1.0 Course Description

This writing intensive workshop course helps students gain the proficiency needed to meet the reporting demands of the contemporary workplace. Participants will learn to analyze their audience and purpose while writing informative and persuasive documents such as instructional reports, personnel reports, informal proposals, and analytical reports. A module on planning, delivering professionally related oral presentations to peers, management and industry partners completes this workshop course. Lab: 3 hrs.

2.0 Course objectives/learning outcomes

- To compose a variety of informative and persuasive business reports which are well formatted, effectively designed, purposeful, reader-centered
- To demonstrate the ability to write concisely and clearly, synthesize secondary research, and use persuasive strategies in the development of business documents
- To develop a professional presentation that is skillfully delivered, well organized and supported effectively with visual aids

3.0 Topics Covered

3.1 Communication Theory
3.2 Format and Purpose of Reports
3.3 Visual Design
3.4 Routine Communication (such as Instructional and Activity Memoranda)
3.5 Prescriptive Communication (such as Personnel Reports and Reprimands)
3.6 Persuasive Communication (such as Proposals and Recommendation Reports)
3.7 Visual Aids
3.8 Oral Presentation

All topics will be covered, but not necessarily in the order listed above.
4.0 Teaching Method

4.1 Workshops

In this workshop course, students have the opportunity to prepare assignments in class with the guidance and supervision of the instructor.

4.2 Graded Assignments

Students will complete a minimum of four written reports plus one oral presentation. Additional in-class work related to report projects may be assigned by the instructor. The weighting of each assignment will be announced by the instructor.

5.0 Course Materials

5.1 Textbook


6.0 Course Policies

6.1 Students must adhere to university policies; see 
http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies. The most relevant policies are the following:

- Policy #46 Policy on Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing ("GPA Policy")
- Policy #60 Student Code of Academic Conduct
- Policy #61 Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct
- Policy #134 Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals
- Policy #135 Examination Policy
- Policy #145 Course Management Policy
- Policy #150 Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance
- Policy #157 Establishment and Use of Ryerson Student E-Mail Accounts For Official University Communication

6.2 Print and Digital Copying Guidelines

Ryerson University complies with Canada’s Copyright Act which protects both creators/owners and users of copyrighted materials. Students should familiarize themselves with Ryerson’s Copyright policies and procedures, and contact the Copyright and Scholarly Engagement Librarian at copyrt@ryerson.ca for questions, concerns and clarification of the copyright rules.
6.3 Turnitin.com

By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternative arrangements.

Please note the following from Policy 145 Course Management Policy:

4.3.1.2 Even when an instructor has not indicated that a plagiarism detection service will be used, or when a student has opted out of the plagiarism detection service, if an instructor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor is permitted to submit that work in a non-identifying way to any plagiarism detection service.

6.4 Email Communication

Ryerson requires that any official or formal email communication from students be sent from their official Ryerson electronic accounts.

6.5 Video and Audio Recording

No video or audio recording is permitted in class without the express permission of the instructor.

7.0 Ryerson’s Learning Management System

Ryerson University supports Brightspace by D2L as its official Learning Management System. University Policies governing Brightspace have been documented at the Courses @ Ryerson Privacy and Security website.