

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS (HTM2010)

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Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm; Wednesdays 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm (These are the times I’m definitely in the office, but you can also make an appointment for another time or just try dropping by if you happen to be in the vicinity).

Class meeting times:

Everyone meets: Monday 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm in MACK 029

The Wednesday section meets: Wednesday 2:30 pm -- 4:20 pm in MACK 228

The Thursday section meets: Thursday 11:30 am – 1:20 pm in MACK 236

The Goal

Hospitality and Tourism Business Communications essentially has just one goal: to help you become more confident about your ability to write and speak clearly and professionally.

Achieving that goal

Your path toward achieving that goal, however, is multi-faceted. It includes mastering the following “nuts and bolts” skills

- A stronger grasp of the basics – grammar and spelling
- Ability to organize your material logically and coherently
- In the case of writing: a familiarity with the conventions of business writing, whether the documents are electronic or conventional hard copy; and in the case of speaking: an ability to think quickly on your feet and to control stage fright

And it also includes the following, more elusive, ability of maintaining your audience’s interest & respect by

- Addressing their concerns
- Presenting material that’s thoughtful and that enables them to learn something valuable

All the assignments in the course aim to help you work on those skills and abilities.

Summary of Assignments

1. Cover letter	5
2. Research Assignment	5
3. Oral presentation	10
4. Critique of presentation	5

Winter 2014

5. Report on “issues” topic	20
6. Briefing via e-mail	10
7. Business Proposal	20
8. Final presentation	10
9. Five quizzes	5
10. Contribution	10

Text and Course Pack

The following are required and are available in the bookstore.

1. Business Communication Essentials. Custom Edition for University of Guelph (2012).
2. HTM*2010 Hospitality and Tourism Business Communications Course Pack. (Fall 2013)

Teaching/Learning Approach

We meet twice a week -- for 50 minutes as a large group; and then for 2 hours within a smaller group. Class time for both sessions usually revolves around a workshop approach: large group discussions; small group work; mini lectures; oral presentations; and individual practice.

What this approach means for you:

You won't need your laptop, but you will need to bring the course pack to every class. In order to keep up with what's going on and to learn as much as possible, you need to attend class and be willing to participate. You'll also need to consult regularly the CourseLink site.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Cover letter (5%)

Write a cover letter for a position that interests you.

Choose a realistic position, one that suits your present qualifications, and use details from your own life -- refer to your own experience and education. Use proper business letter format.

Issues in Hospitality and Tourism Assignments

You will choose, and sign up for, an Issues Topic. These topics are available on a first come/first served basis, and they're posted outside my office door, MACS 322. (They're also listed in your course pack on page 83). There is a limit of 2-3 people per topic. Once you have your topic, you'll complete the following:

Research Assignment (5%)

Find 5 credible sources of information on your Issues Topic and present the sources' bibliographic information in the form of an APA reference list.

Oral Presentation (10%)

Identify *one specific aspect** of your broad Issues Topic. Briefly summarize this aspect and describe its implications for the students sitting in your audience. In other words, as future hospitality and tourism professionals, why do they need to know about this issue? How is it likely to affect them – or the industry – in a concrete way?

The presentation should be 4-5 minutes long. A discussion will follow.

*The Issues Topics are all fairly broad, with several different aspects that could be considered. You won't, however, have enough time to cover everything. That's why it's important to identify one specific aspect only.

Critique of Oral Presentation (5%)

Write a 500-word critique of your oral presentation in which you answer these two questions: (i) What did I like about my presentation and my handling of the discussion that followed? (ii) Based on what I've learned through developing and delivering this presentation, what will I do differently for future presentations in terms of both delivery and content?

The critique should be primarily in complete sentences and paragraphs.

The details: The presentation will be recorded and available for you to view privately outside of class time. You will base your critique on this viewing, and **submit it in class one week after the actual presentation**. Details of how to access your taped presentation will be given in class.

Report on the Issues Topic (20%)

Using the material from your research (and your presentation, if you've already given it), write a 500-word report that summarizes the specific issue and then discusses its industry implications.

We'll discuss in class the format and possible organization of this report.

Values-based Communication Assignments

Your background task: Commit a random act of kindness. (If that places too much pressure on you, then it can be a preconceived act of kindness.) In any case, the definition of both remains the same: an act that has only positive benefits for *everyone* concerned.

(The emphasis here is on “only positive benefits for everyone” – that includes you. In other words, don’t choose anything that might put you in harm’s way, such as picking up a hitchhiker at night on a lonely stretch of road just outside the Bates Motel, intervening in a bar-room brawl, or In other words, use your common sense with this one.)

The following assignments are based on this act.

Briefing via e-mail (10%)

Explain in 250 words what you did for your random act of kindness; why you chose this particular act; and how it affected both the recipient(s) and you.

E-mail me this assignment, with the briefing presented in an attachment, not in the body of the e-mail.

Business Proposal (20%)

Preliminary task: Identify the positive value(s) exemplified by your random act of kindness.

Your business proposal: propose one concrete, practical way this value could be incorporated into the daily operations of a business/organization that you’ve either worked at or been a member of.

You will, of course, also need to explain how your proposal, if accepted, would contribute to the overall wellbeing of this business/organization.

Length: 500 - 700 words

Format: to be discussed in class

Final Presentation (10%)

Develop and deliver a 5-minute presentation that teaches your audience something. “Something” could refer to a physical, hands on skill, or it could refer to an idea or a concept. In either case, you are required to use at least one visual during this presentation.

Winter 2014

Five Quizzes (5%)

These are short quizzes that allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the readings. They are spaced throughout the semester, but will always take place during a lecture class.

Contribution (10%)

This grade is determined in two ways:

One half of your contribution grade (5 marks) is based on your contributions during class time. These contributions can take the form of actively participating during class discussions, assuming volunteer roles during the first set of presentations, and helping others to learn by being attentive and professional during the class.

The remaining half (5 marks) is based on your contribution outside of class: you'll keep a blog throughout the semester in which you post 5 entries, each in response to a specific question or statement that the class will be given. Each posting will be about 200 words and worth 1%. It will be graded based on professionalism, as reflected in the following ways:

- Did you respect the instructor's directions by posting your entry on or before the required time and date?
- Did you respect the readers' time (and your readers include the entire class) by making sure your blog was worth their time and effort to read?
- Did you respect everyone's intelligence (including your own) by using proper spelling, grammar, and English?

Notes re submission of assignments:

- You should submit your written assignments in hard copy (except, of course, for the briefing e-mail and the blog postings); and double-spaced.
- You should submit your assignments on time.
- Assignment extensions may be possible if you have a good reason, but you need to contact me before the due date to discuss this possibility. Otherwise, the normal penalty for a late assignment is 10% a day.
- If you are absent on the day of your presentation, it will be re-scheduled only if you have a legitimate reason and, when necessary, appropriate medical documentation, for your absence. Otherwise, you will receive a grade of zero.

Notes re receiving the credit for this course:

In order to receive a credit for HTM2010, students must successfully complete the public speaking components of the course.

