

BCIT COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Name: INTRODUCTION TO BCIT FOR STUDENTS OF
ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)**

Course Number: COMM 0004

Instructor: DENNIS S. HURD

BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY 12, 1999

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COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO BCIT FOR EAL STUDENTS

COURSE NUMBER: COMM 0004 - CRN: 41536 **DATES:** January 12, 1999 to April 15, 1999

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNICATION

TAUGHT TO: BCIT Pre-Entry Students **HRS/WK:** 6 Hours

SPECIFICS:

DAY	TIME	ROOM
Tuesdays	08:00 - 11:00	NE1 - 201
Thursdays	09:00 - 12:00	NE1 - 201

INSTRUCTOR: Dennis S. Hurd **PHONE:** 451-7044 (HURD)

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment Only

COURSE DESCRIPTION

If your first language is not English, and your language skills need upgrading before you can enrol in COMM 0005, this course is for you. It includes the speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills needed to carry out writing and speaking tasks in COMM 0005 and in other BCIT courses.

In this course, you will learn about the programs offered at BCIT. As you read, write, and talk about these programs, you'll cover areas such as description, classification, cause and effect, and comparison and contrast.

Classes will include lessons on specific grammatical structures; you'll learn to recognize and correct errors in your own work, as well as in other students' work. Follow-up activities include readings, speaking, writing, and listening tasks requiring the use of these grammatical structures.

Successful completion of this course will give you the skills you need to succeed in your future courses. A grade of 65% in this course meets the prerequisite requirement for COMM 0005.

EVALUATION

Writing assignments	45%
Speaking skills	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam.....	25%
Professionalism, participation and quizzes.....	5%

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Assignments

You will write a minimum of 10 graded assignments for this course. Most of these will be done in class. In addition, you will be given homework from time to time to help you practice the skills you learn in class.

You are required to complete **all** assignments -- practice and graded -- for this course as well as write the midterm and the final. There may also be occasional short quizzes on grammar points, and you must write them as well.

In-class assignments must be completed and handed in during the class in which they are given. Any take-home assignments must be submitted at the **beginning** of the next class.

If you miss an in-class assignment, it is **your** responsibility to arrange with the instructor to write it in another class or at another time under the instructor's supervision. If you fail to do so, you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Speaking Skills

The speaking skills mark of 10% is based on one or two oral presentations you will give individually on a topic related to BCIT.

Midterm and Final Exams

Two in-class exams are scheduled for this course, a midterm and a final. Each will take most of one session. You can use dictionaries in the exam, but no other reference materials. Try not to rely on dictionaries too much; they'll slow you down in an exam situation!

Professionalism and Participation

The professionalism and participation skills mark of 5% is a reflection of the ideal student's responsible, enthusiastic participation in the course.

BCIT prides itself on the professionalism of its students, who are welcome in any workplace because of their proven ability to show up and do the job in a way that earns the respect of their co-workers and supervisors.

To reward you for meeting these workplace standards, evaluation for this course includes the professionalism and participation assessment. To get a full 5% for professionalism and participation, you'll have to

- attend all classes or explain your absence the same way you would have to excuse yourself for not being able to come in to work
- treat each other and your instructors with courtesy and consideration
- contribute to the success of your course by participating actively in every class.

BCIT Attendance Policy

Students who are absent for any reason, other than substantial illness, for more than 10% (**more than 2 classes**) of the time prescribed for the course, may not be allowed to complete the course (see Full-time Calendar).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND EQUIPMENT

Comm 0004 Modules 1, 2, and 3:

Getting to Know Each Other: Finding Out About Students in Technology, Business, and Trades

Getting To Know Your Campus And What It Has To Offer You As Students In Technology, Business And Trades

Deciding on a Program in Technology, Business, and Trades: Making and Justifying Choices

These are available at the BCIT Bookstore.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

To keep your handouts and assignments, you'll need a

- 3-ring binder

For your hand-written assignments, you'll need

- 3-hole lined 8-1/2 by 11" note paper--**not torn out of an exercise book**
- pen (black or blue ink only)
- liquid paper or other means of making corrections neatly

Please write your assignments **double-spaced** (leave a space between written lines), starting on the side of the page with holes on the **left side**. Pencil is OK for in-class assignments.

REFERENCE TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to speak, listen, read and write at a level which will allow you to succeed in Communication 0005.

