

## Writing 2130G

# Building Better (Communication) Bridges: Rhetoric and Professional Communication for Engineers

Winter 2021

Lecture Section 002 (online)

Instructor: Dr. J. Johnston

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Office Hours: Wed. 9:30-11:30 (via email or by appointment via Zoom, but you may of course email me at any time)

### Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to rhetorical principles and the practices of written, oral, and visual communication in professional engineering contexts. Particular attention is paid to identifying and understanding audience, context and purpose; the grammar and effective style of Standard Written English; modes of persuasion; interpersonal communication; the negotiation of cultural difference; and effective scholarly research practices. Students will learn strategies for drafting and designing technical and academic documents and for approaching the editing and revision of those documents. As well, they will gain experience in organizing research effectively for presentation, composing clear and useful visual aids, and presenting research to their peers and the broader public with confidence.

Students who successfully complete Writing 2130 should be able to do the following:

- Write and speak with a greater degree of clarity, confidence, and critical self-awareness to different kinds of audiences
- Understand what constitutes effective, ethical, and correct written and oral communication in a variety of rhetorical situations (and why)
- Identify and define various rhetorical contexts for professional communication, including cultural contexts
- Identify, correct, and avoid errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources (research vs. review materials) and employ the methods of finding and evaluating such sources efficiently and correctly and of assessing their relative merits
- Understand what is at stake in conducting a review of scholarly literature
- Integrate source materials into written assignments both ethically and correctly, using IEEE documentation
- Revise papers and oral presentations through multiple drafts
- Understand basic principles of document design and visual rhetoric and apply them to a research poster

### Antirequisite

Engineering Sciences 2211F/G: Engineering Communications

### Prerequisite

Engineering Sciences 1050: Introductory Engineering Design and Innovation Studio

### Required Texts

R. Irish and P.E. Weiss, *Engineering Communication: From Principles to Practice*, 2nd ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2013.





## **Prerequisite Checking**

**Ensuring you have the correct prerequisite(s) is your responsibility.** The following notation articulates the Senate regulation with respect to the student needing to be responsible for ensuring that course prerequisites have been completed successfully or special permission from the Dean obtained:

itten special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a co

## **Accommodation Policy**

**Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

## **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being

**Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the I

## Reading Week

Week 6: Employment Communications  
Feb. 22-26

**Tutorial:** Writing elegantly: Emphasis and “flow” (continued)