



English 2223: Professional Writing for Business

College of Humanities & Social Sciences | 20872

Semester: 2026 Spring

Date: MW 2:00 p.m.-3:20 p.m.

Location: Dillard 335

Course Description

Professional Writing for Business is designed for business majors. An introduction to and application of professional workplace genres. Practice in planning, designing, developing, producing, and evaluating business communications. Rhetorical aims will shape the information or document production and design.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of ENGL 2223, you should be able to:

- recognize and employ the conventions and genres of business communication.
- use visual and written rhetoric to accommodate different audiences and purposes.
- produce accessible, persuasive, and usable documents.

Contact Information

Instructor: Meng Yu, PhD.

Email: meng.yu@msutexas.edu

Phone: 940-397-4086

Office: BW201

Office Hours: Mondays to Wednesdays, 10 a.m.- noon or by appointment over Zoom

I will check the email from Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm. Messages sent outside this time span will not be check until the next business day. Students are also welcomed to visit the instructor during the office hours or request an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Please note: There is a chance that I will not see the email on the same day that you send it. Therefore, please anticipate waiting at least 24 hours for a response to emails.

Textbook

[*Business Communication for Success*](#), University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing.

Assessment

All assignments receive a numeric grade based on the 100-point scale. Assignments are weighted. Each project will consist of planning, design and production, and reflections. Here is the rough weight of each major assignment, and I might adjust weights of assignments as the semester progresses. This course doesn't have any mid-term or final exams. Your grade is evaluated through the following writing projects.

Writing projects break-down:

- Project One: Internal Proposal (10%)
- Project Two: Job Search Packet (20%)
- Project Three: Internal Communication Packet (15%)
- Project Four: Collaborative Recommendation Report Packet (35%)
 - Meeting Minutes: Individual Assignment
 - Recommendation Report: Group Assignment
 - Annotated Bibliography: Group Assignment
 - Group work reflection memo: Individual Assignment
 - Report half-draft homework: Group Assignment
- Pechakucha Presentation (5%)
- Participation (15%): in-class assignments/workshops/ peer reviews

Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

Table 1: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	89.5-100
B	79.5-89.4
C	69.5-79.4
D	59.5-69.4
F	Less than 59.4

Attendance & Participation

- Your attendance is reflected through participation score (15%). In-class assignments cannot be made up for credit if you are absent.
- If you have legitimate reasons for not being able to attend class, please inform me prior to these absences so that arrangements, if warranted, can be made.

- It is possible to miss up to 1 class without having your grade adversely affected. I will drop your lowest participation grade when calculate your overall participation grade.
- 3 tardies equal one absence. If you are late or leave early and are not present for at least 30 minutes of class, you will be marked absent.
- I also reserve the right to mark you as absent if you are not actively “present” in class, which may be indicated not actively participating in class activities or discussion or zoning out of class by zoning into your phone or other devices.

Technology

Students in this course will need a working and reliable computer and internet access that will allow the use of D2L course site tools, Google Drive, and any online resources provided. No special software is required but students will need access to MS Office products.

Assignment Submission

- Peer review: Please bring all drafts of your assignments BEFORE coming to class. They can be typed or in your laptop. Peer review cannot be made up if you are absent.
- Assignment submission: It is the responsibility of the student to have and maintain access to D2L, to properly submit all work through this platform, and to contact the instructor immediately if they have issues with paper submission.
- All assignments should be submitted on time, and in the correct format. In-class assignments cannot be made up for credit if you are absent. Please email your instructor if you are having any difficulty completing an assignment before it becomes late and affects your grade.

Professionalism

Members of this class are expected to treat one another with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. Repeated unprofessional, rude, or inappropriate behavior can result in points being deducted from a student’s final grade for the course per instance of such behavior.

Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the [Disability Support Services](#) in the Student Wellness Center, 940-397-4140.

Writing Center & Tutoring

[Tutoring and Academic Support Programs](#) (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, writing tutors are available Monday through Thursday from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm to 9:00pm. You don't need an appointment to use these services. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they provide support and feedback at all stages of writing, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to adhere to the Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed when completing any work for this course. When using the content or ideas of others, both published and unpublished sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (e.g., APA or MLA). See the MSU Student Handbook (attached to course website) to read the Student Honor Creed and the university's policy on academic dishonesty.

- All work submitted to D2L will be scanned by the Turnitin® program, which flags text that has been quoted from other sources and/or generated by AI tools such as ChatGPT.
- AI/ChatGPT: In this course, you are welcome and encouraged to use artificial intelligence platforms such as ChatGPT ***ONLY for pre-writing tasks and brainstorming**. That said, ***you should not be using AI to produce your assignments or otherwise perform the “brain-work”** that you are expected to be able to do (or learn to do) on your own. Doing so will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If this happens twice, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course.
- ***Important!** I will use Turnitin to check the AI score on all major homework and assignments, including group assignments. If your AI score is over 30%, I will ask you to explain your AI use, such as sharing a full transcript of your chats with AI and your draft version history. You also need to submit a statement describing how you used AI in your assignment(s). Failing to provide such evidence may result in a grade of zero for your assignment. Ethical AI use will be evaluated by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Please act responsibly when working with your classmates and disclose how you used AI in your group work to your group members before submitting any group assignments to me.
- When using the ideas of other published and unpublished sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (i.e., MLA or APA). If you submit an assignment in which quoted content is not placed in "quotation marks" and/or you have not cited the correct source, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. If this occurs twice in the course, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Campus Carry Statement

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked in accordance with state law. For more information please refer to the MSU Texas website.

