BUS 100E, Business Communications
3 credits, 3 hours

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, and brief oral presentations that achieve results. This course provides an opportunity to brush up your writing and business communication skills before proceeding to more advanced classes.

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

Instructor
Cynthia O’Donnell, EdD
S113A
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Cell: 780-799-9934
cynthia.odonnell@keyano.ca

Office Hours
Monday 3:00 – 3:50
Wednesday 10:00 – 10:50
1:00 – 1:50
Thursday 5:30 – 6:30
Friday 12:00 – 12:50

Hours of Instruction
BUS 100E
Thursday 6:30 – 9:30

Required Resources
Essentials of Business Communication (Eighth Canadian Edition)
Mary Ellen Guffy & Richard Almonte
Nelson Education

Checkmate: A Writing Reference for Canadians (Third Edition)
Joanne Buckley
Nelson Education
Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Select and use appropriate communication means and methods as required in everyday business settings. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Identify and understand the communication process in order to express and interpret a message clearly.
  - Analyze audience’s needs and apply an effective strategy to meet them.
  - Select appropriate channel for intended message.

- Apply conventions of business style in writing, editing, and evaluating documents to convey professionalism and competence. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Identify common writing mechanics and style errors within a previously written document.
  - Process business documents to meet North American standards of grammar, punctuation, and usage.
  - Process business documents by applying “Plain English” principles to achieve clarity and concision.

- Compose, format, and write effective professional electronic and paper documents for business which include business letters, memos, emails, and informal research reports. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Design and format business documents using Microsoft Office Suite to reflect standards of professionalism.
  - Write and format effective direct and indirect business letters and emails.
  - Compose, write, and format an informal report.

- Retrieve information from web and library catalogues for research in academic and business settings. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Select and use appropriate search and meta-search engines, directory, and online databases to retrieve information.
  - Apply effective search tools to retrieve relevant data.
  - Evaluate online information based on credibility, validity, and standards according to specific evaluation criteria.
  - Explain the relevance of using peer-reviewed scholarly sources located in library databases.

- Apply APA documentation style and format along with standard plagiarism rules to acknowledge ownership of borrowed ideas. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Define plagiarism and explain how proper referencing can prevent plagiarism in academic and business settings.
  - Apply APA documentation to construct in-text citations and reference pages in a short report.
  - Apply effective use of lead-ins, paraphrasing, summaries, and direct quotes to present sourced information properly.

- Present oneself professionally in writing and conversation in job search settings. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Identify personal job-related skills.
  - Design and compose a visually attractive resume appropriate for a particular job in a targeted company.
  - Compose an effective application letter that targets a particular company and job.
  - Participate as both an interviewer and as a candidate in mock job interviews.

- Design and execute a professional oral business presentation. The following concepts, skills, and issues are used to support this Outcome:
  - Identify audience and determine relevant subject, purpose, and approach for an oral presentation.
  - Apply appropriate strategies for organizing presentation content.
  - Use Microsoft PowerPoint to create an effective visual aid to support presenter’s information.
  - Identify common public speaking anxieties and apply techniques to overcome them.
  - Present a professional oral presentation in front of an audience.
Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average of In-Class Tests</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memo Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter or Memo Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Résumé and Letter of Application</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moodle Forums &amp; Class Activities</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Alpha Grade</th>
<th>4.0 Scale</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>&gt; 93.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>80 – 86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77 – 79.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>74 – 76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>70 – 73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>67 – 69.9</td>
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<td>Progression</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>64 – 66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60 – 63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>57 – 59.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Min Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
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<td>&lt; 50</td>
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Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic may be subject to change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.
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.

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.

