

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	General Education Department
<b>Programme:</b>	ALP: English for Academic Purposes
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	3
<b>Course Title:</b>	Fundamentals of Academic Research
<b>Course Code:</b>	EAP 3260
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Elizabeth Long
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	
Seminar / Tutorials:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall/Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course focuses on the key academic reading skills that students need for university-level research. While developing these skills, students receive ample practice in reading a wide range of written texts, specifically chosen with their future studies in mind. Students are made aware of typical characteristics of academic texts and the need for citation to acknowledge the work of others. They are given regular, graded practice in comprehension, inference, vocabulary learning strategies, summary and synthesis work. The difference between intensive and extensive reading is emphasised. A minimum grade of C on this course and EAP 3255 and EAP 3265 is required for students to progress to GEP 3180, Research and Writing I.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Aims and Objectives:**

The principal objective of this course is to enable students to make use of a wide range of available strategies to aid academic reading. The key aims are to help students with vocabulary learning, prediction, skimming, scanning, inference, awareness of structure and purpose and identification of main and supporting ideas, to enable them to conduct research more effectively.

**Programme Outcomes:**

3Bi, 3Ci, 3Di

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to

- use a range of strategies to read and understand texts from a variety of genres common to academic studies
- correctly identify a writer's purpose and main message
- apply vocabulary learning strategies effectively
- identify the key characteristics of an academic text
- read extensively at a reasonable speed
- produce both a long (approx. 500 words) and a short summary (approx. 150 words) of a text
- present a summary of key ideas from a selected academic text

**Indicative Content:**

- Pre-reading strategies
- Vocabulary learning strategies and preparation of a vocabulary record
- Skimming for overall meaning
- Scanning for specific information
- Comparison of text purpose, audience, style and genre
- Identification of thesis, main and supporting ideas
- Ways of taking notes leading to summary writing
- Principles of citation
- Extensive reading
- How to read a textbook

**Assessment:**

This course uses EAP assessment approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The instructor will choose a wide variety of texts to encourage pair and group discussion in class. Classroom tasks will be designed to encourage students to share their experience of improved reading strategies. Regular reading homework will be set in preparation for the next class.

**Bibliography:**

Reading texts will be handed out in class

**IndicativeText(s):**

An English/English dictionary such as *MacMillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Minor	No. of assessed items to follow EAP assessment norms	LTPC 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	
Minor	Change to course code and name in course description: from "ARW 3195, Principles of Academic Research" to "GEP 3180, Research and Writing I".	19/5/2015 Chair's Action by Professor Mary Robert	