Description

“Technical and Scientific Writing” (3 credits) typically meets three times each week in 50-minute segments or twice each week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. In addition to weekly readings from the textbook and other relevant sources, students will create a variety of documents including correspondence, job portfolios, feasibility reports, instruction manuals, and visual presentations. Other course requirements include peer review exercises, online quizzes, topic approval memos, and discussion boards. Students are required to submit at least five major projects, one of which is a collaborative writing project that includes a class presentation. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives

In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the English Foundational Component Area in Communication Writing may be assessed. These objectives are:

1. Critical Thinking: Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

2. Communication Skills: Effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

3. Teamwork: The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

4. Personal Responsibility: The ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

English Program Learning Outcomes

This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.
Student Learning Outcomes for ENG 2311

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the recursive writing and social editing process and be able to write a variety of technical documents in an acceptable level of Standard American English. (This outcome aligns to the Core objectives for Communication Skills and Teamwork).

2. Write a variety of technical documents, demonstrating their awareness of audience and facility in addressing different audiences and stakeholders in complex rhetorical situations. (This outcome aligns to the Core objectives for Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, and Personal Responsibility).

3. Write technical and workplace documents by applying the appropriate categorical modes of rhetorical composition (descriptive, expository, scientific, etc.), integrating visuals with text, and presenting information in an oral format. (This outcome aligns to the Core objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, and Personal Responsibility).

4. Work in groups to produce and critically evaluate documents, integrating different points of view. (This outcome aligns with the Core objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility).

5. Use critical-thinking skills and exhibit technical proficiency in the invention and composing processes. (This outcome aligns with the Core objectives of Critical Thinking and Communication Skills).

6. Understand ethical considerations in technical and professional writing, understanding the consequences of communication acts. (This outcome aligns with the Core objectives of Critical Thinking, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility).

7. Tailor communications to social and ethical frameworks, editing them to be effective and responsible in international and intercultural situations. (This outcome aligns with the Core objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, and Personal Responsibility).

8. Adequately research a topic and use documented evidence to support a paper written in the style applicable to their individual field of study. (This outcome aligns with the Core objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, and Personal Responsibility).

Required Text and Materials

A reliable way to store and transfer files (preferably a USB/Flash drive).
Regular access to and ability to use D2L
Any writing handbook, such as the one you may have been required to buy in English 131 and 132 or use of perdue owl online
Course Requirements

All writing assignments prepared outside of class must be typed. The format will vary for each writing assignment, depending on its purpose and audience. Ideally, the topics for your major assignments will relate to your major field and/or future professional interests. All assignments will be graded for proper formatting, soundness of content, attention to rhetorical context, resourcefulness, grammar, and mechanics.

All assignments must be completed in the order in which they are given, and you must complete all the major assignments and the final exam in order to pass this course.

Late work will receive a 5% penalty per day up to 7 days after which the assignment will receive a zero.

If you foresee that you will have difficulty meeting a due date, let me know in advance and we can work out an accommodation. Otherwise, the penalty outlined above will apply.

All assignments will be turned in via D2L on their scheduled due date, some assignments must also be turned in via hardcopy as well. We will go over how to do this in class. Technical difficulties with D2L will not be an acceptable excuse for late work. If you have questions about how to turn in an assignment, you need to let me know in advance, so we can work on it together.

Most major assignments will include intermediate drafts and other materials.

Grading Policy

Grades will be computed in the following fashion:

- Memos/Daily Grades: 15% (averaged together for one grade)
- Complaint Letter: 15%
- Résumé Project: 20%
- Decision Making Report: 25%
- Instruction Manual: 20%
- Final Exam: 05%

Assignments

Reading Memos
Students will write a memo, addressed to me, summarizing the key points of the readings since the last one was due. These memos are due on Sunday by 11:30pm via D2L. Memos should not be rehashes of assignment prompts. Any sources referenced should be cited. Memos are graded on formatting, clarity of prose, accuracy of information, grammar, and proofreading/copy editing.
**Complaint Letter**
Will include: Memo, Complaint Letter, Response Letter

**Résumé Project**
Will include: Memo, Cover Letter, Résumé, Follow-up Letter, Job Ad

**Decision Making Report**
Will include: Memo/Proposal, Annotated Bibliography (in MLA format), A Research Plan (done in memo format), An audience description, in memo format

