



WR 227 ONLINE: Technical Communication
Instructor Lucette Wood
English Department
Winter Term 2015; CRN: 32830

Office Location: SSH 208
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WELCOME TO WR227 ONLINE: Technical writers have a tremendous impact on the workplace -- as producers, translators and innovators. This class will give you experience in communicating your ideas precisely, clearly and efficiently, an essential skill in technical writing. To view the objectives and outcomes of WR227 follow the links from the English Department homepage: <http://cf.linnbenton.edu/depts/english>.

Required Materials:

- Lannon, John M. *Technical Communication* 13th ed. NY: Pearson Longman, 2014. Available at LBCC's Bookstore, Main Campus, phone (541) 917-4950. [LBCC Bookstore](#) .

NOTE: This REQUIRED textbook is an essential part of our class. It discusses writing strategies for technical writing and provides helpful models for all writing assignments. Lannon has developed online resources (including study guides for each chapter and online chapter quizzes). Check these out at: <http://www.ablongman.com/lannonweb>

- Grammar handbook will be a useful reference for you this term. Another great resource is *Exercise Central*, an online interactive editing resource, at www.ablongman.com/exercisecentral

Students who have emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who might need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation, or students with documented disabilities who have special needs, should make an appointment with the instructor no later than the first week of the term. If additional assistance is required, the student should contact LBCC's Office of Accessibility Services at 917-4789.

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Student Decorum Statement: Because college coursework and professional correspondence require focused study and open exchange of ideas, the Department expects the classroom to be a place of courteous interaction, a forum for demonstrating mutual respect between teachers and students. Professional communication requires all of us to listen carefully to each other (whether we agree or not) and to state our positions with clarity and our disagreements with tact. Standards for academic courtesies apply to group work, on-line interaction, and student-teacher conferences as well.

Skills Needed to Be Successful in this Class.

- **Technical skills:** Are you reasonably comfortable using word processing, e-mail and the Internet? Are you willing to learn our course software (a web-based program) so that you can 'post' your work, take tests, and 'talk' to classmates and your instructor about the class?
- **Communicating skills:** Recognizing this class is designed to improve your current writing and communicating skills, do you like to learn from reading and writing?

Course Requirements:

- I. **Participation:** You will be asked to participate in weekly Forums in Moodle to practice concepts you will be learning. Your participation in these activities will raise or lower your participation grade.
- II. **Usability Reviews:** Usability review workshops are a time for you to get helpful feedback from your colleagues. To complete this activity, you will post and reply to drafts of assignments in our online course. These workshops are designed to develop your growing audience awareness, helping you understand not only how your writing sounds to others but also how it affects or fails to affect others.

- III. **Projects:** In **Unit 1**, you will prepare a definition of a technical object and write a set of instructions. In **Unit 2** you will write a research report, a proposal, an article summary, and prepare survey and interview questions. In **Unit 3**, you will prepare a formal problem-solving technical report. You may preview the assignments by following the links. The criteria by which you will be evaluated and a model of each assignment are available in Moodle. Assignments are designed to gradually increase in difficulty and assigned length. Assignments points are given in the grade book within Moodle.
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Criteria for Grading: This course is graded on a point scale. You can earn an 'A' with 90-100% of total points, a 'B' with 80-89%, etc. Your assignments will earn points based on the:

- quality and organization of your ideas,
- clarity and conciseness of your writing,
- appropriateness of your tone and format,
- usefulness of your graphics,
- care of your proofreading, and
- timeliness of the assignment and ability to follow assignment guidelines.

The specific point values for each assignment are found in the grade book. Please use this to keep track of your points.

