

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: BUS 130: Business Communications

CLASS SECTION: 002

TERM: Fall 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

---

*Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.*

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

---

NAME: Brenda Jones, MA, BA, APR

EMAIL: [jonesb@camosun.ca](mailto:jonesb@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: CBA 258

HOURS: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. – noon; Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30 – 5 p.m.

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

---

This course will assist learners to develop effective business skills in oral presentation, written correspondence and teamwork. Learners will develop the ability to analyze their audience and message purpose in the creation and delivery of all business communication.

PREREQUISITE(S): C in English 12 or C in Camosun Alternative

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

---

By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to do the following:

1. Communicate professionally and effectively in written, spoken, and visual forms within a business context
  - Analyze an audience, determine the message purpose, choose an appropriate communication channel, and develop the message accordingly
  - Deliver effective oral presentations
  - Write and format standard business correspondence for a variety of distribution channels
  - Use appropriate business tone and approach (direct/indirect)

- Analyze appropriate use of emerging technologies
- Use self-assessment and peer review to evaluate the quality of oral and business communications

2. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a team to compile and present a collaborative research-based project.

- Demonstrate interpersonal and intercultural communication skills needed to work in diverse contexts
- Clearly identify a business problem, analyze data, synthesize results, and present clear, realistic conclusions and recommendations in written and oral form
- Identify, cite, and format reliable and credible sources for primary and secondary research using APA style project

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

---

Textbook: Guffey, M. E., Loewy, D., Griffin, E. (2021). *Business Communication: Process and Product* (7th Canadian ed.). Toronto, ON: Cengage Learning Ltd. ISBN-10: 0-17-691018-2; ISBN-13: 978-0-17-691018-2

Students may purchase a hard copy of the text, OR they may purchase an electronic version with or without MindTap, an additional online product which includes the e-text. You may purchase MindTap either from the Cengage website with a Canadian credit card, or via the Camosun College Bookstore. We will not be using MindTap in this course, but it is a helpful tool for improving your writing and communication skills.

If you buy MindTap, which is completely optional, you need a student registration URL and a course key to access it and the online materials.

**Course Link URL:** <https://student.cengage.com/course-link/MTPN0623Q15P>

**Course Link Instructions:** [Print instructions](#)

**Course Key:** MTPN-0623-Q15P

Note: If you have an earlier version of the text, it is your responsibility to find all relevant pages and information.

Hard copies of the text are on reserve in the library on both Camosun campuses.

## COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

---

**Class hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays (CBA 277/CBA 209) 2:30 – 4:20 p.m.**

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	DUE DATES
<b>Week 1</b> Sept. 5/7	Read Chapter 1  Intro to Course, D2L, and MindTap  Activity: About You survey (complete by Sept. 8)  Icebreaker activity	<b>Post Intro on Discussion forum (Sept. 7) &amp; comment on 2 classmates' posts (Sept. 10)</b>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	DUE DATES
		<b>D2L Quiz Ch. 1 (Sept. 10)</b>
<b>Week 2</b> Sept. 12/14	Read Chapters 2 and 3  Intercultural Communication  Professionalism: Listening, Nonverbal & Etiquette Skills	Add/WD deadline (Sept. 11)  <b>D2L Quiz Ch. 2 &amp; 3 (Sept. 17)</b>  Academic Integrity Course completion/exam (Sept. 17)
<b>Week 3</b> Sept. 19/21	Read Chapters 7 and 14  Electronic & Digital Media  Business Presentations  <b>How To Presentations Assigned</b>	Post How-To topic to D2L discussion board (Sept. 20) for instructor approval  <b>D2L Quizzes Ch. 7 &amp; 14 (Sept. 24)</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Sept. 26/28	Read Chapters 4 and 10  Teams/Group Process & Meetings  Planning Business Messages  Persuasive Messages	<b>Individual How-To Presentation Outline (Sept. 26)</b>  <b>D2L Quizzes Ch. 4 &amp; 10 (Oct. 1)</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Oct. 3/5	Read Chapters 5, 6 and 13 (pp. 347 – 351)  Organizing, Writing & Revising Messages (self-study)  Business Proposals  <b>Individual Presentations (beginning Oct. 5)</b>  Team Formation and Topic Selection  <b>Team Charter Assigned</b>	<b>In-Class Writing Assignment: Persuasive Writing (Oct. 3)</b>  <b>D2L Quizzes Ch. 5 &amp; 6 (Oct. 8)</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Oct. 10/12	Read Chapter 11 (pp. 282 – 294) and 12  Proposal Writing  Informal Business Reports  <b>Individual Presentations</b>  <b>Team Scenario Activity Assigned</b> (Fill out Team Scenario document with team during class)	<b>Team Charter (Oct. 9)</b>  <b>In-Class Writing Assignment: Team Scenario (Oct. 10)</b>  <b>Team Project Proposal (Oct. 15)</b>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	DUE DATES
	<b>Team Project Proposal Assigned</b>	<b>D2L Quiz Ch. 12 (Oct. 15)</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Oct. 17/19	Primary/Secondary Research APA Style Academic Honesty & Plagiarism Go over graded proposal with instructor on Oct. 17 <b>Individual Presentations</b> Librarian visit Begin group project research	<b>D2L Quizzes: APA &amp; Academic Honesty Pretest and Quiz (Oct. 22)</b>
<b>Week 8</b> Oct. 24/26	Read Chapter 11 (pp. 295 – 301) and 13 <b>Individual Presentations</b> Progress Reports Informal Business Reports & Data Analysis Formal Business Reports <b>Team progress report assigned</b> <b>Self/peer evaluations assigned</b>	<b>D2L Quiz Ch. 11 &amp; 13 (Oct. 29)</b>
<b>Week 9</b> Oct. 31/Nov. 2	Read Chapter 8 Positive Writing <b>Individual Presentations</b> Team Work Block after presentations (Nov. 2)	<b>Team Progress Report (Nov. 5)</b> Mid-Project Self/peer evaluations (Nov. 5) <b>D2L Quiz Ch. 8 (Nov. 5)</b>
<b>Week 10</b> Nov. 7/9	Read Chapter 9 Negative Messages	<b>In-Class Writing Assignment: Direct Claim (Nov. 7)</b> <b>D2L Quiz Ch. 9 (Nov. 12)</b>
<b>Week 11</b> Nov. 14/16	Team Work Block (Nov. 16)	<b>In-Class Writing Assignment:</b>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	DUE DATES
		<b>Negative Writing (Nov. 14)</b>
<b>Week 12</b> Nov. 21/23	<b>Team conference sessions</b> Time for groups to work together on report when not meeting with instructor	<b>Near-complete draft of final report to be uploaded to D2L by noon the day before your meeting</b>  <b>Team Final Report (Nov. 26)</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Nov. 28/30	Review of Business Presentations (Chapter 14)  Reflective Message  Practice sessions to rehearse presentation as a group	
<b>Week 14</b> Dec. 5/7	<b>Team Presentations</b>	<b>Reflective message (Dec. 8 by noon)</b>  Last day to withdraw without academic penalty (Dec. 9)
<b>NO FINAL EXAM</b>		

