



School of Arts & Science
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
ENVR 251-001
ENGL 251: Technical Communications
Winter 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Janet Doherty
(b)	Office Hours:	Mon 10 – 11:30am, Wed 1 – 2:30pm, by appointment
(c)	Location:	Paul 332
(d)	Email:	DohertyJ@camosun.bc.ca
(e)	Phone:	370-3355 (Lansdowne office) 370-4421 (voice mail)

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Construct a report which reflects the generic structure of technical, scientific writing.
2. Differentiate between objective and subjective English and understand the purpose of each style of discourse.
3. Objectively compose communications in these formats inter alia; abstracts; definitions; descriptions; summaries; memoranda; manuals.
4. Deliver an informative oral presentation with the aid of speaking notes only.
5. Read, analyze and present orally an example of important contemporary research in Environmental Science.

3. Texts

- (a) Coursepack for ENVR 251 (in bookstore)
- (b) A writer's reference manual with a complete section on documentation
- (c) A good dictionary

4. **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

Please note that this schedule is tentative and may be adjusted during the term.

Week 1	Course Introduction Characteristics of Technical Writing Direct Letters
Week 2	Technical Descriptions Effective Writing Style (Seven C's)
Week 3	Manuals and Instructions
Week 4	Summaries Indirect Documents
Week 5	Proposals Memos
Week 6	Documentation Informal Reports
Week 7	Research in the Applied Sciences READING BREAK
Week 8	Facts and Inferences Assumptions and Viewpoints
Week 9	Oral Presentations Visual Aids
Week 10	Short Oral Presentations
Week 11	Formal Reports Recognizing and Evaluating Theories
Week 12	Formal Reports
Week 13	Formal Oral Presentations
Week 14	Formal Oral Presentations

5. Assignments and Evaluation

Technical Description	10%	Jan 21
Summary	10%	Feb 6
Proposal	10%	Feb 25
Portfolio	20%	Mar 4
Formal Report	20%	Apr 1
Short Oral Presentation	5%	sign up
Formal Oral Presentation	15%	sign up
Participation	10%	

6. Grading System

A+	90-100%	B-	70-72
A	85-89	C+	65-69
A-	80-84	C	60-64
B+	77-79	D	50-59
B	73-76	F	Below 50

7. Important Notes

- Participation mark will be based on attendance, preparation, discussions, and in-class exercises.
- Students with more than 2 undocumented absences will lose 5% of the participation grade.
- Students who are absent for an in-class assignment will receive zero.
- Late documents will lose 5% per day, and they will not receive comments. Portfolio documents may not be submitted late.
- Write your own assignments! Plagiarism is an academic offence that the college takes very seriously. Correct documentation is both ethical and easy. See me **ahead of time** if you have any questions about how to document other people's ideas. Papers with any form of plagiarism will receive zero.
- The College provides many services, including a Writing Centre and a Language Help Centre. See Student Services, the College Calendar, or www.camosun.ca for details.