

Writing 2130G
Building Better (Communication) Bridges: Rhetoric and Professional
Communication for Engineers
Winter 2022

Lecture Section 652 (online, asynchronous)

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.

W.E. Messenger *et al.*, *The Canadian Writer Handbook: Second Essentials Edition*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2017.

These required texts are available as a package through the Western Bookstore. You can order copies (physical or digital, for purchase or rental) here: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=B2021&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/WRI2130F

IEEE Citation and Documentation Guide

<https://iee-dataport.org/sites/default/files/analysis/27/IEEE%20Citation%20Guidelines.pdf>

Course Requirements

Multiple-choice Quizzes (Best 2 of 3 @ 10% each)	20%
Assignment #1: Description of an important Engineering problem for two audiences (750-1250 words total for two documents)	15%
Assignment #2: Multi-component Research Project, as follows:	
Research "Presentation" (5 minute recorded voice-over, 5-7 slides)	15%
Research Poster	15%
Research Essay (1250-1500 words)	20%
Weekly tutorial discussion postings/responses	15%

Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due on the date specified, uploaded through the relevant "Assignments" link **on your wqtkcm'QY N'usg**. Do not email me (or your TA) any assignments! **Unless you have been granted an extension, late assignments will be penalized a full letter grade at least and may not be accepted at all**. You must talk to your TA about extensions ahead of the due date; they are not automatic.

Note: When using sources in any written assignment, you will be expected to follow IEEE standards for citation and documentation (as well as for formatting). By uploading your assignments to OWL, you will be automatically submitting them to Turnitin for plagiarism checking. Turnitin will generate a report for you, detailing the percentage of your paper that has been drawn from sources; you will be able to see the report, as will your TA. No assignment will be graded until that report is generated and viewed.

Attendance and Participation

It should go without saying that attendance at class is required to improve as a communicator. The most successful classrooms—physical or online—have students and instructors equally engaged in thinking about and discussing the readings, assignments, and weekly topics.

As the current circumstances require this class to be fully online, we do not meet formally; thus, attendance and participation on your tutorial discussion board are connected. Online courses are typically asynchronous (and this one is no different), but they are not wholly self-paced. You must attend and participate in class (defined as logging into your tutorial's OWL section and interacting with your peers and TA by posting responses to questions and prompts in the relevant weekly topic sections under the "Forums" link).

Your class discussion grade will be based on whether you have sufficiently fulfilled the posting requirements, which are listed in more detail below. In general, the grade will be determined by 1) the quality of your posts each week, 2) the frequency and number of quality posts made.

1) Quality of Posting

All posts on your tutorial discussion forum must

Contribute something meaningful to the board.

Support your response with sufficient reasons and/or evidence.

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:

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing

<p>Week 11: Mar. 28- Apr. 1</p>	<p>IEEE Citation and Documentation</p> <p>Tutorial: Incorporating Sources</p> <p>Research Poster (due by 11:59 pm Friday)</p>	<p>CWH: Appendix A; IEEE Citation and Documentation Guide (linked on syllabus)</p>
<p>Week 12: Apr. 4-8</p>	<p>Research Essay Tips and Strategies</p> <p>Tutorial: Writing Research Essays; Research Essay help/consultation</p> <p>Assignment 2 Research Essay (due by 11:59 pm Friday)</p>	