

2019 Syllabus Part 2 ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE v1 (Jan 9)

The contents of this document are valid for all classes I am teaching Spring 2019

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1. An important note on asking others to edit your work

All students are required to submit work **that has not been edited by others**. For my courses, receiving help without discussing it with me will in most cases be viewed by me as academic dishonesty.

My full statement about the editing of work is on my Academic Honesty document. Please be sure to read it.

2. When you are not fluent in English

2.1. Office hours

My courses are grounded in communication and good reading comprehension. This can pose problems for students whose English listening, speaking, and reading skills are not fluent. Writing skills are a different matter. I don't grade based on whether or not a student's written English is polished. However, access to dictionaries is often limited.

The best approach for those with language concerns, even small ones, is to schedule office hours and discuss your situation with me. Diversity is an important element in all my courses. This means I am particularly motivated to find ways to facilitate the expression of your opinions and observations. I have been a student overseas in Japan in difficult, high-level graduate courses, and I have been in classes here in America where I had to compete in classes where the majority of students were first or second generation, fluent speakers of Japanese and received better treatment from the instructors. So I understand something of the challenges you might face being away from home and surrounded by English. This, too, encourages me to help you find ways to be not just comfortable but successful in class.

However, in counter-balance to the above, I believe all students should be involved in the class horizontally with other students. Much of my teaching approach is peer-to-peer teaching & learning. So there are limits as to how much I can adjust expectations to help with language issues. Also, my expectations for reading "with care and thought" can be a challenge to some but this requirement is rarely negotiable. Finally, I think basic language skills are a reasonable up-front requirement of this university.

All of this is best to be discussed in office hours. It helps me understand and work with you and we can shape some things to help with your situation.

2.2. You must submit your work unedited by others but ...

A word of warning: When working on an assignment, be sure to do your own work. Since it is nearly impossible to separate editing for English clarity from editing for clarity of ideas, I would like you to submit your own, un-edited prose.

In the case that you are truly concerned that I will not understand your prose, you may submit two versions **on ONE document**—not two different documents—where the first segment of the document is your **unedited** version and the second is an **edited** version. If you do so, provide details about the editing as much as possible: who helped, what specific help was offered (digital exchanges or sitting together), when, and so on.