English Language Institute

Written Communication: Crafting Varied and Impactful Sentences

Instructor: Paul Quaintance
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Classroom: COBB 219
Class Time: Monday, 5-7:50 p.m.
Office Hours: Monday 12-2 p.m.

Required Materials:
● Access to Canvas
● A notebook for new vocabulary, handouts, and class notes

Course Overview:
In this course, students review the fundamentals of English sentence grammar within a cohesive form/function framework and learn to manipulate sentence structure to improve information flow, increase variety, and hone focus.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:
● Identify and control essential grammatical forms and functions, including:
  ○ Parts of speech
  ○ Phrase types
  ○ Clause types
● Identify and control thematic roles in sentences
● Identify verb types and subcategorization requirements
● Use online guides and corpora to inform word and grammar choices
● Demonstrate their understanding of the fundamentals by editing their own writing to improve communication
Student Responsibilities

In this class, you are expected to...

- attend all classes and do related class activities
- arrive on time and stay until the end
- participate actively
- complete all homework assignments on time
- ask questions if information is unclear and/or confusing

Grading

This course is pass/fail. A passing grade requires an 87%; the equivalent of a B+.

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Helpful Online Resources

*Pattern Dictionary of English Verbs*
http://pdev.org.uk/#browse

*Longman English Dictionary (great for quick, basic searches)*
http://www.ldoceonline.com

*Corpus of Contemporary American English (examples of words in use, collocations, etc.)*
http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/

*Academic Vocabulary Lists (download a complete academic vocabulary list)*
http://www.academicvocabulary.info

*Words and Phrases Info (field-specific lists)*
http://www.wordandphrase.info/academic/frequencyList.asp

*ELI Resource Page*
http://tiny.cc/n64q0x
Please visit the English Language Institute’s resource page. Here you will find Chicago activities and a wide variety of recommended online resources.  

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is required. Missing even one class may make it very difficult to succeed in this course, given the amount of material covered. In the event that a student is absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor or a classmate to find out what was covered in class and when any homework is due. Students are allowed the equivalent of 3 absences -- there will be no distinction between absences. More than 3 absences will lead to a drop; after that, you will not be able to attend class.

Out of Class Coursework

Students should expect to spend two hours per week preparing for class sessions. Hand in homework on the date and time it is due.

Academic Integrity
High value is placed on academic integrity in North American higher education institutions, and the University of Chicago is no exception. We will be talking explicitly about the meanings and expectations of academic integrity in this class. For now, the important thing to keep in mind is that you are allowed to work together on homework and assignments; however, you are not allowed to turn in identical work for individually-assigned tasks (that is, when an assignment is NOT a group assignment).

Disability Statement
The University of Chicago is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or you think you have a disability) and, as a result, need reasonable accommodation to participate fully in this course, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible: disabilities@uchicago.edu. You must be registered with Student Disability Services in order to receive accommodations.