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

#### EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Individual Presentation Outline	5%
Individual Presentation	5%
Persuasive Message	10%
Negative News Message	10%

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Direct Claim Message	10%
D2L Chapter Quizzes	20%
APA/Academic Honesty Pretests & Quizzes	5%
In-class Participation/Professional Practice/Peer Review	10%
<b>Team Project</b>	
Team Charter and Project Proposal	5%
Team Progress Report	5%
Formal Written Report	10%
Final Team Presentation	5%
	<b>TOTAL</b>
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

**Generative AI.** This course was not designed for use with generative artificial intelligence (Gen-AI) tools, e.g. ChatGPT, Quillbot, etc. Use of Gen-AI tools may hinder your learning. As such, use of Gen-AI tools in this course is **not allowed** unless explicit permission is provided in advance. If you believe that a specific Gen-AI tool would be useful to support your learning in this course, please talk to me first. Note that spelling, grammar, and overall formatting (things that AI does really well) constitute only a small portion of your grade on each assignment. Tools such as spelling and grammar check features in MS Word should be sufficient to ensure your spelling and grammar are of sufficient clarity. If you would like additional support with writing, please consider using the services available in the [Writing Centre](#).

**Assignment formatting.** The School of Business uses **APA style** for formatting assignments and citing references. Proper citations and formatting using APA style will be required. See Camosun College (2021) Library Citation Guides retrieved from: <http://camosun.ca.libguides.com/apa7>.

- Where required by your instructor, submit all assignments into the D2L assignments by your last name.
- In text citations for quotes, paraphrasing, and references must be consistent with APA standards.
- Grammar, spelling, style and APA formatting, citations and referencing will be assessed in your mark.
- All submitted work must be properly referenced to sources where required by your instructor.
- Unless otherwise specified, you are to submit your own work, any work collaborated (unless permitted by the course) will be considered in violation of the college's Academic Integrity policy. See Camosun College (2021) [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

**Deadlines and exams.** You must submit your assignments on the due date or as announced. A grade of zero will be assigned to late submissions. There are no additional assignments or make-up exams of any kind if you performed poorly on an assignment, midterm or final exam.

- a) **EXAM DATES WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED.** Non-attendance on scheduled exam dates results in a zero grade. Exceptions will be made only for medical reasons or extenuating circumstances that must be submitted and then accepted by the instructor. Please advise your instructor promptly.
- b) Students registered through the [Centre for Accessible Learning \(CAL\)](#) should discuss timelines with their instructors at the beginning of each semester.
- c) Valid medical documentation must be received as soon as reasonably possible if an assignment, presentation or exam is missed.

---

## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

The School of Business is committed to promoting competence, professionalism and integrity in our students and developing their core skills to succeed throughout their academic programs and in their careers. The purpose of the Academic Integrity policy is to provide clear expectations of appropriate academic conduct and to establish processes for discipline in appropriate circumstances. It is your responsibility to become familiar with the content and the consequences of academic dishonesty.

---

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

---

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>

---

Support Service	Website
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

---

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

---

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

---

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.



### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this Syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.