Academic Misconduct

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
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Accessibility Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.
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 or plagiarism. The penalty for such behaviour is 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 of Topics

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

WEEK 1:     TOPICS
(Jan. 9-13)
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. 474-478), Essentials of Business Communication
Grammar/Mechanics Review—1 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 1, pp. 28-29, Essentials of Business Communication
Grammar Review and all Exercises, pp. 474-539, Essentials of Business Communication, (to be completed over the next three weeks)
Digital Scavenger Hunt/Facebook or PowerPoint Presentation (Team Activity)

WEEK 2:     TOPICS
(Jan. 16-20)
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. 50-51, Essentials of Business Communication
Grammar/Mechanics Review-2 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 2, pp. 52-53, Essentials of Business Communication
Assignment #1: Memo of Introduction to Instructor (Instructions will be distributed in class)
Due Date: Thurs., Jan. 26

WEEK 3:     TOPICS
(Jan. 23-27)
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. 79-81, Essentials of Business Communication  
Grammar/Mechanics Review—3 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 3, pp. 82-83, Essentials of Business Communication

WEEK 4:  
(Jan. 30-Feb. 3)

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. 443-452, Essentials of Business Communication  
Appendix C, pp. 455-464, 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  
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 115-117, Essentials of Business Communication  
Online Assignment: Web Pages Evaluation

WEEK 5:  
(Feb. 6-10)

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. 465-473, Essentials of Business Communication
ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 148-149, Essentials of Business Communication
Grammar/Mechanics Review—5 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 5, pp. 157-158, Essentials of Business Communication
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 471-473, Essentials of Business Communication

Assignment #2: One of the following: 5.5, Information Request: Culture Vultures Seeking Adventure, p. 151; 5.6, Information Request: Meeting in Haines Junction at the Dalton Trail Lodge, p. 152; or 5.8, Information Request: Backpacking Cuisine, pp. 152-153 (Guffey and Almonte textbook)
Due Date: Thurs., Feb. 16

WEEK 6:
(Feb. 13-17)

TOPICS

Persuasive Messages
English Language Learners
Library Orientation Activity (In-Class Mark)

READINGS

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

ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar Post-Test: Week 7.
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 177-178, Essentials of Business Communication
Grammar/Mechanics Review—6 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 6, pp. 184-185, Essentials of Business Communication

WEEK 7:
( Feb. 21-24)

TOPICS

Family Day Holiday Holiday (Mon., Feb. 20), No classes
Negative Messages
Research Papers

READINGS

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

ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 210-211
Study for Mid-Term Examination: Week 9.
WEEK 8: 
( Feb. 27-Mar. 3) 
READING WEEK (No Classes)

WEEK 9: 
( Mar. 6-10) 
TOPICS

WEEK 9:
(Mar. 6-10)

MID-TERM EXAMINATION—1 to 1 1/2 HRS.
Informal Reports

READINGS

Chapter 8, Essentials of Business Communication

ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar/Mechanics Review—8 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 8, pp. 253-254, Essentials of Business Communication
Grammar/Mechanics Review—9, p. 299, Essentials of Business Communication
Assignment #3: Short Report, 9.9 Unsolicited Proposal: Working from Home (p. 296) OR 9.13 Informal Proposal: Supporting a Charity (p. 297). Note that references and in-text citations are required.
Due Date: Thurs., Mar. 16

WEEK 10: 
(Mar. 13-17) 
TOPICS

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

READINGS

Chapter 10, Essentials of Business Communication

ASSIGNMENTS

Prepare Business Flyers: Team Presentations (for next week)

WEEK 11: 
(Mar. 20-24)

TOPICS

The Job Search, Résumés, and Cover Letters

READINGS

Chapter 12, Essentials of Business Communication

ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar/Mechanics Review—12 & Grammar/Mechanics Challenge 12, p. 408, Essentials of Business Communication
Assignment #4: Résumés and Cover Letters
Due Date: Thurs., Mar. 30
WEEK 12: TOPICS (Mar. 27-31)
Interviews and Follow-Up

READINGS
Chapter 13, Essentials of Business Communication

ASSIGNMENTS
Writing Improvement Exercises, pp. 434-435, Essentials of Business Communication
In-Class Mark for Participation in Mock Interviews

WEEK 13: TOPICS (Apr. 3-7)
Business Presentations

READINGS
Chapter 11, Essentials of Business Communication

ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 14: TOPICS (Apr. 10-13)
Oral Presentations by Students (must include PowerPoint Slides)

WEEK 15: FINAL EXAMINATIONS (Apr. 18-24)