

## **BUS 100 A, B, & C, Business Communications**

*Three Credits, 16 weeks, 4 hours per week*

From memos and letters to short informal reports, this course reviews the basics of business writing format and technique. It offers a complete refresher on grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure, as well as a brief introduction to the art of speech making. Course content includes the following: concise, direct written expressions; sentence clarity and variety; effective research strategies; short informal reports; employment messages; interviewing strategies; and oral presentations. This course provides an opportunity to brush up your writing and oral communication skills before proceeding to more advanced classes. Participation on Moodle is a required component of the course.

*Prerequisite: English 30/30-1 or 33/30-2*

### **Instructor**

Cynthia O'Donnell  
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### **Office Hours**

Monday 2:00 – 2:50  
Wednesday 10:00 – 10:50  
                  2:00 – 2:50  
Thursday 11:00 – 11:50  
Friday 1:00 – 1:50

### **Hours of Instruction**

**BUS 100A**  
Monday 3:00 – 4:50  
Wednesday 11:00 – 12:50  
**BUS 100B**  
Wednesday 3:00 – 4:50  
Friday 2:00 – 3:50  
**BUS 100C**  
Tuesday 8:00 – 9:50  
Friday 9:00 – 10:50

### **Required Resources**

***Essentials of Business Communication (Seventh Canadian Edition)***  
Mary Ellen Guffy & Richard Almonte  
Nelson Education  
ISBN: 13: 978-0-17-650357-4

***Checkmate: A Writing Reference for Canadians (Third Edition)***  
Joanne Buckley  
Nelson Education  
ISBN-13: 978-0-17-650256-0

## Course Outcomes

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Write and speak clearly, concisely, and logically.
2. Use business technology appropriately, and select and use appropriate software to produce business documents.
3. Prepare the basic memos, letters, e-mails, and short reports as required in everyday business settings.
4. Apply conventions of business style in writing, editing, and evaluating documents to convey professionalism and competence.
5. Be aware of and conform to the requirements for correct punctuation.
6. Collect, analyze, and synthesize information through observation, research, and consultation.
7. Access information from web and library catalogues for research in academic and business settings.
8. Apply APA documentation style and format along with standard plagiarism rules to acknowledge ownership of borrowed ideas.
9. Recommend appropriate strategies to solve business-related situations and cases.
10. Participate effectively in multi-functional teams.
11. Display leadership skills in one-on-one and group settings, and use team building skills (e.g., active listening, encouraging candor, maintaining a cooperative and collaborative environment).
12. Design and execute a professional oral business presentation using PowerPoint.

## Evaluation

Average of In-Class Tests	10%
Memo Assignment	10%
Letter or Memo Assignment	10%
Mid-Term Exam	10%
Short Report	10%
Résumé and Letter of Application	10%
Oral Presentation	10%
Online Quizzes	10%
Moodle Forums & Class Activities	5%
Final Examination	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

*A grade of C- is required for progression.*

*The minimum standard for passing this course is a grade of D (50%).*

*Students must achieve an average of 50% on the midterm and the final exam in order to pass the course and an overall average in the course of 50% (D).*

## Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 93.9
	A	4.0	87 - 93.9
	A-	3.7	80 - 86.9
Good	B+	3.3	77 - 79.9
	B	3.0	74 - 76.9
	B-	2.7	70 - 73.9
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	67 - 69.9
	C	2.0	64 - 66.9

<b>Progression</b>	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9
Poor	D+	1.3	57 – 59.9
Min Pass	D	1.0	50 – 56.9
Failure	F	0.0	< 50

## Performance Requirements

### 1. Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course. Please refer to page 32 of the Credit Calendar.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

### 2. Academic Misconduct (page 37 of the Credit Calendar)

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person

Penalties for academic offences may range from a verbal reprimand to dismissal from the College, and in certain circumstances may involve legal action.

### 3. Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

The College will provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities in order to promote academic success. If you require accommodation, contact the Learner Assistance Program Office at (780) 792-5608 to initiate the process for documenting, assessing and implementing your individual accommodation needs. In addition, tutoring services are available at the SKILL Centre (Room 119)

## Assignments

All assignments must be submitted in hard copy and retained in electronic format in students' files. I highly recommend that students purchase a flash drive in order to store course assignments in easily accessible format. Note that you may be asked to post copies of your in-class assignments on the Forum/Discussions board or Glossaries on Moodle. Participation on Moodle is a required component of the course. Please pay careful attention to the information on Academic Misconduct and Discipline for behavior such as cheating and plagiarism. The penalty for such behaviour is a zero on the assignment and no opportunity to resubmit the assignment.

