

ENGLISH 2311 – Introduction to Technical Writing

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Office hours:
By email

CLASS POLICIES

Course Description

ENGL 2311: Introduction to Technical and Business Writing is intensive study of and practice in writing within professional settings. The course focuses on the types of documents necessary to make decisions and take action on the job such as proposals, reports, handbooks, e-mail messages, and letters. Students also practice individual and collaborative processes involved in the creation of ethical and efficient documents.

Course Prerequisite: English 1301T, 1301, or equivalent credit.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- Understand the differences and similarities between academic and technical/professional writing;
- Gain a deeper understanding of how individuals within their selected professional field use writing and communication to do their work;
- Recognize, analyze, and accommodate diverse audiences;
- Produce documents appropriate to audience, purpose, and genre;
- Analyze the ethical responsibilities involved in technical communication;
- Locate, evaluate, and incorporate pertinent information;
- Develop verbal, visual, and multimedia materials as necessary, in individual and/or collaborative projects, as appropriate;
- Edit for appropriate style, including attention to word choice, sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling; and
- Design and test documents for easy reading and navigation.

Required Materials

- Access to Blackboard off campus
- Ability to download and read PDFs
- Access to Microsoft Word outside of class
- A zip drive or storage device for course materials—**bring this to class with you every time.**
- A notebook for notes/group work/in-class writing
- A writing implement

Computer Requirements

Access to Blackboard

I will rely heavily on Blackboard tools to teach this class. You can access Blackboard at **blackboard.angelo.edu**. To log in, you'll need your Ramport ID and password. All the writing assignments will be posted in Blackboard in PDF format. I will also post the syllabus, writing assignment prompts and rubrics, daily homework instructions, in-class materials and instructions, and additional resources (videos, handouts, etc.) in our course Blackboard site. Moreover, you will submit **some** homework and most writing assignment responses through Blackboard. In order to make sure everyone is familiar with our course's Blackboard site layout, I will provide a brief tutorial illustrating

how to navigate it the first week of class. Be sure you routinely check Blackboard for detailed homework instruction, for some learning materials that were used/discussed in class, and for digital copies of writing assignment prompts and rubrics.

Microsoft Word or Word-Compatible Software

All typed work (writing assignments and homework) needs to be composed and submitted in Microsoft Word. Because of the amount of document design you will need to do in this course, you must purchase or have access to MS Word when you are not in class. **Using Google docs will not be sufficient.** The [ASU Bookstore](#) offers a rentable MS Word option. If you have questions or concerns about this requirement, please ask me.

Requirements and Grading

Homework Activities – Homework activities will be completed on your own and turned in on Blackboard by the due date indicated on the course schedule. Each activity will be graded, so do use all of the time provided to do a thorough job.

Major Assignments - Except as otherwise specified, all assignments must be typed with one-inch margins on top, right, and bottom, and they must be cited using MLA or APA format. **All major assignments must be submitted in order to pass the course.**

Formatting - Please use Times Roman or Times New Roman 12 point font in MLA paper format. All text, except for headings must be left-justified. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the loss of points.

- **Safe Assign** - In addition, **all major assignments (but not homework) as well as the final exam** will be checked by Safe Assign automatically. If you have questions about your Safe Assign report, please come see me during office hours or email me and I will be glad to help you.
- **Late Assignments** – **I DO NOT accept late assignments.**
- **Grading** - Grades on all written work depend on all elements of writing, which include but are not limited to: content; form; accuracy in grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.; logic; and neatness. In addition to grading for content and development, I grade for errors in grammar, spelling, and formatting. **These errors will seriously impact your grade**, so I strongly suggest that you go over your assignments thoroughly to ensure that they are as perfect as possible.

Blackboard works on a weighted system, and the approximate item weights are as follows:

Weight	Assignment
15%	Professional Profile
20%	Resume and cover letter
20%	Research Report
25%	Guide to Writing
20%	Daily Assignments
100%	Total Percent

Academic Honesty

I will be checking each paper for plagiarism and for the appropriate use of sources using Safe Assign. Make sure that you are citing all sources appropriately and correctly. Failure to do so will result in a loss in points or disciplinary action. I will not grade an assignment until you have submitted a draft to Safe Assign and I will consider that assignment late until you have turned it in online, even if you gave me a paper hardcopy in class.

Keep in mind that plagiarism also consists of recycling old papers or materials completed for another class or for a previous section of 2311 (i.e. self-plagiarism) as well as taking a file begun by another person and revising it. These documents should be yours alone and completed for *this* course during *this* semester.

