

Center offers reading aid . . .

If self-help for improving study habits just doesn't make the grade for you, you might consider some of the services offered by the Learning Resource Center.

Located at 268 Condon Hall, ext. 3226, the center offers a library of some 300 books, as well as Footnotes and exam files. The main service being offered this summer by the center however, is a course in study skills and speed reading.

According to center director Jacqueline Bonner, the classes are nearly all-inclusive. "During other terms, we offer a number of short, specialized classes in such skills as memory improvement and note taking," says Bonner. "But since this is the only class we're offering this summer, we are going to include instruction in note-taking and study strategies as part of the speed reading course."

The classes, which cost students \$15 and faculty \$25, cannot be taken for University credit. Students and faculty members interested in taking one of the courses can sign up at special Learning Resource Center table at registration or at the center sometime during the first week of courses. Student classes are scheduled for 12:30 MUWF, 2:30 MUWF and 3:30 MUWF. A course especially geared to faculty and other professional educators will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Classes are limited to 20 persons.

Bonner says the six-week course is designed to increase rate, comprehension and recall. It has been developed over the year by center staff members and includes a heavy emphasis on note-taking and strategies for studying for exams.

"We'll instruct students on how to predict test questions," says Bonner, "as well as how to organize their thinking and reading about a course."

Bonner says most students double or triple their reading speed in the course and she emphasizes it is primarily geared toward persons who already are fairly good readers.

An added bonus — after the first several sessions, students will be practicing speed reading techniques with their own textbooks.

...while other offices, programs provide varied academic help

As well as the Learning Resource Center, several other offices and programs around campus can help you weather the summer academically.

CREDIT BY EXAM PROGRAM — Through this program students can challenge both upper and lower division classes, earning grades as well as credit. Although some studying may be required before taking the tests, the program is basically designed for people who have experience in a specific academic area of the University.

Both standardized and non-standardized tests are used. Introductory survey courses usually have standardized tests and the program can provide you with a study packet for these courses when you sign up. Non-standardized tests are arranged through the individual departments. The individual tests are given for specialized (usually upper division) courses and departments generally provide study guides.

All tests must be arranged at least one month in advance, according to program coordinator Brenda Patterson. She says students can decide when they want to take the tests, although most take the exams within six weeks of starting the study program.

A test may be attempted only once, but a failing grade does not prevent you from taking the class. A failing grade also does not appear on your official transcripts or records.

Students must be enrolled in the University either full or part-time during the term they arrange for the challenge exam and the hours earned through the program can't be used to fulfill the University's residency requirements.

A \$15 fee is charged for each course challenged. For more information, contact the Academic Advising Office, 107 Friendly Hall, ext. 3045.

EQUIVALENCY TESTS — The Counseling Center also offers ways for you to fulfill requirements without actually taking courses. The center offers College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests in the three broad areas of social science, science and arts and letters. Each exam earns you nine hours of credit and can lead to fulfilling University general requirements.

An individual test costs \$20, two tests cost \$30 and all three tests cost \$40. Exams are graded pass/no pass and can be given to non-students as well as those currently enrolled at the University. They cannot be given, however,

to students who have accumulated more than 90 hours of credits.

CLEP tests for specific courses are also available. The Counseling Center's testing office, located in 354 Susan Campbell Hall, ext. 3227, can provide additional information and study packets.

LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICES — This office, located in 164 Oregon Hall, ext. 3211, offers general assistance for older and mature students returning to campus. Pre-admission counseling is provided as well as petitions for exceptions to general University policies which affect older students.

STUDENT SERVICES — Also located in Oregon Hall, these offices are especially important ones for students who are near graduation. These offices are mainly concerned with helping students with problems of academic progress, probation and disqualification. They can provide written recommendations, reinstatement to the University, withdrawal from classes and aid for handicapped students.

ORIENTATION OFFICE — Incoming freshmen can find a friend at this office, located in 164 Oregon Hall, ext. 3218. Advising and help with registration can be provided by office staffers.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES — Designed primarily to aid new foreign students, this office located in 172 Oregon Hall, ext. 3206, can provide advice on visas, government regulation, scholarships and employment. American students planning to study abroad can also find helpful information at this office.

LANGUAGE LABS — If studying a foreign language is part of your agenda for the summer, the University's language labs can help you survive. Housed in the basement of Friendly Hall, the lab features 60 listening stations, which provide modern cassette players and recording systems. Thirty of the stations include "audio-comparators" which enable you to record your own voice and compare pronunciation with the lab recordings.