Therefore, you should be able to:

- summarize, plan, edit and write simple paragraphs on topics related to BCIT
- summarize text by using graphics, e.g. classification trees, tables
- write about information contained in graphics
- speak clearly and understandably, using English structure, on a topic related to BCIT
- plan, prepare and deliver a simple oral presentation
- simplify and reword difficult text or language

In order to achieve these objectives, you will learn to:

- brainstorm information
- draw and describe classification trees, flow charts, graphs and charts
- sequence items
- compare and contrast information
- edit and proof-read

ACTIVITIES

Activities you will do in order to learn the language skills include:

- classifying** the schools of BCIT
- surveying** and **describing** your classmates
- interpreting** charts and graphs of your survey
- making generalizations** from your survey
- sequencing** the steps of registering for Comm 005
- comparing** and **contrasting** programs at BCIT
- reviewing** your exam performance and setting study objectives
- editing** other students' work
- presenting** an individual, 5-10 minute oral **explaining** how to operate a simple piece of equipment or on some other topic related to BCIT
- assessing** and **giving feedback** on your classmates' oral presentations

TEACHING METHODS

We will be using teaching methods which have proven most effective for teaching students at BCIT:

1. **Teamwork.** Just as in all courses at BCIT, you will be working in small groups. This will allow you to develop the interpersonal skills you need to succeed at BCIT and in the workplace. You will also learn more in groups as you teach and support each other.
2. **Peer-editing.** We will spend the first part of each class editing student writing. As well, you'll work with one or two partners to locate and correct errors in each other's work.
3. **Explaining in your own words.** You'll be reading from textbooks, case studies, and handouts and then putting the ideas into your own words. You will know you have gained knowledge and language skills when you are able to explain the ideas clearly to your team members and to your instructors.
4. **Key visuals.** You will learn how to express ideas in graphics (primarily tables and classification trees). These graphics, which we call "key visuals," will help you to understand ideas and present them more clearly to others.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON TEAM LEARNING (LEARNING GROUPS)

As a member of a learning group, you will have four major responsibilities:

1. **Help, support, and encourage** other group members to learn the course material. Provide feedback to the instructor on how well the members of the group are succeeding and on any problems they may have.
2. **Make sure all** the members **get the work done on time** and hand in all their assignments for marking. If members of your group arrive late or have to leave early, fill them in on what they missed.
3. **Help members prepare for quizzes and exams.** Discuss assignments, review work, and study together.
4. **Help students in other groups** when their group finishes an exercise ahead of another group.

To help you develop your problem-solving abilities, you will be expected to discuss any questions you have about course assignments with your group before resorting to asking the instructor for an answer.

All members are expected to contribute actively to the group, to maintain effective working relationships with each other, and to complete all assignments.

You will be required to do in-class writing assignments **on your own**, and your instructor will clearly tell you which work you are to complete individually, without advice from other students.

PRE-ENTRY COMMUNICATIONS

BCIT COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	WRITING	STRUCTURES
1			
January 12 and January 14	Begin Module 1 Introduction to the Course Getting to Know Each Other	ASSIGNMENT #1 WRITING A PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	Sentence Structure, Types of Sentences, Incomplete/Incorrect, Types of Fragments
2			
January 19 and January 21	Getting to Know Students in Technical & Business Programs	ASSIGNMENT #2 COMPARING STUDENTS	Writing Paragraphs, Supporting Details, Main Idea Sentences
3			
January 26 and January 28	Complete Module 1 Begin Module 2 Getting to Know the Class	ASSIGNMENT #3 DESCRIBING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES	Prepositions, Subject/Verb Agreement
4			
February 2 and February 4	Finding Out about BCIT	ASSIGNMENT #4 COMPARING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES	Count / Non-Count Nouns, Vocabulary of Comparison
5			
February 9 and February 11	Learning How to Write Description of a Technical Nature	ASSIGNMENT #5 DESCRIBING AND COMPARING TWO LOCATIONS	Outlining Paragraphs, Structuring Comparatives
6			
February 16 and February 18	Making Comparisons	ASSIGNMENT #6 COMPARING BCIT & UBC USING POINT-BY-POINT FORM	Language of Evaluation, Classification
7			
February 23 and February 25	Revision and Exam	NO ASSIGNMENT: MIDTERM EXAM WEEK	

WEEK	TOPIC	WRITING	STRUCTURES
8			
March 2 and March 4	Complete Module 2 Improving Your Study Skills	ASSIGNMENT #7 PERSONAL REASONS AND CLARIFICATIONS	Passive / Active Voice
9			
March 9 and March 11	Work in Module 3 Classifying Programs at BCIT	ASSIGNMENT #8 USING A CLASSIFICATION TREE	Listing Structures, Parallel Structure
10			
March 16 and March 18	Writing About What Others Have Suggested	ASSIGNMENT #9 WRITING REPORTED SPEECH	Direct / Reported Questions and Statements
11			
March 23 and March 25	Giving Step-By-Step Instructions on Paper	ASSIGNMENT #10 WRITING CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS	Language of Sequencing
12			
March 30 and April Fool's Day	Improving Your Chances of Success	ASSIGNMENT #11 JUSTIFYING YOUR CHOICES	Expressing Broader Information and Justifying
13			
April 6 and April 8	Oral Presentations Summary of Course Goals	HOMEWORK: ASSIGNMENT #12 CHOOSING A PRE- WRITING STRATEGY	Evaluating the Work of Others
14			
April 13 and April 15	Revision and Exam	NO ASSIGNMENT: FINAL EXAM WEEK	General Review of Pre- Writing Strategies