## Due Dates

Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. No late assignments will be accepted once the instructor has marked and returned the assignment in question (unless there are extenuating circumstances such as illness or death in the family).

## **Exams**

**The progression grade in order to proceed to BUS 101, Report Writing and Presentations, is C-. Students must achieve an average of 50% on the Mid-term and Final exams in order to achieve a passing grade in the course as well as an overall average of 50% (D).**

## **Teaching and Learning Methodologies**

A wide variety of teaching and learning methodologies are used to appeal to a broad range of learning styles such as Visual, Auditory, Read/Write, Kinesthetic/Tactile, and Multimodal learners. Lectures, PowerPoints, videos, research and writing projects, team activities, student presentations, social media explorations, career fairs, and field trips are all used in the class.

## **Proposed Schedule**

Class Schedule: See the class schedule, topics, and readings as attached.

### **Please Note:**

This course outline may be modified to facilitate unforeseen time constraints. Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

## Course Schedule

**WEEK 1:  
(Sept. 3-6)**

### TOPICS

Labour Day Holiday (Sept. 2), No classes.  
College-wide Orientation (Sept. 3), No classes.  
Career Success Begins with Communication Skills  
Common Sentence Errors

### READINGS

Chapter 1, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 10, pp. 333-400, *Checkmate* (Common Sentence Errors)

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Diagnostic Test of English Skills (pp. 445-449), *Essentials of Business Communication***  
Grammar/Mechanics Review—1 & Document for Revision, pp. 27-28, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Grammar Review and all Exercises, pp. 449-507, *Essentials of Business Communication*, (to be completed over the next three weeks)  
**Digital Scavenger Hunt/Facebook or PowerPoint Presentation (Team Activity)**

**WEEK 2:  
(Sept. 9-13)**

### TOPICS

Before You Write  
Usage and Glossary of Usage

### READINGS

Chapters 2, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 13, *Checkmate*, pp. 469-489 (Usage)  
pp. 561-580, *Checkmate* (Glossary of Usage)

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Diagnostic Test A**  
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 48-49, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Grammar/Mechanics Review-2 & Figure 2.6, pp. 51-52, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
**Assignment #1: Memo of Introduction to Instructor** (Instructions will be distributed in class)  
**Due Date: Wed., Sept. 18 (BUS 100A); Fri., Sept. 20 (BUS 100B&C)**

**WEEK 3:  
(Sept. 16-20)**

### TOPICS

Writing and Revising  
Grammar, Punctuation, Mechanics and Spelling

## READINGS

Chapters 3, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 9, Grammar, pp. 305-331, *Checkmate*  
Chapter 11, Punctuation, pp. 401-439, *Checkmate*  
Chapter 14, Mechanics and Spelling, pp. 491-517, *Checkmate*

## ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Improvement Exercises, Chapter 3, pp. 75-76, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Grammar/Mechanics Review—3 & Document for Review, pp. 78-79, *Essentials of Business Communication*

**WEEK 4:  
(Sept. 23-27)**

## TOPICS

E-Mails, Instant Messages and Memos  
A Guide to Document Formats  
Documentation Formats and Overview

## READINGS

Chapter 4, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Appendix A, pp. 413-423, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Appendix C, pp. 426-435, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 4, Academic Integrity and Documentation Overview, pp. 143-156, *Checkmate*  
Chapter 6, APA Style of Documentation, pp. 211-256, *Checkmate*

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Diagnostic Test B (Wed., Sept. 25, BUS 100A; Fri., Sept. 27, BUS 100B&C)**  
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 107-108, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Grammar/Mechanics Review—4 & Document for Revision, pp. 113-114, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
**Online Assignment: Web Pages Evaluation**

**WEEK 5:  
(Sept. 30-Oct. 4)**

## TOPICS

Letters  
Sentence Structure and Style  
Style in Writing

## READINGS

Chapter 5, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 12, Sentence Structure and Style, pp. 461-467, *Checkmate*  
Appendix D, Style in Writing, pp. 436-444, *Essentials of Business Communication*



## ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 134-135, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Grammar/Mechanics Review—5 & Document for Revision, pp.143-144, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 442-444, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
**Assignment #2: One of the following: 5.4, Information Request: Culture Vultures Seeking Adventure , p. 137; 5.5, Information Request: Meeting in Haines Junction at the Dalton Trail Lodge, p. 137; or 5.7, Information Request: Backpacking Cuisine (Guffey and Almonte textbook)**  
**Due Date: Wed., Oct. 16 (BUS 100A); Fri., Oct. 18 (BUS 100B&C)**

**WEEK 6:  
(Oct. 7-11)**

## TOPICS

Persuasive Messages  
English Language Learners

## READINGS

Chapter 6, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 15, English Language Learners, pp. 519-559, *Checkmate*

