IELI 2460: Reading from Academic Sources  
Spring 2021  
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Elena Tyler  
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Email: elena.taylor@usu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Information  
Class Days and Times: MW 12:30-2:20 pm  
Location: Canvas, Zoom  
Course website: Canvas

Important Dates
Classes Begin  
Tuesday  
January 19
Last Day of Classes  
Tuesday  
April 27
Final Exams  
Thursday-Wednesday  
April 29-May 5

Course Description
This course 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
1. To learn strategies and skills for studying and learning from textbooks and other academic genres;  
2. To use reading as a source for vocabulary development;  
3. To develop information seeking strategies and skills.

Learner Outcomes
Students will demonstrate reading strategies and skills 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.

Students will show the ability to use a text as a source of vocabulary study by:
- identifying key vocabulary;  
- identifying definitions (bilingual and English);  
- providing examples of context-relevant usage.

Students will demonstrate information-seeking strategies and skills by:
- identifying and locating a variety of appropriate text-based and electronic articles;  
- assessing the genre, purpose, and credibility of an article.
Materials
- Textbook materials (provided by the instructor);
- Books for reading and classroom discussion (see the list below);

Books:
“Wonder” by R. J. Palacio (310 p): https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0375869026/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i0


“Bud not Buddy” by Christopher Paul Curtis (243 p): https://www.amazon.com/Bud-Buddy-Christopher-Paul-Curtis/dp/0440413281/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534035484&sr=8-1&keywords=Bud+Not+Buddy


You should purchase these books as soon as possible. Buy them today! I suggest that you order them through Amazon (buy used copies to save money). Your editions should be the same as mine.

Canvas
The course is now available on Canvas. Please let me know if you don’t see it in your Canvas account. You will see weekly lesson description in “Modules/”Pages.” You will also find all class-related materials in “Files,” including the syllabus for this class. You will submit all of your completed homework and Monday individual assignments through Canvas. Therefore, it is important that you are able to access this course through Canvas.

Class Schedule
We will meet on Zoom on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:20 pm, and you will complete assignments individually on Mondays from 12:30 to 2:20 pm. These assignments count toward your Independent Work and Attendance/Participation (see below).

During our Zoom meetings on Wednesdays, we will continue working on a given unit as well as discuss the book of the week (from the list above). Please refer to the calendar below for the schedule of the textbook units and books.

Assignments
All assignments must be submitted through Canvas in a Word Doc file. Please do not submit PDFs or pictures taken by your phone: they are not going to be graded and you will lose points.
Grading

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% or below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be awarded in the following amounts:

- Attendance/Participation: 25%
- Homework Assignments: 25%
- Independent Work (Monday): 20%
- Book Quizzes: 20%
- Book Report: 10%

As per IELI policy, any grade below C- is failing.

Attendance/Participation

Classroom participation is an important part of being a college student. You are expected to participate in each class to the best of your ability. Merely being present does not constitute participation. Just like in the workplace, it is not enough to just show up. It is expected that you come to class prepared and on time. Coming prepared means having your materials, completed homework, being ready to contribute to class discussion, and projecting positive attitude. It is also expected that you conduct yourself in a respectful manner.

For each MONDAY class, you will automatically be given 5 points if you submit the independent work assignment (graded separately) of the day.

For each WEDNESDAY class, you are granted 10 points: 5 for attendance and 5 for participation. If you are absent, you lose those 10 points automatically. If you are late/leave class for more than 10 minutes, you are marked absent. As far as participation goes, you will lose 5 points for the following kinds of behavior:

- You are late for class--less than 10 minutes (2 late arrivals are allowed for the entire semester);
- You seem to be unprepared (e.g., haven’t read the assigned pages of the book, haven’t completed the assigned task that requires classroom discussion and participation);

Homework Assignments

Your homework assignments for the textbook will be assigned as we go (they are NOT indicated on the calendar below!). These assignments are due the next class period. Please pay attention to the assignments appearing in your Canvas account. You will also see them in weekly lesson descriptions (see “Modules”/“Pages”).

Late homework assignments are accepted but not graded. In other words, you can still receive feedback on a late homework assignment, but you won’t receive credit for it. Even if you miss a
class, you need to come to the following class prepared and with your homework assignment completed.

**Independent Work**
These are the assignments that you will complete individually each Monday from 12:30 to 2:20 pm. The individual Monday assignments will appear on Canvas promptly at 12:30 pm and become unavailable at 2:20 pm. You must submit all completed work by 2:20 pm (the end of the class period) to receive the credit. **Completing these assignments shows that you were present in class that day.** If you don’t submit the assignments by that time, that means you “missed the class,” which means the participation and attendance policy will apply (see below). Please DO NOT schedule anything for the Monday class period: it is your class time!

**Books Quizzes**
For each book that we will read and discuss in class this semester (see the list above), you will complete an online reading comprehension quiz. The dates of the quizzes will be indicated on Canvas.

**Book Report**
In addition to the books we will read as a class, you will read and present in class one book from the list provided by the instructor. At the end of the semester, you will give a presentation about this book. More information on the presentation will be given later.

**Policies**

**Class Policies**

**Illness and Emergencies.** If you are sick for more than a day, or if there is an emergency (please note that for the university, emergencies include a death or serious illness in the family, warfare, jail or legal problems, accidents), please let the instructor know. Remember that an excused absence for illness purposes will only be granted if a valid proof of absence (e.g., a medical excuse from a doctor) is provided.

**IELI and USU Attendance Policy**
Learning a language requires that you actively attend and participate in your classes. If you do not regularly attend classes, you may miss important information and fail the class, not progressing to the next level in the IELI program. Attendance is not only important for learning but essential for international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa to maintain their legal immigration status. IELI works closely with the office of Global Engagement to ensure that our students maintain their immigration status and will report students who regularly miss class. Consequently, the following attendance policy will be enforced.

**Missing consecutive classes.** If a student misses 7 consecutive classes for any one class without contacting the instructor and providing valid proof of absence (e.g., a medical excuse from a doctor), their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

**Total classes.** If a student misses 7 total class hours for any one class or 22 total class hours in any one semester, their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

**USU policy/excused absences.** According to the USU policy, a student may not miss more than 20% of any class even if it is excused. This means that you cannot miss more than 9 classes for any one class, even if some of the absences are excused. If a student’s total absences (excused and
unexcused) for any class exceeds 9, their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

**Warnings.** Students will get at least three warnings before their immigration status is terminated. It is the student’s responsibility to provide a current e-mail address to IELI and the office of Global Engagement and check their e-mail regularly. If a student’s immigration status is terminated, they will be given 15 days to leave the U.S.

**IELI Policies**

**Grading.** The grades you get for each class are based on the work you do for that class. Attendance and effort are important factors for successful learning but do not directly affect your grade. It is important for you to do your best on all your in-class and at home activities as they will be graded on how well you complete these activities. Successful completion of these activities will help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to meet learner outcomes for each course.

**Progressing to the next level.** You must receive a grade of C- or better in any IELI class in order to pass that class and move to the next level of that class. Students who receive lower than a C- are required to repeat the class until they receive a passing grade. If you are not passing a class at midterm you will be re-registered for the class until final grades are posted. If your final grade shows that you passed the class, you will be moved up into the next level or the class will be dropped.

If you want to check on how well you met the learner outcomes for each class, there are two ways to do so: 1) you can get a copy of the student achievement form from the IELI staff assistants or 2) you can access your grade on the USU website and then compare the grade to the Grade Descriptions on the IELI website (Current Students -> Academics-> Grade Descriptions).

**In-term evaluations.** Your professors will inform you, in writing, of your grade three times during the semester (e.g. approximately 4 weeks, 8 weeks and 12 weeks). For the midterm evaluation, IELI faculty assign a letter grade to students in each of their classes. If you are doing work at a level lower than C in any of your classes, your professor will meet with you to discuss what you will need to do to pass the class.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity – “The Honor System.”** Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

**The Honor Pledge:** To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.” A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.
**Grievance Process (Student Code).** Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking – which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student_code.pdf (Article VII. Grievances, pages 25-30).

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

**Sexual Harassment.** Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.” If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

**Students with Disabilities.** The Americans with Disabilities Act states: “Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course.”

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy.** Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

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**Course Calendar**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Classwork</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 18-24</td>
<td>Introductions, buy books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 25-31</td>
<td>Unit 1: Health and Genes, Reading “Wonder”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Feb 1-7</td>
<td>Unit 1: Health and Genes, Reading “Wonder”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Feb 8-14</td>
<td>Unit 2: Wildlife in Trouble, Reading “Wonder”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 15-21</td>
<td>Unit 2: Wildlife in Trouble, Reading “The Giver”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 22-28</td>
<td>Unit 3: Human Body, Reading “The Giver”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>March 1-7</td>
<td>Unit 3: Human Body, Reading “Bud not Buddy”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 8-14</td>
<td>Unit 4: Social Behavior, Reading “Bud not Buddy”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 15-21</td>
<td>Unit 4: Social Behavior, Reading “Walk two moons”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 22-28</td>
<td>Unit 5: Creativity, Reading “Walk two moons”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>March 29-Apr 4</td>
<td>Unit 5: Creativity, Reading “Tuesday with Morrie”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Apr 5-11</td>
<td>Unit 6: Wealth and Finance, Reading “Tuesday with Morrie”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Apr 12-18</td>
<td>Unit 6: Wealth and Finance, Reading “Tuesday with Morrie”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Apr 19-25</td>
<td>Book reports; Wrap up</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Apr 26-May 2</td>
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