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>. Students in this class who are determined to have violated the policies explained in the code will face a disciplinary process that, at minimum, will result in failing the assignment, and may also include receiving a failing grade in the course, as well as being referred to the English Department Chair for possible further action.

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability
Services Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
University Center, Room 112

Title IX

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.*

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Religious Holy Day

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This schedule may be subject to change. All readings and homework assignments may be found on the "Weekly Modules" Page.

All assignments will be due on the stated day by the end of the day

Week 1: Monday, June 6

Topic: Types of writing

Reading Assignment on Blackboard:

1. "The Keys to Successful Communication: Purpose, Audience, and Tone"
2. " Technical Communication in the Entrepreneurial Workplace " in Technical Communication Strategies for Today

Respond: questions under today's date on weekly module on Blackboard, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Friday, Tuesday, June 7

Topic: Discourse Communities

Reading Assignment on Blackboard:

1. Ann Johns "Discourse Communities and Communities of Practice "
2. The "Discourse Communities Excerpt"
3. Read Dr. Huffman's Defining Discourse Community Handout

Respond: questions under today's date on weekly module on Blackboard, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Wednesday, June 8

Topic: Profiles

Reading Assignment on Blackboard:

1. Profiles
2. Marlen Esparza: Going the Distance

Respond: questions under today's date on weekly module on Blackboard, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Thursday, June 9

Topic: Interviewing

Reading Assignment on Blackboard: Merriam Interviewing

Respond: questions under today's date on weekly module on Blackboard, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Friday, June 10

Topic: The Interview Pitch; Choosing an Angle for Your Profile

Reading Assignment on Blackboard: Email Chapter

Week 2: Monday, June 13

Topic: Email and Social Media

Respond: Complete the interview pitch

Tuesday, June 14

Topic: Analyzing profiles

Reading Assignment on Blackboard:

1. “Drawn to a Larger Scale”
2. “Defying the Odds: Victor Cruz”

Respond: questions under today’s date on weekly module on Blackboard, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Wednesday, June 15

DUE: Profile assignment

Topic: Job Materials assignment

Respond: Complete pre-research for the resume assignment, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Thursday, June 16

Topic: Job materials assignment – the resume and cover letter

Reading Assignment on Blackboard: Starting Your Career: Resumes

Friday, June 17

Topic: Analyzing Example Professional Portfolios

Reading Assignment on Blackboard: Example professional portfolios on Blackboard

Respond: questions under today’s date on weekly module on Blackboard, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Week 3: Monday, June 20

DUE: Resume and cover letter

Respond: Complete resume and cover letter assignment, due on the next class period before the beginning of class.

Tuesday, June 21

Topics: Research Report

Read: “Chapter 26: Finding Sources and Collecting Evidence” in *Writing Today*

Respond: Watch videos on research and complete the quizzes by the beginning of the next class period.

Wednesday, June 22

Topics: Locating sources and finding evidence, Using Ramport Library Services

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Thursday, June 23

Topics: Fake news

Read/Watch: Articles and videos listed on the Weekly Modules Page for today.

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Friday, June 24

Topics: Using the Ramport Library Resources

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Week 4: Monday, June 27

Topics: Citing Sources

Read: Citation readings listed on the Weekly Modules Page.

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Tuesday, June 28

Topics: Citing Sources

Respond: Citation activity worksheet

Wednesday, June 29

Topics: Research Outline.

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Thursday, June 30

Topics: Professional correspondence

Read: Emails, Letters, and Memos

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Wednesday, June 29

Topics: Developing paragraphs and sections

Read:

1. “Developing Paragraphs and Sections
2. “As a Result, Connecting the Parts”

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Thursday, June 30

DUE: Research paper

Topics: Analyzing example guides

Read: Example guides listed under the “Weekly Modules” page

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Friday, July 1

Topics: Starting your guide

Watch: Instructional videos posted under the “Weekly Modules” page

Respond: Work on your TOC and first 5 paragraphs

Week 5: Tuesday, July 5

Topics: Designing the guide

Read:

1. Designing
2. Guide to Designing your Guide for Writing

Respond: Questions listed on the Weekly Modules Page

Wednesday, July 6

Topic: Assembling a rough draft of your guide

Respond: Work on rough draft for guide

Thursday, July 7

Activity: Working on the guide

Friday, July 8

Guide for Writing due at 12 pm. This is your final.