**Original Instruction Manual**
Will include: A Memo, An Instruction Manual

**Final Exam**
This will be a memo that reflects over what you have learned

*How I grade your projects: I grade holistically. This means that I read over the entire project while marking grammar, structure, format, flow, and punctuations issues. Format includes all instructions given in the prompt and samples as well as format that has been taught for previous projects in the course. All projects build on each other as we learn new skills as we go. Each part of every project has a grade number assigned to it. So, for the first project, you get points for part of the project (example: Memo=10 pts).*

**A Note Regarding Grades**

In college, the grading scale used by your instructors to assess your work is likely very different from the one by your high school. In college, “A” work is truly exceptional, both in the sense that it is extremely high in quality and in the sense that it bears the unique stamp of the individual who created it. “B” work exceeds expectations but is more expected or less insightful than “A” work. “C” work meets expectations for the assignment and goes no further. “D” and “F” work both have serious issues that need fixing if the student hopes to move forward in the course. Keep this in mind as you work on your assignments for the semester.

**Grading Scale**

A (excellent performance): 90-100.
B (above average performance): 80-89.
C (average performance): 70-79.
F (failure): 0-59.

**Plagiarism/Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity: Adhering to academic integrity standards at all times by producing your own work and successfully attributing others’ ideas to them is a necessary aspect of university communication.
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; 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 your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

Any appeals on academic integrity cases must be made within thirty days after the first class day of the next long semester. Students should appeal to the instructor first then to the chair if the situation is not resolved. Further appeals can be made to the dean and provost if necessary. Please read the complete policies at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp and http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-appeals-by-students.pdf.

**My policy is simple: plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a zero for that assignment, or a failing grade for the course depending on the severity of the violation.**

We will be discussing the proper way to cite your sources during this class, but in the meantime, if you have any questions about this definition or about a case in any of your courses, it is up to you to approach me (or any of your other instructors) for help.

*If you have taken this course before, reusing a project from that, or any other, course is considered plagiarism!*

**Classroom Conduct**

In order for our classroom sessions to be productive, we need to create an environment in which none of us are afraid to put ourselves out there in front of each other. Rudeness will not be tolerated. We may discuss “hot button” issues, but we need to be respectful of the opinions, feelings, and life experiences of others. Hateful language or behavior such as racism, sexism, homophobia, etc is not acceptable. Students who engage in this behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, 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. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Special Accommodations**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify your instructors and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided.

Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations, and no accommodations can be made except through the ODS. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Resources**

The AARC offers free writing tutoring, which is available on a walk-in and appointment basis. They also offer online writing tutoring services and workshops about writing-related topics. For more information, go to http://library.sfasu.edu/aarc/, visit them on the first floor of the Steen Library, or call them at 936-468-4108.

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

SFASU Counseling Services  
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources:**

Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Tentative Weekly Schedule**

*Schedule is subject to change as needed. Any changes will be posted in our weekly modules as they come up.

**Week 1**

Get comfortable with the online learning format. Find dropbox (where all work will be uploaded), read through the instructions and explanations for this week, find the discussion threads, and introduce yourself in the discussion thread.

Assign Reading: Chapters 1, 23, 5  
Assign Complaint Letter Project  
Assign first daily grade memorandum
Week 2
Look at Resume Project, look at sample projects (both good and bad)
Assign Reading: Chapters 2, 10, 6, 24
Assign Resume Project
Assign daily grade memorandum
Complaint Letter project is due this week

Week 3
Look at Decision Making Report Project, look at sample projects
Assign Reading: 7, 26, 8, 9
Assign Decision Making Report
Assign daily grade memorandum
Resume Project is due this week

Week 4
Continue work on Decision Making Report (it is due this Friday)
Assign Reading: 3, 4, 19, 28
Assign peer review partners
Assign daily grade memorandum
Decision Making Report is due this week

Week 5
Look at Instruction Manual Project, look at samples
Assign Reading: 14, 22
Assign Instruction Manual
Assign daily grade memorandum
Assign Standards-Based Grading Outline (daily grade)

Week 6
Finish Instruction Manual, Assign Final Exam Memorandum: both are due Friday