

# **ENG615 Ethics in Business and Technical Writing**

## **(3 credit hours)**

### **Course Syllabus**

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### **Course Description**

This course is a continuation of the graduate level Business Writing course. Student will learn the basics of technical writing including genres of the field such as fact sheets, instructions and usability tests. Emphasis will be placed on writing for an audience and purpose-driven writing, including writing in the STEM fields. The course will also briefly cover the principles of design layout for creating documents and website that look professional. Lastly, student will work with case studies to help them gain as much experience as possible.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand what it means to be a stakeholder and evaluate stakeholder concerns in various business and technical writing situations.
2. Understand and evaluate issues of plagiarism.
3. Analyze legal language surrounding issues in business and technical writing.
4. Understand and defend the impact various cultures have on writing.
5. Analyze and evaluate the laws surrounding accessibility issues in business and technical writing.

### **Required Textbook(s) and Resources**

Your course has no required textbook. All resources are included in each week.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#). You might consider registering for one of the library's many webinars on library research, source evaluation, copyright, and other topics, at the [Library Events - Upcoming Events](#) web page. For further assistance email a librarian, at: [library@tiffin.edu](mailto:library@tiffin.edu).

### **Time Commitment**

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your

learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

## Learning Activities

During this course you will have to complete weekly writing assignments, discussions, and case studies.

## Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
<b>Forums</b> Activity 1.1 (20) Activity 1.2 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 2.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 3.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 4.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 5.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 6.1 (40)	<b>Forums</b> Activity 7.1 (40)	<b>300</b>
<b>Assignments</b> Activity 1.3 (40)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 2.2 (40) Activity 2.3 (40)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 3.2 (40) Activity 3.3 (40) Activity 3.4 (20)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 4.2 (40)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 5.2 (80)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 6.2 (80)	<b>Assignments</b> Activity 7.2 (280)	<b>700</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1000</b>

## Grading Scale

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

F: <70%

Please see the [Academic Bulletin](#) for grade appeal information.

## Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

### Start Here

- MON: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Classmates - Introductory Post

### Week 1 – Introduction to Ethics in Business and Technical Writing

- WED: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Classmates - Secondary Post
- WED: Activity 1.2: Defining Ethics
- SAT: Activity 1.2: Defining Ethics – Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 1.3: Summary of Relevant Research

### Week 2 – Stakeholders

- WED: Activity 2.1: Identifying Stakeholders
- SAT: Activity 2.1: Identifying Stakeholders – Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 2.2: Stakeholder Concerns
- SUN: Activity 2.3: Case Study

### Week 3 – Plagiarism in Business and Technical Writing

- WED: Activity 3.1: Generative AI and Plagiarism
- SAT: Activity 3.1: Generative AI and Plagiarism – Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 3.2: Assessing Generative AI
- SUN: Activity 3.3: Avoiding Plagiarism
- SUN: Activity 3.4: Final Assessment Instructions

### Week 4 – Legal Language in Business and Technical Writing

- WED: Activity 4.1: Legal Compliance and Ethical Issues
- SAT: Activity 4.1: Legal Compliance and Ethical Issues – Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 4.2: Legal Language Infographic

## **Week 5 – Cultural Impacts on Writing**

- WED: Activity 5.1: Cultural Impacts
- SAT: Activity 5.1: Cultural Impacts – Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 5.2: Cultural Awareness

## **Week 6 – Accessibility**

- WED: Activity 6.1: Final Project Peer Review
- SAT: Activity 6.1: Final Project Peer Review – Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 6.2: Ensuring Accessibility

## **Week 7 – Final Thoughts**

- WED: Activity 7.1: Course Summary
- SAT: Activity 7.1: Course Summary - Secondary Post
- SAT: Activity 7.2: Final Project Submission

## **Tips for Success**

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

## **Your Instructor Will Expect You to:**

- Thoroughly review orientation materials (Start Here) within the first 48 hours of the term.
- Monitor your TU email account **daily** for important updates and announcements.
- Take ownership of your learning experience and act in a proactive, self-directed manner. That means:
  - Fully participate in all learning activities.
  - Complete assignments as described in rubrics or other instructions.
  - Submit all work on time and in the specified format (e.g. APA format for citations).
  - Utilize and incorporate instructor provided feedback to improve your work.
  - Ask questions so you can better understand course material or assignments.

- Use the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity. For more information, see the TU Library guide: [Digital Literacy: Netiquette and Internet Safety](#).
- Treat others respectfully and demonstrate "netiquette" (online politeness and respectfulness) at all times. TU celebrates cultural uniqueness and expects all students to be considerate and thoughtful throughout their learning experiences.

### **You Should Expect Your Instructors to:**

- Post an introductory announcement/email at the beginning of each week to provide updates and help you prepare for the week's activities.
- Maintain an active and engaged presence in all course activities and throughout the course.
- Respond to your emailed questions within 48 hours, if not sooner.
- Clearly communicate any absences or expected non-participation due to extenuating circumstances. For example, "I will be traveling to attend a funeral this week and may not be able to respond to questions or participate in forums for a couple of days."
- When grading your work:
  - clearly indicate their grading approach (what they like to see in submitted work as well as what types of errors they tend to penalize more harshly),
  - thoroughly review and evaluate your submissions in a timely manner (in less than 5 days for most assignments), and
  - provide constructive feedback that indicates the strengths and weaknesses of your work and provides suggestions on how you can improve your performance on future assignments.
- Advocate for your success as a learner and help guide you toward successful completion of the course activities and most importantly, attainment of the course learning outcomes.

### **Accommodations (Disability Services)**

The Office of Disability Services supports the institutional commitment to diversity by providing educational opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you need reasonable accommodations due to a documented disability, contact the Office for Equity, Access, & Opportunity via email at [disabilityservices@tiffin.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@tiffin.edu) or by calling 419-448-3021.

## Technical Support

For Moodle support, either email [moodlesupport@tiffin.edu](mailto:moodlesupport@tiffin.edu) or call the 24/7 Technical Support Call Center at 855-664-1200 (3430, Option 2, from on-campus). For non-Moodle support, contact the Tiffin University ITS helpdesk at the number above or submit a [support ticket](#).

## Veterans

The Veteran and Military Resource Center assist veterans, active Military, and spouses of current service members in utilizing their education benefits. VMRC provides information regarding benefit processes and procedures, as well as support in navigating the transition from military to academic life by facilitating connections with the appropriate support services on campus. More information can be found on the Veteran and Military Resource Center website, at <http://www.tiffin.edu/va>.

## Comments or Concerns

TU's online programs are designed to be student *driven*: to empower you with a voice and stake in your learning. Our courses feature multiple and varied ways that you can share feedback, and we invite you to become an active voice and help drive our improvement efforts. In addition to providing in-course feedback, we encourage you to submit questions or comments directly to the online team at [online@tiffin.edu](mailto:online@tiffin.edu).