

COURSE OUTLINE **Vocabulary Improvement**

Course Description

RD 135. Vocabulary Improvement . 1 hour credit. Prerequisite: A score at a pre-determined level in reading on a placement instrument. This course will enable the student to use, with comfort, approximately 300 selected words and to make educated assumptions about word meanings based on context clues and usage. The student's instructional level will be determined by a diagnostic test.

Course Relevance

The strategies learned in this class will enable the student to further improve in vocabulary skills.

Required Materials

Based on a diagnostic test, the student will use one of the following textbooks:
Nist, S. & Mohr, C., *Improving vocabulary skills*. Marlton, NJ: Townsend Press

Nist, S. & Mohr, C., *Advancing vocabulary skills*. Marlton, NJ: Townsend Press

Johnson, B. & Gamer, S., *Advanced word power*. Marlton, NJ: Townsend Press

* - For complete textbook information, refer to <http://www.butlercc.bkstr.com>

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Identify word meanings from context clues.
2. Make educated conclusions about word meanings based on word usage.

Learning PACT Skills that will be developed and documented in this course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Analytical Thinking Skills

1. Critical thinking
 - Through the production of sentence and paragraph completion activities, the student will use the words learned to complete partially constructed sentences and paragraphs to achieve appropriate syntax and meaning.

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by:

1. Identifying and recalling the meaning of specific vocabulary words by their correct usage in the context of prepared sentences.

Course Content

- I. Skills or Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Recognize the ways context gives clues to word meaning
 - B. Determine the appropriate form of a word according to its usage.
 - C. Pronounce vocabulary words accurately
 - D. Analyze vocabulary words by identifying prefixes and suffixes, when applicable

Learning Units

- II. Introduction: The best ways to increase vocabulary
 - A. Intensive words-in-context exercises
 - B. Abundant practice (in class and out)
 - C. Frequent and immediate feedback
- III. Selected words to adopt into one's "own" vocabulary
 - A. Reading sentences to see context clues
 - B. Matching words with definitions
 - C. Choosing words to complete sentences
 - D. Choosing words to complete a paragraph*

Learning Activities

Learning activities include completion of textbook exercises: words-in context exercises, matching sentence completion, paragraph completion, writing sentences, crosswords puzzles, and tests.

Grade Determination

The semester grade is based on daily work, tests, and the assessment task.