



**Critical Reading & Writing Skills  
ACS 202  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2019**

*Last revised: 8/1/19*

**INSTRUCTOR**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to teach students how to apply, modify, and adapt their reading skills to accommodate the unique features and requirements of various academic disciplines as well as seminary courses. This course in particular will also focus on constructing solid arguments for critical book /chapter review and response skills. This course will provide the student with a foundation in the English reading and writing skills necessary to succeed in subsequent English and seminary courses.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply higher-order thinking skills to their course work using Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive skills;
2. Control over their reading by having them analyze reading tasks, select appropriate reading strategies, and monitor the effectiveness of those strategies;
3. Express the detailed components about the structure of a critical book/chapter review;
4. Demonstrate the abilities to question the information and opinions in a text and present their evaluation or judgment of the text;
5. Describe personal first response or reaction to a piece of writing.
6. Build up the networks with English-speaking people.

**REQUIRED READING**

1. [Kathleen T. McWhorter \(1997\). \*Academic Reading\*. Addison Wesley Publishing Company \(3rd edition\).](#)

ISBN-10: 0321012224 / ISBN-13: 978-0321012227

Referred to as "Reading"

2. Erik Rees (2006). *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*. Zondervan.

ISBN-10: 0310274184 / ISBN-13: 978-0310274186 . Referred to as "SHAPE"

## ASSIGNMENT

Assignment	Objectives	Due Date	Where to submit assignment
1. Chapter Practice Journal	1,2,3,4	See below	In class
2. Chapter Review/Reaction Paper	1,2,3,4	See below	In class
3. Uncovering his/her S.H.A.P.E	2,4,6	See below	In class
4. Presentation of Uncovering his/her S.H.A.P.E.	3,5	See below	In class

All course work is to be completed by due dates posted in this syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the director of ACS and are rarely granted. Missed due dates may require students to extend their program or fail the course. Additional fees may apply.

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Chapter Practice Journal (1 page)** – you are required to practice your reading strategies that you had learned in the prior week and write about 1) what you have read 2) how you have practiced the reading strategies while reading, 3) what worked/ not worked well, and 4) how you may utilize the reading strategies that you learned in the future learning.
2. **Reaction Paper (1 page)** - after reading the chapter of "SHAPE" that is assigned that week, hand in your reaction paper, which will consist of two parts:
  - 1) A summary in your own words about the chapter you read (1/2 page)
  - 2) A short reaction/response to the reading (1/2 page)

Details will be covered in class.

3. **Uncovering S.H.A.P.E. of a person (4-5 pages)** – you will have an interview with someone with a different ethnic background, uncover his/her S.H.A.P.E., and write about how unique that person is, what particular roles that person plays in the community, and in what area(s) you can work with that person for the kingdom of God. **Proposal is due on 9/24/19**. This assignment will be further discussed as the class goes on.

## COURSE PROCEDURES & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Attendance:** There is a positive correlation between attendance, learning, and grades. Classroom participation reinforces the exercises and assignments completed outside of class (through repetition/further practice) and provides an opportunity to ask questions about items or concepts that are unclear to the student. It is also an opportunity to interact with classmates and to learn from others' questions and insights. Please plan to attend every class.

**Cheating:** The community of Missio Theological Seminary and ACS expects a commitment to integrity in all areas of life. Cheating is an expression of fraud and deception. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) representing another's work as your own (such as a Bible version) or copying someone else's homework (in current or past classes). Students found cheating will receive a zero for the assignment (and perhaps the course), and may face further action by the academic office, such as expulsion from school.

**Help:** If you are experiencing difficulty, please let the instructor know. ACS instructors want to help you succeed in their courses. Check the office hours above. Students are also encouraged to discuss any difficulties with the director of ACS.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Reading and assignments
1	8/27	Introduction / What are Academic Critical Reading and Writing?	
2	9/3	Chapter 1 (Academic Reading) Book Review/Reaction Paper Writing Skills	Reading chapter 1 (Reading)
3	9/10	Chapter 1 (Academic Reading) Class work on Chapter Practice Journal-1	Chapter Practice Journal for chapter 1 Reading chapter 1 (SHAPE)
4	9/17	Class work on Reaction Paper #1 Chapter 2 (Academic Reading)	<b>Reaction Paper #1</b> (Spiritual Gifts) Reading chapter 2 (Reading)
5	9/24	Class work on Chapter Practice Journal-2	Chapter Practice Journal for chapter 2 <b>Proposal for Uncovering his/her S.H.A.P. E.</b>
6	10/1	Class work on Reaction Paper #2 Chapter 3 (Academic Reading)	<b>Reaction Paper #2</b> (Heart) Reading chapter 3 (Reading)
7	10/8	Class work on Chapter Practice Journal-3	Chapter Practice Journal for chapter 3
8	10/15	Class work on Reaction Paper #3 Chapter 4 (Academic Reading)	<b>Reaction Paper #3</b> (Abilities) Reading chapter 4 (Reading)
9	10/22	Class work on Chapter Practice Journal-4	Chapter Practice Journal for chapter 4
10	10/29	Class work on Reaction Paper #4 Chapter 5 (Academic Reading)	<b>Reaction Paper #4</b> (Personalities) Reading chapter 5 (Reading)
11	11/5	Class work on Reaction Paper #5 Chapter 6 (Academic Reading)	<b>Reaction Paper #5</b> (Experiences)
12	11/12	Exegetical Papers	Reading sample papers

13	11/19	Exegetical Papers	Reading sample papers
14	11/26	Thanksgiving Day Break	
15	12/3	Exegetical Papers	Reading sample papers
16	12/10	S.H.A.P. E.	Uncovering his/her S.H.A.P. E.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Please note that candidates are fully responsible to know and follow all the ACS rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the ACS student handbook.

## ACADEMIC AND GENERAL INTEGRITY

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that all assignments are to reflect your own work. Those found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will follow the process outlined in the current handbook. Plagiarism is against the law in the United States of America.

**Definition of plagiarism:** To plagiarize is “To steal or purloin and pass off as one’s own (ideas, writings, etc., of another)” (*Webster’s new collegiate dictionary*, 1953). Plagiarism is theft. Not putting the definition above within quotation marks, not crediting Webster’s (via the text citation), or changing a word (e.g., “claim” for “pass off”) and presenting the definition as your own would all be plagiarism. In other words, plagiarism is using someone else’s material without giving that person credit.

Other forms of plagiarism include mixing unmarked quotations with your own words and putting a single reference at the end of the paragraph, buying a paper from a term paper service (from any source, including one of those online), turning in a paper written by a student who already took the course, or having someone else write your paper. Writing the paper with another student is also plagiarism. Copying and pasting from a website, electronic document, or other source is stealing and is plagiarism. If in doubt, ask your professor or the library staff *before* you turn in your paper or project.

## COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK

All course work is to be completed by due dates posted in this syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the Director of Advanced Cultural Studies (ACS) and are not automatically granted. Missed due dates may require students to extend their program or fail the course. Additional fees may apply. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the due dates posted in the syllabus. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the due date in the syllabus. Forms for this purpose are available in the ACS office. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Such requests are not automatically granted.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Chapter Practice Journal	20% (5 points x 4)
Reaction Paper	50% (10 points x 5)
Uncovering his/her S.H.A.P.E.	20%
Presentation of Uncovering his/her S.H.A.P.E.	5%
Attendance and Participation	5%

To remain in good academic standing in ACS Level 2, a student must maintain a **3.2** grade point ACS's grading system is:

MISSIO SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing