings, group discussions, written assignments and maintaining a journal. We will focus on strategies to become responsible and active learners by addressing issues related to transition from home to institute; motivation and goal setting; changing attitudes and interests; managing time; dealing with stress; importance of ethics and morality for successful learners; and interacting with peers and faculty. An introduction to the construction and evaluation of ethical arguments and forms of reasoning, and basic moral questions confronting contemporary society will also be explored. Students requiring assistance with English language learning will have special help outside the class through software installed in the language lab, with guidance from the supervising TA.

Objectives:

At the completion of the course, students are expected to demonstrate mastery of the following outcomes through class participation, assignments, and presentations:

- Read and enjoy literature through assigned readings and texts covering prose, poetry, drama and other fiction.
- Comprehend the assigned readings with the ability to complete written assignments on these readings.
- Complete written assignments with minimal grammatical errors. Those who have Grammar problems will have TAs’ assistance in the lab.
- Develop active learning skills and strategies designed to be helpful for other class readings and test taking.
- Learn interpersonal, intercultural, group and public communication skills.
- Work on enhancing self-discipline and ethical values.
Evaluation:

Participation (40%) - Students will be expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings and prepared to contribute to the discussion. Missing class and not contributing to discussions will result in loss of points.

Attendance: 10%

Journal: (10%) Students will maintain a journal of bi-weekly entry based on class readings – not a notebook but loose-leaf journal. It’s the student’s responsibility to get the TA to correct the journal.

Final exam: 40%

Required readings:

To be assigned and made available in the Resource Center or in the Lecture folder.

General Requirements:

1. **Regular Attendance** is required for all scheduled class meetings in that the student is responsible for information covered in assigned readings, handouts, discussions, and activities. Attendance is stressed because students will have opportunities to (a) improve their knowledge base through discussions, (b) practice skills needed to engage in professional dialogue/exchange with colleagues, (c) practice skills required to present information to others, (d) acquire information from lectures and presentations, (e) participate in activities, and (f) submit required assignments.

2. Like the instructor, students are expected to come to class meetings thoroughly prepared. “Thoroughly prepared” is defined as having read the selections sufficiently, to verbally and in writing (a) discuss concepts, issues, and procedures, and (b) relate this information to content presented in previous classes or readings. It also implies that students have reviewed information from previous readings and class meetings. It will be the students’ responsibility to pose questions when information from readings or class meetings is unclear.

3. Students referred to use the language lab must do so regularly and maintain good lab attendance in order to pass.

4. Do your own work. Ask your instructor when you need help. Avoid copying others’ work; it is sure to land you in trouble.

Possible grades: Pass / Not Pass