

US Academic Standards Class

Instructors: Jennifer Haywood and Ben Hambleton

Office Hours: by appointment

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Course Overview:

The goal of this course is to prepare you for the very interesting and challenging academic courses you will be taking at the University of Washington. You will be practicing reading, writing, speaking and listening skills which you will need to be successful in these academic courses. Most exercises will relate to the environmental themes you are covering in your other classes.

Course Materials:

- There is no textbook for this class.
- Please be sure to bring a pencil and paper to class each day.
- You will need web access to complete some course assignments. You will be able to use labs on campus if you do not have web access in your dorm or your homestay.
- Some materials will be posted on the course website:
<http://depts.washington.edu/humanenv/>

Learning Goals:

We will be working on the following skills: lecture listening, note-taking, reading, summarizing, paraphrasing, giving class presentations, asking questions and learning vocabulary. Grammar and pronunciation issues will be addressed as they arise.

Most course materials will relate to Pacific Northwest themes of earthquakes, water, salmon and Native Americans. We will also discuss classroom expectations and formal vs. informal language.

Student Responsibilities:

In order to benefit from this class, I expect you to:

1. Come to class on time.
2. Participate actively in group work.
3. Complete homework and readings before class.
4. Speak only English in class.
5. Have fun!

Course requirements

1. **Attendance:** Attendance at class is important in order for you benefit from your courses. In addition, if you miss too many classes, you may have problems with your visa. For these reasons, there is a strict attendance policy for this program, and instructors will take attendance at each class meeting. The following policies apply to all your classes:

- “i. Each student is only allowed one unexcused absence from EACH course. This means you do not need an excuse for one absence. After

that, if you are sick and go to the doctor, you must get a doctor's note to excuse the absence. Missing class for any reason other than medical emergencies or family emergencies will not be excused.

ii. When you are going to be absent from class, you must send an email to all of the instructors in advance of your absence. This lets other teachers know that you are sick, even if you aren't missing their class."

I will take attendance at each class meeting.

If you are absent, please contact a classmate to get any assignments or notes so that you are ready for the next day of class. If you cannot get help from a classmate, please contact me.

2. Homework:

Homework assignments must be turned in on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Evaluation:

To pass this class, students need to achieve an overall score of 70% on all assignments.

Final grades in the class will be calculated as follows:

In-class assignments:	50%
Out-of-class assignments:	50%