

COURSE OUTLINE FOR ENGLISH 170

(Technical & Professional Communications -1)

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Texts: Course Package from bookstore (Required), and any pocket style grammar manual (Optional).

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

ENGL 170 - TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS 1

English 170 focuses on writing for the workplace; it covers writing formats, writing structure, writing style, document design, document integrity with a comprehensive review of grammar, punctuation and usage. Students learn to write letters, memos, e-mails, short reports, instructions, and job-search formats in a clear, concise, purposeful, unambiguous and grammatically correct way.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Content

Students will

WRITING FORMATS

Write workplace correspondence (letters, memos, and e-mails) and short reports using correct formats.

Plan, organize, structure, and write workplace correspondence (letters, memos, and e-mails) for a variety of everyday situations.

Plan, organize, structure, and write informal reports for a variety of work-related reasons (progress, analysis, incident, field, and complaint).

Write a user manual that employs clear instructions and procedures that can be followed accurately without confusion.

Compose an effective resume in hard copy and in electronically scannable format.

Compose effective and appropriate prose related to use of social media for job search.

WRITING STRUCTURE

Present information appropriately either using the direct approach (under normal circumstances) or the indirect approach (for bad news and some persuasive situations).

WRITING STYLE

Analyze the informational needs and backgrounds of various audiences (scientific, technical, lay) requiring technical reports, and use technical vocabulary appropriate for the intended audience.

Write in a style that exhibits brevity and clarity and avoids words of low information content.

DOCUMENT DESIGN

Design documents for readability by employing short paragraphs, headings, lists, tables, charts, effective spacing, and layout.

Illustrate technical documents appropriately (charts, graphs and tables) using the appropriate technical-writing conventions.

DOCUMENT INTEGRITY

Employ numbers, units, equations, and abbreviations correctly in documents using the International System of Units (SI).

Write all technical documents using correct spelling, grammar, and usage.

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ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

- You can gain or lose marks based on your attendance and participation in this course. See the course package for details. Note that if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to know the material I have covered and to complete the assignments due. Please contact me if you are going to miss a class or be late to a class.

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

- **Submissions: YOU MUST SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITE ALL QUIZZES TO PASS THIS COURSE.**
- **Late Submission Policy:** You must submit assignments on time. If you know that you will be submitting an assignment late, consult me on or before the due date, and let me know the exact date that you will submit the assignment. The late penalty will be 5% per day. If you do not consult me about a late assignment, the late penalty will be 10% per day. *I will give a grade of "0" to assignments submitted later than one calendar week after the due date*
- **Plagiarism** is a form of cheating in that you are using someone else's words, ideas, opinions, or facts as though they are your own. Words belong to the person who first prints or speaks them; to claim them as your own is a form of stealing, which, translated into our academic setting, means cheating. Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero and a meeting with me to discuss subsequent action.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: Please follow these conventions for all assignments:

- Use white paper 8.5 X 11 inches.
- Write on one side of the paper.
- Ensure high print quality.
- Use 12-point font.
- Single-space text with double-space between paragraphs. Use block format (no indentations).
- Default to the margins designated by your word processing software (no less than one inch all round). Adjust only if appearance is not compromised.
- For multi-page assignments place page numbers and, for memos, abbreviated subject lines on subsequent pages. Staple pages in top left corner.
- Submit **evaluation sheets** with every assignment that uses one. You must complete all information at the top of this evaluation sheet. Submit it with your assignment; do not affix it to your assignment. I will not mark your assignment unless you include an evaluation sheet with it. See me if you lose yours.
- Please, do not include any title pages, covers, binders, laminates or any protective apparatus to your assignments. Just submit your assignment (stapled) and the evaluation sheet (unaffixed).

PRINCIPLES OF EVALUATION OF COURSE WORK

- There is no max. percentage of an assignment mark deducted for grammar and usage; deductions are unlimited.
- No writing assignment gets a passing grade if it contains more than one sentence error per 100 words written.
- You will write at least one writing assignment in class.
- There will not be a final exam.

EXIT REQUIREMENTS

Students must

- Meet attendance requirements of instructor.
- Meet assignment submission deadlines of instructor.
- Complete all assignments on the major assignment list and the test list to a 60% mastery level.
- Demonstrate, to the instructor's satisfaction, knowledge of key principles of grammar and usage.