Course Policies:

- **Email:** Please email questions directly to lucette.wood.2868@mail.linnbenton.edu. In your email, please place your name, WR227, and the topic of the message in the subject line of the email. This information will also help me identify the nature of your request and reply more quickly. Please allow 24 hours during business days (Monday through Friday) for a response.
 - **Assignment Submission:** Please see the Weekly Schedule for these instructions. Post rough drafts in the Discussion Forums within Moodle, and email final assignments to directly to your instructor at lucette.wood.2868@mail.linnbenton.edu. All assignments must be compatible with Word or saved as RTF (rich text format). All report drafts must follow workplace conventions and standards of professionalism. **All incomplete or late first versions will result in a letter grade being deducted from the final report.** Please keep a copy of every paper you submit.
 - **Late Work:** Our classroom standards reflect workplace standards; a due date is a deadline and you don't miss deadlines without informing your supervisor of your progress on the report in advance. If you feel circumstances are working against you, you may make arrangements for an extension **PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE**. Late work will lose 10% automatically and may suffer additional penalties. If any late assignments are turned in after Week 9, I cannot guarantee that I'll be able to read them for a grade before the end of the term.
 - **Plagiarism:** Do your own work! Using someone else's work as your own or using information or ideas without proper citations can lead to your failing the assignment or the class. Bibliographies (called "Works Cited" in MLA or References in APA) and in-text citations are required whenever you use outside sources, including the Internet. Depending on the severity of the plagiarism, the student may be subject to administrative action. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, please ask.
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Resources:

- **The Writing Center:** While enrolled in Writing 227, you are encouraged to seek extra help at the Writing Center (917-4684), located on the second floor of Willamette Hall, in the Learning Resource Center above the Library. If needed, they will also be able to direct you to the ESOL lab for additional support. Visit their website at <http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/learning-center/writing-help> for their term hours. **The Online Writing Lab is also available to submit writing electronically for feedback.** Follow the link to the Writing Center homepage. You are encouraged to seek help early in the term. This is a free service to all LB students.
 - **Computer Lab Resources:** You may use either LRC 213 or Forum 204 as a drop-in computer lab whenever classes are not scheduled and space is available.
 - **Library Information:** The LB library homepage can be found by following the links from: <http://lib.linnbenton.edu/library/portal2.html>. The site provides library hours, an online catalogue, as well as many helpful research databases.
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LETS WORK TOGETHER! Developing technical writing skills for effective individual and team work means a great deal of thoughtful effort on your part. Your commitment will enhance your results in class and in your future employment. Email me or visit during office hours to discuss an assignment or your progress at any point in the term. I look forward to working with each of you this term. Let me know what I can do to make this a successful learning experience for you!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

IMPORTANT: Each week you are expected to complete the weekly reading and assignments. In addition, you will be asked to participate in the online Discussion Forums within our Moodle course. Look for the required activities in the third column below. This is where you will find the weekly assignment due dates. This schedule is tentative and may be changed at any time.

All Assignment Sheets (with samples and the criteria you will be graded on) and Discussion Forums can be found in the corresponding weeks within Moodle.

