Business Communication Technologies (GBU 310)
Spring 2020

Course Title: Business Communication Technologies
Number/Section: GBU 310-500

Instructor: Dr. Ashley Hall
Email: Brightspace email (hallaa@sfasu.edu only if Brightspace is unavailable)
Phone: (936) 468-2968 (Answered during on campus office hours. If I don’t answer, send me an email.)
Office: McGee Business Building, 229J
Department: Business Communication and Legal Studies

Office Hours:
- Monday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 7 – 9 a.m.; 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.; 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

All office hours will be online.

Other times by appointment – Email me at least 48 hours in advance to schedule an appointment. Virtual appointments via Zoom are available upon request.

Dr. Hall’s Spring 2020 Class Schedule:
- BCM 247, BCM 347, GBU 310, and GBU 330 – online

Class Meeting Time and Place: This is a fully online course. Brightspace is the learning management system. Technical support is available at 936-468-1919. This is not a self-paced course. There are deadlines for every assignment.

Catalog Description:
GBU 310 – Comprehensive study of word-processing equipment, systems, and procedures. Emphasis on word-processing applications, work measurement, and comparative product evaluation.

Required Software, Textbook, and Equipment:
- Cengage Unlimited (ISBN: 9780357700006) – The materials required for this course are included in Cengage Unlimited, a subscription that gives you access to all your Cengage access codes and online textbooks for one fee. No matter how many Cengage products you use, they are included in
Cengage Unlimited, and the price stays the same. You can purchase access to Cengage Unlimited in the bookstore or at cengage.com.

- All written documents and assignments that are submitted must be Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx). Assignments submitted in Pages, Microsoft Works, WordPerfect, graphics, or zipped files will not be accepted and your score on those assignments will be a 0.
- You will also need software to view and create PowerPoint slides. As an SFA student, you have access to Office 365 through mySFA. For additional information, please visit http://www.sfasu.edu/mysfa/o365/student/productivity-apps/
- You will need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader (free) to read PDF files.
- A webcam is needed to complete presentations and a virtual meeting.

Course Procedures:
You will need reliable Internet access to complete this online course. Visit Brightspace, SFA’s learning management system, at d2l.sfasu.edu regularly to keep up with assignments, contact the instructor, and receive information for your success in the course. All electronic communication from the instructor will be through Brightspace, and it is your responsibility to check Brightspace regularly for instructions and emails.

Important: Brightspace email is internal, meaning that messages cannot be sent or received from outside Brightspace. Do NOT try to email someone by typing in their @sfasu.edu or @jacks.sfasu.edu email address in Brightspace. It will not work and you may or may not receive an error message/send failure notice. Use the Brightspace address book to email your instructor/classmates within Brightspace.

Course Description:
A comprehensive applied study of current and emerging technologies used for communication in business with an emphasis on communication strategies and methods appropriate to technological delivery.

The Internet has changed the way people communicate. In the past, communication occurred either in written form (traditional word processing), by telephone, or face-to-face. Today there are all types of additional forms of communication technologies added to these three. In GBU 310 you will be studying about and using various word processing communication technologies and other types of online collaboration tools. In addition, you will hone your skillset in using the Microsoft Office Suite.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These
learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses in the Curriculum Management Handbook at http://www.sfasu.edu/academics/colleges/business/welcome/faculty-resources

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
With today’s technology, business communication occurs in a variety of ways. In this course, you will be learning about various technologies used for effective business communication as well as developing proficiency in creating appropriate electronic business messages. Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand and utilize features of traditional office productivity software for creating business documents.
- Proofread and use correct word choice, spelling, and grammar in composing and designing documents.
- Describe social networks and how this communication tool can be an effective part of an online business communication strategy.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using scheduling and communication management systems such as Microsoft Outlook.
- Examine and utilize application software for communicating through business presentations based on good practice and design.
- Identify types of open source software for business communication use.
- Explore mobile communication and other communication tools to discover their business communication potential.

**Expectations:**
The student should enter the class with an understanding of basic word processing concepts and basic features of Microsoft Word. This course will build on earlier knowledge to encourage expertise in advanced applications and exploration of the use of Web 2.0 in business communication. The student should have a basic understanding of Windows and its use in opening programs and documents.

One assignment in the course is to attend a Zoom **virtual** meeting with a small group of your classmates during the week of March 25 – 31, 2020. You will be able to sign up for a meeting time in Brightspace. Available meeting times will include morning, afternoon, and evening hours. If none of the listed times work for your schedule, you must email Dr. Hall by March 24 to arrange an alternative meeting time. This virtual meeting can be completed from anywhere you have Internet access.

