



Strategies for Second-Language Learners in Signature Courses

Reading

- Try reading difficult texts twice: First, read for general meaning only, without stopping to look up any words. Then, read again, looking up new vocabulary as you go along.
- Discuss the reading material with your classmates or friends, or try writing short summaries of the main points.
- Visit your instructor or TA's office hours to clarify what you don't understand from the reading.

Writing

- Visit the Undergraduate Writing Center (see below) for individualized help with your writing assignments.
- Read "Writing in North American Colleges: A Primer for International Students" [<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/683/01/>], from the Purdue Online Writing Lab. It explains many of the conventions your Signature Course instructor will expect you to follow, such as writing from research, using a direct style, and conducting critical analysis.
- Pay attention to the content and ideas in your writing, not just the grammar. Writing with clear ideas can usually be understood even if it contains some grammatical mistakes.

In Lecture

- Ask your professor or TA if there are handouts, PowerPoint slides, or other supporting materials that you can use as study and memory aids for the lecture material.
- Arrange weekly meetings with your classmates to go over your notes from lecture. You can help each other fill in any blank spots that you missed, and go over difficult concepts.
- Visit your professor or TA's office hours to clarify points from the lecture that are unclear.
- Request permission to record lectures so you can listen to them later and correct your notes.

In Discussion Section

- During class discussion, students are often expected to link the concepts they are learning in the course with their own personal experience. You probably have some unique insights into the material that would be interesting to the other students. Contribute to the discussion by speaking up when asked!
- You may find it easier to speak during class discussions if you write down, in a sentence or two, what you plan to say.

University Resources

- The Undergraduate Writing Center [<http://uwc.utexas.edu/about>] in FAC 211 offers free, one-on-one help with written assignment for all undergraduates. Their consultants are experienced in working with writers from all linguistic backgrounds. Walk-in appointments are available, or you may schedule online or by phone: (512) 471-6222.
- ESL Services in the University's International Office [<http://world.utexas.edu/esl/>] offers an English Language Program with both intensive and part-time classes.