University Closure Practices

In the event of university closure because of inclement weather conditions or emergency situations, students will be notified through official campus channels (MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster emails, and website headers) and through communication with the local news networks. Students should refer to their course syllabi, course D2L News announcements, and/or their university email for expectations related to assignments due during the closure. For this course, unless a change is posted to the course D2L News, assignments due to be uploaded or posted to D2L during the closure will remain due as scheduled. Students who are unable to complete assignments due during a closure (for example, due to a power outage) will not be penalized but will be expected to notify the professor of their situation.

English 2223 Spring 2026 Schedule

This tentative schedule reflects a plan for the course, but deviations from this plan **will** become necessary as the semester progresses. Students are responsible for taking note of changes announced during class time **when** they occur.

Week	Date	In-Class Activities	Homework & Readings (Read the assigned text before the class)
Week 1	M 1/19	MLK Day – No classes	n/a
Week 1	W 1/21	Intro to syllabus and class	Read: Textbook Ch1 & Ch3
Week 2	M 1/26	Intro to Business and Professional Writing Self-introduction	Read: Textbook Ch4
Week 2	W 1/28	Intro to project one: Internal Proposal The basics of plain language and effective design I	Read: Textbook Ch5
Week 3	M 2/2	The basics of plain language and effective design II	Read: Textbook Ch6
Week 3	W 2/4	In class workday: internal proposal	Read: Textbook Ch8
Week 4	M 2/9	Grammar Practice Ethical considerations in professional writing	Read: Textbook Ch2 & Ch11
Week 4	W 2/11	Peer Review: Internal Proposal	Internal Proposal Due by Friday 2/13
Week 5	M 2/16	Intro to professional presentation Elevator Pitch	n/a
Week 5	W 2/18	Intro to Internal Communication Packet Correspondence: Email, letter, and memo	n/a
Week 6	M 2/23	Basic visual design	n/a
Week 6	W 2/25	Scenario 1 & 2 Discussion & Peer Review	Scenario 1 due by Friday 2/27

Week	Date	In-Class Activities	Homework & Readings (Read the assigned text before the class)
Week 7	M 3/2	Scenario 2& 3 Discussion& Peer Review Intro to Job Search Packet	n/a
Week 7	W 3/4	Drop-in conference	Scenarios 2& 3 due by Friday 3/6
Spring Break	3/9 – 3/14	Spring Break: No class	Enjoy your Spring Break!
Week 8	M 3/16	Job Search Packet: Job description	Job description due by Friday 3/20
Week 8	W 3/18	Resume workshop	Signing up for the meeting time and prepare for a mock interview with your instructor
Week 9	M 3/23	Cover letter workshop	Signing up for the meeting time and prepare for a mock interview with your instructor
Week 9	W 3/25	1:1 Mock Interview	n/a
Week 10	M 3/30	1:1 Mock Interview	Read: Textbook Ch9
Week 10	W 4/1	Job search packet peer review Intro to Recommendation Report Assignment	Read: Textbook Ch17 Resume and Cover Letter due on Friday 4/6
Week 11	M 4/6	Choosing your group members Intro to meeting minutes Intro to annotated bibliography Citing sources exercise	Read: Textbook Ch7
Week 11	W 4/8	Group Research Day: Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions	Read: Textbook Ch19
Week 12	M 4/13	Group Research Day: Searching more sources & deciding your criteria	Read: Textbook Ch16
Week 12	W 4/15	In class workday: drafting annotated bibliography	Annotated Bibliography due on Friday 4/17 Read: Textbook Ch18

Week	Date	In-Class Activities	Homework & Readings (Read the assigned text before the class)
Week 13	M 4/20	Recommendation Report assignment instruction In class workday: drafting Recommendation Report	
Week 13	W 4/22	In class workday: drafting Recommendation Report	Read: Textbook Ch14 Last day of "W" 4/29 at 4 p.m. Rough draft of Recommendation Report due on 4/24 (3 pages of body paragraphs)
Week 14	M 4/27	Group presentation introduction Slides preparation	n/a
Week 14	W 4/29	Peer Review: Recommendation Report Finalize your Recommendation Report	Meeting minutes due on 5/1
Week 15	M 5/4	Pechakucha Presentation Day	Pechakucha Presentation Due on 5/4 in the class
Week 15	W 5/6	Pechakucha Presentation Day	Recommendation Report Due on 5/8 Team reflection due on 5/8 Course reflection memo due on 5/1
Finals Week	5/11 to 5/14	No Class	No Final Exam