**Time Commitment:** For this three-credit hour online course, you should plan to spend about 9 actual hours per week working on the course. During this time, you will be reading chapters in the textbook, completing Brightspace lessons, participating in small group discussions, completing SAM training, exams, and projects over Microsoft
Office, completing individual and group assignments, taking exams, completing peer reviews, and designing a project. For some weeks you may find yourself spending more than 9 hours.

**Course Requirements:**
This course will require research, writing, and oral presentation skills. In addition to writing assignments and projects, you will complete discussion posts, quizzes, and tests throughout the semester. SAM software will be used for trainings, exams, and projects over the Microsoft Office Suite.

**Participation:**
In this class, you will work individually and in a small group. The number of group members will depend on class enrollment.

**Presentations:**
You will be required to make video presentations with slides in Bongo. You must have access to a computer webcam for recording.

**Course Methodologies:**
The following methods may be used in the course:
- SAM Microsoft Office assignments
- Discussions
- Oral presentations with visual aids
- Team assignments
- Individual assignments
- Quizzes
- Exams
- Virtual Meeting

**Course Calendar:**
The tentative schedule appears at the end of this syllabus. Students will be notified of any changes via Brightspace course announcements. All course deadlines are listed in Central Time.

**Quizzes and Exams:**
All quizzes and exams in this class will be administered online either through Brightspace or SAM. All material covered in the assigned readings (from the textbooks and Brightspace lessons) may be the subject of questions on the Brightspace exams. Each quiz/exam closes at the time noted in the syllabus. Quizzes or exams not completed by the deadline will receive zero (0) points.

**Proctoring:**
The SAM Comprehensive Final must be proctored using either ProctorU (virtual proctoring) or the College of Business Testing Center (face-to-face proctoring).

There are two proctoring options for this exam:
1. The College of Business has set up a computer lab in the business building as a “testing center” for online students. You will be required to present your student ID to check into the testing center, and the testing center will have computers set up for you to take the exam. Further details on the testing center hours and instructions for utilizing it will be uploaded to Brightspace.

2. If you cannot come to the testing center to take your exam, you can arrange to have your exam proctored online utilizing the service ProctorU. The proctoring fee is paid by the university if the exam is scheduled at least 72 hours in advance. If you try to schedule your exam with 72 hours of taking it, you will have to pay the proctoring fee.

ProctorU is an online proctoring service using live proctors and allows you to take an online exam while being proctored by a live person at a remote location. Taking an exam through ProctorU requires that you have a functioning webcam and microphone. In addition, you will need a reflective surface, such as a hand mirror, CD, or DVD to make sure there is no material (such as sticky notes) on the monitor. You will also need access to a desktop or laptop computer. Tablets, smartphones, Chromebooks, and other mobile devices are not supported at this time.

If you elect to use ProctorU to take this exam, please note the following:

- It is your responsibility to schedule your exam and abide by all rules for bringing only appropriate materials into your testing area. You will need to provide photo identification to your proctor prior to taking your exam. Appropriate identification includes: driver’s license, SFA student ID, passport, or other government-issued photo identification.

- When you schedule your exam, be sure to take into account that verifying your identity and validating the integrity of your testing area will take a few minutes. Thus, you must schedule your proctoring appointment for a time at least 30 minutes before the exam is set to expire to ensure that you can go through the set up process in time to begin the exam in the allotted time.

- Before scheduling your exam, you need to ensure your computer is compatible with ProctorU’s software.

- In the weeks/months before your exam, follow these steps to learn how ProctorU works and how to schedule an exam.
  - Visit ProctorU - How It Works for an overview of how ProctorU works.
  - Go to Test My Computer to test out your computer to see if everything such as your webcam, microphone, bandwidth, etc. meet the requirements for ProctorU.
  - You can also visit Technical Specifications for Using ProctorU to see required specifications. Note: Google Chrome is the best
browser to use when taking an exam with ProctorU.
- Additional specific information is available at ProctorU.com.

Final Exam:
The final exam is mandatory and comprehensive. The exam will be available from Saturday, May 2, until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2020.

Grading Policy:
There are multiple opportunities to earn points in the course. Grades can be accessed through Brightspace. You should check your posted grades often and email any questions. To compute your current grade at any point in the semester, add up all the points you have earned and divide by the total points possible at that time in the semester.

You must check your grades prior to the final exam and email your instructor with any questions. Unless you email prior to this time, you indicate that you are in agreement with the grades posted. This means you need to check for ERRORS (for example, a missing grade for an assignment that you think you completed on time). This does NOT mean asking for assignments to be accepted late or for extra credit opportunities to make up for missed deadlines.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% – 100% of points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% – 89% of points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 79% of points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% – 69% of points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or fewer points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Estimated Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAM Training, Projects, and Exams</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightspace Exams</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Other Assignments</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online Attendance:
This is an online course. There are, however, specific deadlines. Students are expected to log in to the course on a regular basis and be a contributing member to the class. Feel free to work ahead so that you are not scrambling to submit work at the last minute. It is your responsibility to look at the assignment and ask questions prior to the night the work is due. If you wait to ask questions, you may or may not receive a response in time to submit the assignment by the deadline.