The lab's cassette library includes recordings in 12 foreign languages: French, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, Russian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Chinese and Japanese.

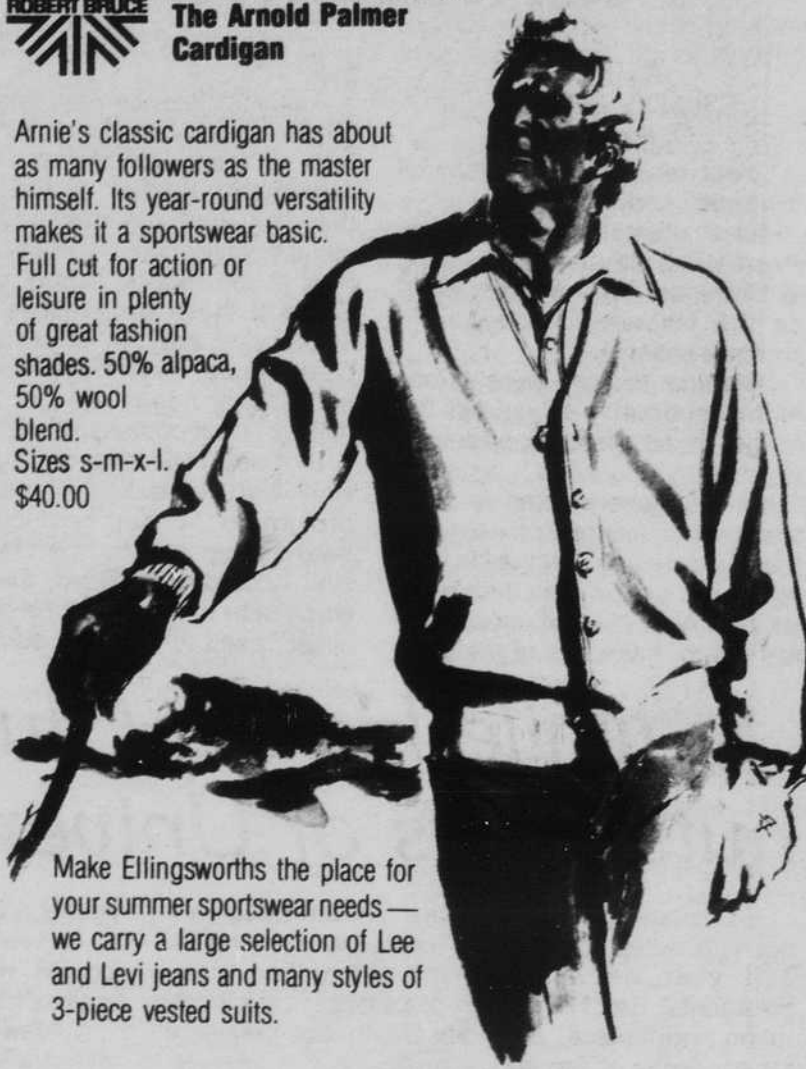
Lab hours this summer tentatively are set for Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Studying

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Preparation is a key part of test-taking. Again, study experts suggest trying to see ways in which the material covered in the course — in readings and in lectures — relates to one or several general themes. Organize material into these several subject areas and then set about making sure you remember enough specific facts and examples to back up general statements.

Some practical measures are helpful. If the teacher provides study guides or a list of possible test questions, use them. Often an overview of your class notes will give you a quick reference as to what areas the professor was particularly concerned with. Group review sessions can help. It is also wise to start studying early so you can ask the professor for help and avoid a day-before-the-midterm rush. Simple suggestions, but students rarely use them, professors say.

Your surroundings also play a role when you study. Whether you need peace and quiet, moderate noise or the Grateful Dead, try to get into that ideal environment when you have important studying to do. A few clues research has yielded:

People tend to tire more quickly and become less attentive when studying only under fluorescent light. Try to have some natural lighting or incandescent lighting to relieve the strain.

Temperature has its affect. For many people it's better to be a little too cool than too warm because the coolness helps to ward off fatigue. Good ventilation will also keep you awake.

Furniture should be more rigid than soft. Again the psychologists say people study better when they are slightly tense and in rigid positions rather than sprawled too comfortably on a sofa or bed.

And don't forget while you're studying that your emotions really do play an important part in your ability to learn. You remember facts you agree with. Studies have found pro-communist students remembering a list of statements favorable to the U.S.S.R. more easily than anti-communist students. Remember this as you study and make yourself take even more time with studies you dislike.

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