

English 2311 – Technical & Business Writing

Textbook Information and Required Hardware/Software

Textbook(s):

Strategies for Technical Communication in the Workplace 2nd edition by Gurak and Lannon
(Pearson) ISBN: 978-0-205-85127-0

Hardware:

Students need regular access to a computer for this course.

Software:

Students will need access to word processing software with full editing capabilities, such as some version of MS Word or Open Office by Apache (a free shareware program). Programs like Wordpad and Notepad will not work well for this course.

Websites:

Students will use <https://blackboard.odessa.edu/> regularly.

Information About the Course

Course Description

Intensive study of and practice in professional settings. Focus on the types of documents necessary to make decisions and take action on the job, such as proposals, reports, instructions, policies and procedures, e-mail messages, letters, and descriptions of products and services. Practice individual and collaborative processes involved in the creation of ethical and efficient documents.

Course Prerequisites:

C or better in Engl 1301

Course Topics:

- *The instructor of record will include at least 2 of the following general assignments:
 - *A procedural document (a set of instructions)*
 - *A process analysis (like a procedural document without taking part in the process)*
 - *A mechanism description (describing some mechanism)**
- *The culminating project is an analytical report or formal proposal*
- *Final exam is a resume and letter of application*

Grading

Type of Assignment	Percentage/Points	Course Objectives
Participation	20%	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
General assignments	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Culminating project	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Final Exam	20%	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Grading Scale:

"A" = 90-100

"B" = 80-89

"C" = 70-79

"D" = 60-69

"F" = 0-59

Student Course Participation

As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will

- identify alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet service is unavailable;
- recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
- understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to

- a. getting "kicked off" of the system during tests or quizzes;
- b. having trouble submitting assignments; and
- c. dealing with a traumatic personal event.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will

- seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
- ask questions if I don't understand; and
- access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.

Course Policies

Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change in any part at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be in accordance with Odessa College policies. Students will be notified of changes, if any, in timely manner.

Original Effort

The work submitted for this course must be original work prepared by the student enrolled in this course. Efforts will be recognized and graded in terms of individual participation and in terms of ability to collaborate with other students in this course.

Digital Protocol

Cell phones must be placed on either *vibrate* or *silent* mode and are to be accessed in emergency cases only. The use of laptops or any other digital device is permitted in order to facilitate note-taking relative to instruction. Any written assignments will be submitted electronically on Blackboard. **The electronic recording of the time on Blackboard will be**

considered the time of assignment submission. Take necessary steps to ensure that your assignments are submitted on “Blackboard” time. Back-up and/or additional copies of all assignments submitted is encouraged. **Computers/printers are available to OC students in the LRC (301-303); therefore, not having access to a computer due to technical issues (crash; corrupted files) will not be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing assignments.** If there is a loss of server connection with Odessa College due to maintenance, then an email will be sent to student with pertinent information and status reports. Assignments submitted electronically need to be **WORD documents (doc or docx).**

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be recorded using a “sign-in” sheet. Excessive absences will be grounds for disciplinary action, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class or leave class early without notifying the instructor, this will count as an absence. Students are permitted _____ absences before a loss of _____ point(s) _____.

Grade Inquiry Policy

It is the responsibility of the individual taking this course to maintain accurate track of assignment submissions and grades. There will be opportunities during the semester to meet with the instructor to discuss your academic progress. Contact the instructor to schedule an appointment. Class time will not be used for grade inquiries. All grades are final.

General Course Requirements

1. Attend class and participate.
2. Contribute and cooperate with civility.
3. **Submit assignments on time. Late work will not be accepted. Medical and/or family circumstances that warrant an extension on assignments need to be presented to the instructor. Extensions will be allowed at the instructor’s discretion.**

Incomplete Policy

An ‘Incomplete’ grade may be given only if:

1. The student has passed all completed work
2. If he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of an “I” will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

Core Objectives (COs)

Description of Core Objectives (CO’s)

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Therefore, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Board has approved guidelines for a core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas.

Through the application and assessment of objectives within the institution’s core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Appropriate Odessa College faculty periodically evaluates all of the courses listed in the descriptions on the following pages of this catalog and keys them to Odessa College’s Core Objectives (COs), as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 73*)

Odessa College’s Core Objectives (COs):





1. *Critical Thinking Skills (CT)* - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. *Communication Skills (COM)* - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. *Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)* - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. *Teamwork (TW)* - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. *Social Responsibility (SR)* - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
6. *Personal Responsibility (PR)* - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Discipline Core Statement

English and Foreign Languages





ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, and ENGL 2311 meet the Communication Foundation component area because they focus on using writing to develop ideas and express them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. These three courses primarily focus on writing as a tool for communication, but include oral, aural and visual literacy skills as well.

 = Required Core Objectives

Foundational Component Area	SCH	CT	COM	EQS	TW	SR	PR
Communication	6						
<p>Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively.</p> <p>Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.</p>							

ENGL 2311 also meets the Component Area Option because it fulfills a minimum of 3 SCH and meets the definition and corresponding Core Objectives specified in the Communication Foundational Component Area. This course can be taken to meet one of the Foundational Component Area requirements; however, the course will not count as meeting both-another course should be taken to meet the other Foundational Component Area requirement.

 = Required Core Objectives

Foundational Component Area	SCH	CT	COM	EQS	TW	SR	PR
Component Area Option	6						
<p>a. A minimum of 3 SCH must meet the definition and corresponding Core Objectives specified in one of the foundational component areas.</p>							

- b. As an option for up to 3 semester hours of the Component Area Option, an institution may select course(s) that:
- i. Meet(s) the definition specified for one or more of the foundational component areas; and
 - ii. Include(s) a minimum of three Core Objectives, including Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and one of the remaining Core Objectives of the institution's choice.

Course Objectives

1. Recognize, analyze, and accommodate diverse audiences.
2. Produce documents appropriate to audience, purpose, and genre.
3. Analyze the ethical responsibilities involved in technical communication.
4. Locate, evaluate, and incorporate pertinent information.
5. Develop verbal, visual, and multimedia materials as necessary, in individual and/or collaborative projects, as appropriate.
6. Edit for appropriate style, including attention to word choice, sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling.
7. Design and test documents for easy reading and navigation.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome	CO
1, 3, 4, 7	<i>Critical Thinking Skills</i> - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	<i>Communication Skills</i> - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
	<i>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</i> - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
5, 7	<i>Teamwork</i> - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
	<i>Social Responsibility</i> - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
3	<i>Personal Responsibility</i> - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