Communication:
The primary contact method will be by email through Brightspace. You should check your email for this class regularly. I make every attempt to respond to students in a reasonable amount of time. My policy is to answer emails within 48 hours. You can usually expect to receive a response within 24 hours; however, please remember that I am not on call 24 hours a day. If you wait until shortly before assignments are due to address questions to me on the assignment, you may or may not get an answer before the deadline arrives. When you send an email, if you would like a reply, please ask a specific question. If you send me a message that does not ask a question, I will assume it was for informational purposes only, not for soliciting a response.

**Academic Integrity:**

Unless designated a group assignment, all work is to be individual work and collaboration with other students or individuals is not allowed. Collaborating with others on the quizzes or exams is considered cheating and a violation of SFA’s academic dishonesty policy, which will result in appropriate consequences.

All work submitted in this course must be completed by **you, this** semester, for **this** section of the course. You cannot “recycle” any work from other courses you have taken (here or elsewhere) or any previous time you may have attempted this course. If it is discovered that you have turned in any part of an individual or team assignment from a previous semester/course, you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment.

Assignments will be subject to TurnItIn verification when submitted to the Brightspace dropbox.

**Student Academic Dishonesty (University Policy 4.1)**

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf)
Withheld Grades – Course Grades (University Policy 5.5)

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.pdf

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Room 325 in the Human Services Building, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4)

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Other Policies/Procedures

Professional Courtesy: This class will be conducted in a professional manner. This means 1) submit work on time - no excuses, 2) avoid profanity and/or offensive language in your communication, and 3) participate fully and courteously with your team members. In regards to courtesy to others in the class and on your team, do not send harassing emails, texts, or messages using offensive language. Such communication may result in a reduction of the sender’s grade. Students should show respect to the instructor and other students and refrain from any behavior that may
distractions others.

"Joke" assignments, using inappropriate or questionable content for oral presentations or written assignments, may result in no credit for that assignment. If you have questions about what is professional, please contact me before submitting the assignment.

**Submission Policy:** All assignments and projects are to be turned in on time by the due date and must be submitted in the file format designated in the assignment (i.e. Word document, pdf file, PowerPoint, etc.) Assignments are to be submitted by uploading prior to the ending time indicated on the assignment.

**Late Pass:** You are allowed **one** late individual assignment (not an exam) during the semester. If you would like to use your late pass on a missed assignment, you must send Dr. Hall an email via Brightspace with the subject line “Using My Late Pass” within 24 hours of the missed deadline. If approved, this will grant you a 48 hour extension on the assignment without a grade penalty. Other than this **one** late assignment, late work will **not** be accepted without a documented excuse. Once your late pass is used, it’s used. You cannot later decide you’d like to use the late pass on an assignment worth more points. Use it wisely. If you don’t use your late pass, 10 bonus points will be awarded at the end of the semester.

**Do not** make the mistake of submitting a file with the extension .Ink or a file with the document name beginning with a $ replacing the first letter of the file name. Look at the file name you have uploaded. If it has either of these problems you need to delete the file you have uploaded and upload again. The .Ink usually occurs when you have placed a link to a file on your desktop and uploaded from there. The $ in front of the file name usually means you have the file open and instead of choosing the file, you have chosen the temporary file. In either case, the file will not open when submitted meaning I will have nothing to grade, and you will receive a zero.

All writing assignments will be graded on both content and mechanics. Your work is a representation of you, and soon to be of the company for which you will be working. You need to avoid spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors in your writing in order to project a professional skill level. Therefore, these aspects will be included along with the content when determining your grade on each assignment.

**Make-up Policy:** Since all of the work is available online, not many excuses will be accepted. If you are on school business, arrangements should be made **before** the missed deadline.

A grade of zero (0) will be assigned for missed work, except in the following situations:

- Serious illness verified by a doctor’s note with a statement of inability to submit work online
• Personal or family emergency (documented appropriately)
• Official school business (with documentation from the appropriate campus representative)

The student must provide documentation for the excused absence. Notes from the school’s Health Clinic must specifically state that the student is unable to complete online work that day to be considered an excused absence.

