

2111F: Writing in the World: Introduction to Professional Writing

Distance Studies 650

Instructor: Melanie Chambers mchambe4@uwo.ca

Course Description and Objectives

This course aims to introduce you to the basic grammatical and stylistic principles of good, clear, written English within a specific context. That context is professional writing. You will be introduced as well to basic theories and concepts in professional writing, given opportunities to develop skills applicable to writing in a professional context, and encouraged to read about and apply findings from research in professional writing. Generally, the course aims to help you develop “the ability to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing, to a range of audiences” (Ontario Council of Academic Vice Presidents’ statement on “University Undergraduate

absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)

absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,

assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,

if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation. All requests for consideration for assessments worth more than 30% of a final grade must be directed to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

In this course, all requests for academic consideration must be directed to the Academic Counselling office of the student's Home Faculty if a SRA will not be used.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Special Requests (Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing)

Please refer to the "Information for All Students in a Writing Course" for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean's office of your home faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

necessary. Try and pick a sentence no one has done (some will get done more than once, but many different rewrites are possible!). Remember to comment on other people's work.

Unit/Week Four (October 4-10)

Good-news, neutral, and bad-news messages

Read: RLC, -
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RLC, Reference Chapter A, pp. A-2 to A-13
CWH, Sections 16-25

Unit/Week Five (October 12-17)

Good-news, neutral, and bad-news messages (continued)

Read: -
-
RLC, Chapter 5, pp. 136-43
Statstar case (under Unit 5/Week 5 content)

**Assignment #1 due by 11:55 p.m., Sunday, Week 5*

Discussion Topic: Refer to Problem-Solving Case #1 (RLC, p. 283). Compose a brief message to the Rim Ridge Community Arts Association that declines the offer to serve on their board. Post the message, and explain your choices in composing it.

Unit/Week Six (October 18-24)

Persuasive messages and proposals

Read:
RLC, Chapter 5, pp. 141-3
RLC, Reference Chapter A, pp. A-13 to A-14
CWH, Section 8

Discussion Topic: What appeals would be appropriate for the following products when they are being sold to consumers? How might the appeals differ depending on the age and/or gender of the target audience? Think about the broad categories (pathos and logos), but also think of specific appeals that might work with different consumer groups. Choose one product from the list to comment on.

Unit/Week Seven (October 25-29)

Visual rhetoric: document design

Read:
RLC, Chapter 5, pp. 153-9
CWH, Section 2

Read:

***Assignment #3 submission due by 11:55 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8 (last day of classes) OR as directed by your instructor**