



Course Outline

A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

School of Computing and Academic Studies

COMM 0004
Technical Communication Skills
for Second Language Students

Start Date:	January 5, 2008	End Date:	February 10, 2008
Total Hours:	84	Total Weeks:	6
Hours/Week:	14	Lecture:	n/a
		Shop:	n/a
		Course Credits:	0
		Seminar:	n/a
		Other:	n/a

Prerequisites

Course No.	Course Name
COMM 0003 or COMM0009 Placement	Writing, Speaking, Listening, Reading Skills for Technical Comm. for 2 nd Lang. Students

COMM 0004 is a Prerequisite for:

Course No.	Course Name
COMM 0005	Technical English and Learning Skills for Second Language Students

Course Description

Prepares students whose language skills need upgrading equivalent to English 11. Focuses on paragraph writing for technical communication. Students also prepare and make oral presentations. A grade of 50% meets the prerequisite for COMM 0005/COMM 0008/COMM 0007.

Evaluation

Assignments	45%
Quizzes [Listening, Grammar]	5%
Oral Presentation	10%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
TOTAL	100%

Course Learning Outcomes/Competencies

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

WRITING Skills

- 1) Organize, draft, revise, and edit a variety of texts
- 2) Identify and correct major grammatical, structural and lexical errors; demonstrate control over sentence structure errors in own reading
- 3) Use a wide range of sentence patterns appropriately in written tasks
- 4) Recognize and demonstrate an understanding of audience (e.g. needs, background knowledge) and purpose
- 5) Use appropriate vocabulary to express message clearly

6) Choose and apply appropriate paragraph organization when writing on a familiar, relevant or previously researched subject.

READING Skills

- 1) Read and understand a wide variety of written materials of moderate length
- 2) Read and analyze a wide range of texts to analyze sentence structures
- 3) Comprehend less familiar and/or technical terms using a range of decoding strategies and context clues
- 4) Adjust reading techniques according to the level of the material and the purpose for reading

SPEAKING Skills

- 1) Ask questions to clarify instructions; respond to questions appropriately
- 2) Demonstrate the use of appropriate of verbal and nonverbal communication skills (e.g., turn-taking, eye contact, body language)
- 3) Provide appropriate peer feedback
- 4) Participate effectively in a variety of classroom activities

LISTENING Skills

- 1) Understand discussions, instructions, and lectures at a normal rate of speech
- 2) Understand a variety of natural speech with a varied rate of delivery with some dependence on repetition

Verification

I verify that the content of this course outline is current.

Lynda Hadley
Authoring Instructor

Jan 4/08
Date

I verify that this course outline has been reviewed.

N. Abraham
Program Head/Chief Instructor

January 2008
Date

I verify that this course outline complies with BCIT policy.

Patricia Gackville
Dean/Associate Dean

Jan 8/08
Date

Note: Should changes be required to the content of this course outline, students will be given reasonable notice.

Instructor

Lynda Hadley	Office Location:	NE21-110 BBY	Office Phone:	604 451-7044 [8069]
	Office Hrs.:	By appt.	E-mail Address:	Lynda_Hadley@bcit.ca

Learning Resources

Required:

The purchase of text books will not be required this term. All in-class study materials will be provided by the instructor.

For your hand-written assignments, you'll need

- ☐ 3-hole lined 8-1/2 by 11" notepaper
- ☐ a pen (black or blue ink only) and HB pencil
- ☐ liquid paper or other means of making corrections neatly

Recommended:

You'll want to have a good English-to- English dictionary. I strongly recommend you bring your English dictionary to each class if you want to improve your spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension. You may also wish to bring a thesaurus.

Information for Students

Assignments: You are required to complete all graded assignments for this course as well as write a midterm and final exam. Assignments must be completed and handed in during the class in which they are given. If you miss an assignment, it is your responsibility to arrange with the instructor to write it at another time under the instructor's supervision. If you fail to do so, you will receive a grade of 0% for the assignment.

Ethics: BCIT assumes that all students attending the Institute will follow a high standard of ethics. Incidents of cheating or plagiarism may, therefore, result in a grade of zero for the assignment, quiz, test, exam, or project for all parties involved and/or expulsion from the course.

Attendance: The attendance policy as outlined in the current BCIT Calendar will be enforced. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session.

Illness: A doctor's note is required for any illness causing you to miss assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, or exam. At the discretion of the instructor, you may complete the work missed or have the work prorated.

Attempts: Students must successfully complete a course within a maximum of three attempts at the course. Students with two attempts in a single course will be allowed to repeat the course only upon special written permission from the Associate Dean. Students who have not successfully completed a course within three attempts will not be eligible to graduate from the appropriate program.

Course Outline Changes: The material or schedule specified in this course outline may be changed by the instructor. If changes are required, they will be announced in class.

Accommodation: Any student who may require accommodation from BCIT because of a physical or mental disability should refer to BCIT's Policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (Policy #4501), and contact BCIT's Disability Resource Centre (SW1-2300, 604-451-6963) at the earliest possible time. Requests for accommodation must be made to the Disability Resource Centre, and should not be made to a course instructor or Program area.

Any student who needs special assistance in the event of a medical emergency or building evacuation (either because of a disability or for any other reason) should also promptly inform their course instructor(s) and the Disability Resource Centre of their personal circumstances.

SCHEDULE

Week	Outcome/ Material Covered	Reference/ Reading	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction to Course Getting to Know Each Other Technical Style	Module on Introduction to Technical Communication Course Handouts	Assignment
Week 2	Technical Style Purpose/Language of Classification	Module on Classification Course Handouts	Assignment
Week 3	How Cause & Effect Language is Used in Technical Writing	Module on Cause & Effect Course Handouts	Assignment
Week 4	Reviewing oral presentations Describing a Process	Course Handouts Module on Process Description	MIDTERM EXAM – Saturday
Week 5	Oral Presentations Using language of comparison Making effective comparisons Practicing comparison writing	Module on Comparison & Contrast Course Handouts	Assignment
Week 6	Charts, Diagrams, Graphs Writing Cause & Effect Paragraphs Using Graphics Interpreting Visual Data	Module on Interpreting Visual Data Course Handouts	FINAL EXAM – Sunday