Missed quizzes or exams will only be excused and allowed to be made up for university-excused absences or for extreme emergencies that justify missing it. What constitutes an extreme emergency is within the discretion of the instructor. **Note that I am not very lenient with this policy due to the fact that the quiz/exam windows are quite long.** Thus, if you have any expectation that you have some medical or other issue that might conflict with a quiz or exam, make sure you take the quiz/exam early in the time window and do not wait until the last minute. In the case of an extreme emergency that prevents you from taking an exam, contact me before the scheduled examination if at all possible. If it is not possible, contact me as soon as possible after the emergency is resolved. Failure to do so may result in an examination grade of zero. Makeup exams for non-excused absences will be determined at the sole discretion of the instructor. Please see your General Bulletin for a further explanation of excused absences.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** An assignment where plagiarism exists will receive a zero. See the SFA website for the university policy on cheating and plagiarism. All incidents will be reported to the Dean of the College of Business.

**Technology Requirements:** It is your responsibility to acquire a consistent, stable, dependable computer and Internet connection with which to complete the assignments for the course by the deadlines indicated on the Course Schedule. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide additional time for assignments or exams or an alternative means of completing the course due to technological issues on your part. Plan ahead!

**This syllabus represents a best plan for the course; but, as with most plans, it is subject to change. Any necessary changes in this syllabus will be announced via Brightspace.***
Updated 3/16/2020 due to COVID-19. Changes are highlighted below.

GBU 310 – Tentative Course Schedule
* This is a tentative schedule that is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | • Course Information Module in Brightspace | □ Syllabus Quiz  
□ Introduction discussion  
□ Register SAM software | 1/21 |
| 2    | • Read Chapter 1 – “The Web Becomes 2.0” in Web 2.0 book  
• Brightspace Lessons: Phone Systems | □ SAM Word 1 Training & Exam  
□ SAM Word 2 Training & Exam  
□ Voicemail Assignment | 1/28 |
| 3    | • Brightspace Lessons: Collaboration Tools | □ SAM Word 3 Training & Exam  
□ SAM Word 4 Training & Exam  
□ Discussion* | 2/4 |
| 4    | • Read Chapter 5 – “Connecting People” in Web 2.0 book  
• Brightspace Lessons: Social Media | □ SAM Word 5 Training & Exam  
□ SAM Word 6 Training & Exam  
□ Bongo Practice Presentation | 2/11 |
| 5    | • Brightspace Lessons: Live Streaming | □ SAM Word 7 Training & Exam  
□ SAM Word 8 Training & Exam  
□ *Brightspace Exam 1: Weeks 1 – 5* | 2/18 |
| 6    | • Read Chapter 6 – “Linking Data” in Web 2.0 book  
• Brightspace Lessons: Cloud Storage | □ SAM Word Project  
□ Company Research Presentation – Bongo | 2/25 |
| 7    | • Brightspace Lessons: Email Management | □ SAM Outlook Training & Exam  
□ Presentation Peer Reviews on Bongo  
□ Discussion* | 3/3 |
| 8    | • Brightspace Lessons: Teleworking and Work Platforms | □ SAM Excel 1 Training & Exam  
□ SAM Excel 2 Training & Exam  
□ Zoom Pre-Meeting Survey | 3/18 |
| 9    | • Brightspace Lessons: Virtual Meetings/Teleconferencing | □ SAM Excel 3 Training & Exam  
□ SAM Excel 4 Training & Exam  
□ *Brightspace Exam 2: Weeks 6 – 9*  
□ Sign up for a Zoom meeting time; determine the meeting leader who will create the Zoom link and the meeting note taker | 3/24 |

* Initial discussion board posts are due by 11:59 p.m. Monday. Two replies are due by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.
Updated 3/16/2020 due to COVID-19. Changes are highlighted below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lesson Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>• Brightspace Lessons: Communicating Information Visually</td>
<td>□ SAM Excel 5 Training &amp; Exam&lt;br&gt;□ SAM Excel 6 Training &amp; Exam&lt;br&gt;□ Zoom Meeting Guide</td>
<td>3/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>• Brightspace Lessons: Artificial Intelligence</td>
<td>□ SAM Excel Project&lt;br&gt;□ Zoom Post-Meeting Survey</td>
<td>4/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>• Brightspace Lessons: Internet of Things</td>
<td>□ SAM PowerPoint 1 Training &amp; Exam&lt;br&gt;□ SAM PowerPoint 2 Training &amp; Exam&lt;br&gt;□ Discussion*</td>
<td>4/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>• Brightspace Lessons: Augmented and Virtual Reality, RFID, Near Field Communication</td>
<td>□ SAM PowerPoint 3 Training &amp; Exam&lt;br&gt;□ SAM PowerPoint 4 Training &amp; Exam&lt;br&gt;□ Semester Takeaways Project</td>
<td>4/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>• Brightspace Lessons</td>
<td>□ Prepare for final exam&lt;br&gt;□ SAM Comprehensive Exam <em>(Must be proctored)</em></td>
<td>Available 5/2 – 5/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Initial discussion board posts are due by 11:59 p.m. **Monday**. Two replies are due by 11:59 p.m. **Wednesday**.