IELI 2360 - Reading Authentic Texts

Catalog Description
Focuses on comprehension of academic and popular-media texts including articles from newspapers, magazines, and web pages. Awareness of discourse organization and development of academic vocabulary are emphasized.

Course Goals
Students will . . .
• improve reading comprehension at an intermediate level of language proficiency
• increase awareness of typical patterns of discourse organization in authentic texts
• learn techniques for visually representing organization and content of text
• build academic vocabulary

Expected Learner Outcomes
1. Students demonstrate improvement in reading comprehension by . . .
   • identifying main ideas and supporting details in outline or other visual form
   • summarizing main ideas in writing
   • answering questions about content

2. Students demonstrate awareness of the discourse organization of various authentic texts by completing tasks such as:
   • identifying typical patterns (e.g., topic/subtopic, chronological order, process/procedure, comparison-contrast, cause-effect, problem-solution, etc.)
   • creating visual representations of content such as tree diagrams, timelines, T-charts, flow charts, etc.

3. Given a text, students can visually represent its organization and content by . . .
   • using conventional graphic organizers such as tree diagrams, timelines, T-charts, flow charts, etc.

4. Students demonstrate knowledge of academic vocabulary through tasks such as . . .
   • matching of academic target words to synonyms
   • fill-in-the-blank exercises
   • using the target words in context
   • answering questions using the target words

Typical Classroom Topics/Activities
• Main idea & details
• Summarizing and paraphrasing
• Graphic organizers such as tree diagrams, timelines, T-charts, flow charts, etc.
• Rhetorical modes: classification, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, process, etc.
• Exercises such as matching, fill in the blank, etc.
• Jigsaw reading
• Extensive reading (novels, Internet articles, etc.)
• Vocabulary journals & dictionary practice
• Word mapping (i.e., using different forms of word)
• Framing exercise

AR(9/1/10)