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Grammar Post-Test Wed., Oct. 9 (BUS 100A); Fri., Oct. 11 (BUS 100B&C)**

Writing Improvement Exercises, p. 162, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Grammar/Mechanics Review—6 & Document for Revision, pp. 169-170, *Essentials of Business Communication*

**WEEK 7:  
(Oct. 14-18)**

## TOPICS

**Thanksgiving Day Holiday (Oct. 14), No classes**  
Negative Messages  
Research Papers  
**Library Orientation Activity (In-Class Mark)**

## READINGS

Chapter 7, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
Chapter 3, Research Papers, pp. 91-141, *Checkmate*

## ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar/Mechanics Review—7 & Document for Revision, pp. 195-196, *Essentials of Business Communication*  
**Study for Mid-Term Examination: Wed., Oct. 23 (BUS 100A); Fri., Oct. 25 (BUS 100B&C)**



**WEEK 8:**  
**(Oct. 21-25)**

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION—1 to 1 1/2 HRS.**  
**Date: Wed., Oct. 23 (BUS 100A); Fri., Oct. 25 (BUS 100B&C)**

### **TOPICS**

Informal Reports

### **READINGS**

Chapter 8, *Essentials of Business Communication*

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Grammar/Mechanics Review—8 & Document for Revision, pp. 226-227, *Essentials of Business Communication*

Grammar/Mechanics Review—9, pp. 269-270, *Essentials of Business Communication*

**Assignment #3: Short Report, Travel Opportunities: Report Comparing Three Destinations for an Employee Incentive Program**  
(Instructions will be distributed in class)

**Due Date: Wed., Oct. 30 (BUS 100A); Fri., Nov. 1 (BUS 100B&C)**

**WEEK 9:**  
**(Oct. 28-Nov. 1)**

### **TOPICS**

Communicating in Person: Professionalism, Etiquette, Teamwork, and Meetings

### **READINGS**

Chapter 10, *Essentials of Business Communication*

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Grammar/Mechanics Review—10 & Document for Revision, pp. 304-305, *Essentials of Business Communication*

Prepare Business Flyers: Team Presentations (for next week)

**WEEK 10:**  
**(Nov. 4-8)**

### **TOPICS**

The Job Search, Résumés, and Cover Letters

### **READINGS**

Chapter 12, *Essentials of Business Communication*

## ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar/Mechanics Review—12 & Document for Revision, pp. 380-381, *Essentials of Business Communication*

**Assignment #4: Résumés and Cover Letters**

**Due Date: Wed., Nov. 13 (BUS 100A); Fri., Nov. 15 (BUS 100B&C)**

**WEEK 11:  
(Nov. 11-15)**

## TOPICS

**Holiday for Remembrance Day, Nov. 11 (No classes)**

Interviews and Follow-Up

## READINGS

Chapter 13, *Essentials of Business Communication*

## ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Improvement Exercises, p. 405, *Essentials of Business Communication*

Grammar/Mechanics Review—13 & Document for Revision, pp. 409-410, *Essentials of Business Communication*

**In-Class Mark for Participation in Mock Interviews**

**WEEK 12:  
(Nov. 18-22)**

## TOPICS

Business Presentations

## READINGS

Chapter 11, *Essentials of Business Communication*

## ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar/Mechanics Review—11 & Document for Revision, pp. 337-338, *Essentials of Business Communication*

**Assignment #5: Oral Presentations by Students due in Week 13 (Nov. 25-29). Students must use PowerPoint.**

**WEEK 13:  
(Nov. 25-29)**

## TOPICS

**Oral Presentations by Students (must include PowerPoint Slides)**

**WEEK 14:  
(Dec. 2-6)**

## TOPICS

Review for Final Exam

**WEEK 15:  
(Dec. 9-18)**

**FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

**Important Dates to Remember**

Sept. 2	Labour Day, College closed.
Sept. 3	Orientation Day.
Sept. 4	Fall semester begins for academic programs.
Sept. 10	Last day to add courses for academic programs. Fall semester fees due.
Sept. 17	Last day to drop courses for academic programs. Last day to waive KCSA Health & Dental Plan.
Sept. 20	Fall Awards Application deadline.
Sept. 27	Deadline to apply for Co-operative Education for first term.
Oct. 11	Last day to withdraw with a 50% refund.
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day, College closed.
Oct. 25	Last day to withdraw from course(s) without academic penalty.
Oct. 30	Last day to withdraw from Co-operative Education for first term.
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day, No classes.
Dec. 3	Fall Awards Celebration.
Dec. 6	Last day of classes for students in Certificate, Diploma, and University programs.
Dec. 9-18	FINAL EXAM PERIOD.