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

**Distance Studies; Section 651** 

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 Degree Level Expectations' 24 October 2005). More specifically, upon successful com

Messenger, de Bruyn et al. The Canadian Writer's Handbook:

your original uploaded Word file;

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). **All** medical documentation **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's home Faculty.

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# 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 I do 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.

#### Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf."

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above). Plagiarized work will receive an 'F'(ranging from 0 to 49) and may result in failure in the course as a whole.

"All required papers may be subject to subm

Remember: C ÷ Y ggmø kp Fkuvcpeg Uvwfkgu

Assignment #1: Negative Message with positive emphasis; up to 1000 words/

# Unit/Week Seven

Writing Persuasive Messages

Read

Objectives:

Through this Unit's readings, you should be familiar with the following topics: The primary and secondary purposes of persuasive messages Choosing a persuasive strategy: direct or indirect? Analyzing another persuasive rhetorical situation: 'TeknoSport'

Read: Locker/Findlay Chapter 9 and õTeknoSportö (r fh qp ÷Ngevwtguøpage); Assignment 2 Case< õLwuv Engcp [ qwt J cpfuö kp EtM</td>Eng Ó

# **Unit/Week Nine**

Overview of Issues in Cross-Cultural Communication; Brief Introduction to Assignment #3: Final Assignment: A Formal Report

# **Objectives:**

Through this Unit's readings, you should be familiar with the following topics: The concept of 'cultural difference' and its significance for communication The importance of recognizing cultural variations Cultural context as part of the rhetorical context of any message Mapping 'difference' in cultural context: six key categories Defining 'cultures' as high- or low-context Some guidelines for drafting resumes The distinction between the two basic kinds of resume Guidelines for content and organization in letters of application Tone in letters of application

# Read: Locker/Findlay, Chapter 13

<u>Discussion Topic</u>: Find an ad for a job in either a print source or online for which you more or less qualify now. Read the ad carefully and list the specific skills and employee attributes sought by the employer, ranking them from most to least important. Make a list of your specific present skills, education, and personal qualities that might be relevant and attempt to match the two lists. Use this as a basis to discuss strategies you could use to respond to the ad,