

EXPECTATIONS

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE AE/ESL TRANSFER STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN THE UPPER-DIVISION WRITING COURSE *HUMANITIES 139W* TO KNOW

Vocabulary: In terms of vocabulary, upon enrolling in Humanities 139W, an upper-division writing course designed for Academic English students, students should have adequate command of:

- Word Forms (related parts of speech such as motivate motivation)
- Collocations (fixed expressions such as on the one hand, on the other hand)
- Transition Words
- Word Choice and Register (including the avoidance of slang in formal writing and the use of specific words in establishing credibility and authority, mitigating circumstances, emphasizing key points, and appealing to specific audiences)
- The Grammatical Constraints Governing the Use of the Words

With reference to vocabulary, students should also know how to use learner dictionaries such as *Longman's Dictionary of Contemporary English* (<http://www.ldoceonline.com>). Students should have mastered basic high frequency words and the majority of the words on the Academic Word List (<http://www.lex tutor.ca/vp/eng/>). (See also WordSift: www.wordsift.com.) Those who are able to use concordance dictionaries (e.g., http://www.lex tutor.ca/concordancers/concord_e.html) will have an advantage over those who do not.

Grammar: Upon enrolling in Humanities 139W, students should have developed basic knowledge of the following grammatical features and be able to use these features adequately in a range of academic texts:

- Basic Sentence Structure (subject-verb-object, word order inversion, prevention of sentence fragments and run-on sentence errors)
- Complex Sentences (including relative clauses)
- Verb Tenses
- Verb Forms (including base, infinitive, gerunds, passive structures, irregular verb forms)
- Noun Plurals (both regular and irregular, count and non-count)
- Definite and Indefinite Articles
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Pronouns (reference and agreement)

Mechanics: In terms of mechanics, students should know the basic conventions pertaining to spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Essay Structure and Rhetorical Features: In terms of essay structure and rhetorical features, upon enrolling in Humanities 139W, students should have adequate knowledge of the basic discourse features and structures of academic texts. They should be able to write extended academic essays in which they do the following:

- Structure basic paragraphs (e.g., establishing a unitary purpose for each paragraph and using topic sentences)
- Write effective thesis statements
- Produce introductory paragraphs that engage the reader's attention and establish the purpose of the essay
- Use multiple ways of establishing cohesion in academic writing (including the use of synonyms, repetition, pronouns, transition words, word families, and demonstrative pronouns)
- Order paragraphs with effective transitional expressions and sentences
- Support thesis statements with evidence from a variety of sources
- Use quotations and reported speech to support claims, incorporating them appropriately
- Incorporate into writing analyses of evidence to support claims
- Conclude with suitable ending paragraphs
- Vary writing appropriately to achieve specific communicative purposes

In addition, students should be able respond to the needs of different audiences (including imaginary readers, classmates, instructors, and administrators) and know the conventions for writing a variety of genres.

Students should be able to compose out-of-class writing assignments and in-class writing assignments, take on-demand, sit down writing exams, and produce analytical essays. They should know how to complete essays with multiple drafts, generating, revising, editing and proofreading. In addition, they should have experience collaborating with others. They should have developed the ability to critique their own writing as well as that of others.