UNIT 1 ASSIGNMENTS

<p>Week 1: Jan. 5-12</p> <p>This first week introduces the principles of technical writing, with emphasis on the importance of audience. Practice moving from a subjective perspective to an objective writing style and consider what information is essential for the audience. Remember technical writing is to be <u>used</u>; it is writing for a specific audience and purpose.</p> <p>We will work on the Technical Description assignment, describing and defining a tool or object with precision. Plan for a lot of reading this week.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SKIM: Chapter 1. ▪ READ: Chap 18 Technical Definitions (pages 412-413, and SKIM the remaining chap.) ▪ READ: Chap 19 Technical Descriptions <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare a rough draft of the Technical Description report. (<i>Note: Do not confuse a description of an object and its parts with a set of instructions for completing a task. Follow the operating description sample on pg. 438 and the description of a Functional Sequence on page 435.</i>) 	<p>Due Monday, Jan. 12, at midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rough draft of the Technical Description report due to be posted in the Forum within Moodle.
<p>Week 2: Jan. 13-19</p> <p>During Week 2, you'll revise and complete the Technical Description and design a set of instructions for using some kind of a tool or process.</p> <p>Focus on the needs of your reader and use appropriate graphics and careful use of organization and format.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ: Chap 20 Instructions ▪ REVIEW: Chap 12 Designing Visuals (pages 248-251 & 270-275) <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Giving feedback to other students on their drafts and finalizing the Technical Description ▪ Reviewing the Instructions chapter, choosing a task for the assignment, and preparing a rough draft. 	<p>Due Wed., Jan. 14, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Discussion Review two Technical Description rough drafts posted within Moodle. <p>Due Fri., Jan. 16, at midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final draft of Technical Description due to be emailed to your instructor, not posted within Moodle.
<p>Week 3: Jan. 20-26</p> <p>During Week 3, your emphasis will turn to revising your final Instructions to ensure absolute clarity of document design and ease of readability. You'll also preview the final report (the major project for our class). You will choose to write either a formal analytical report or an expanded proposal.</p> <p><i>Linn-Benton is closed Jan. 19 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.</i></p>	<p>Readings for Week 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ Chap 22 Analytical Reports (pages 510-533) ▪ READ Chapter 2 <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revising and preparing a final draft of the Instructions Report ▪ Reviewing the Final Report Assignment AND the Assignment Guidelines for your Final Report. Also preview the Model Student Proposals ▪ Brainstorming ideas for the final report. 	<p>Due Friday, Jan. 23, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rough draft of Instructions due (without visuals is fine for the rough draft) to be posted in the Forum within Moodle. <p>Due Monday, Jan. 26, at midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Discussion Review two Technical Instruction rough drafts posted within Moodle.

UNIT 2 ASSIGNMENTS

<p>Week 4: Jan. 27 - Feb. 2 In Unit 2, we move into the cumulative project for the term. You need to have a topic by the end of this week. You will also read about how to work effectively in a Team situation.</p> <p>You will work to flesh out your topic this week and prepare a research proposal for the report. This presents your plan for accomplishing the project. We will cover strategies for writing a research proposal and planning the research process.</p> <p>You will be searching for both traditional library and online sources. Work to collect your secondary research now so you are ready to move toward drafting as we progress.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ REVIEW: Chap. 5 Working in Teams ▪ READ: Chap 23 Proposals (Research Proposal, pages 559-562) ▪ READ: Chap 7 Research Process (pages 125-140) ▪ READ: Gantt Charts (pages 266-267) <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beginning research and the Research Proposal assignment. 	<p>Due Friday, Jan. 30, at midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final draft Instructions due to be emailed to your instructor, not posted within Moodle. <p><i>There are no required posts in our Class Discussion Forum this week. Use this time to clarify your topic and scope for the Final Report.</i></p>
<p>Week 5: Feb. 3-9 This week you will read about collecting primary research and will begin drafting a survey (even if you choose not to conduct the survey), and you may need interview questions. Choose a documentation style that fits the discipline of your report.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ: Chap 7 'Exploring Primary Sources' (pages 140-147) <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize Research Proposal ▪ Schedule any primary contacts and contact your instructor to authorize your materials. 	<p>Due Friday, Feb. 6, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research Proposal due to be emailed directly to your instructor. This assignment will be submitted in final form, without a rough draft review. <p>Due Mon., Feb. 9, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rough draft of Survey and Interview due to be posted in the Forum within Moodle.
<p>Week 6: Feb. 10-16 Continue to collect both primary and secondary sources and record and summarize your findings. Review paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, and documenting skills.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ Chap 9: Summarizing Information ▪ SKIM: Part 5—A Quick Guide to Documentation (review documentation style of choice—pages 644+) <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look ahead to section rough draft. Review Model Section Draft with Citations and the Final Report Assignment ▪ Finalizing primary and secondary research 	<p>Due Wed., Feb. 11, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Discussion Review two Survey Rought Drafts in Moodle. Be sure to evaluate, rather than take, the survey. <p>Due Friday, Feb. 13, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final Survey and Interview (one per group) due to be emailed to your instructor, not posted within Moodle.

<p>Week 7: Feb. 17 - 23</p> <p>This week your goal is to move from researching to drafting. You will organize your primary and secondary research, work to interpret your findings, and begin to draft out one section of your report. Finally, work on revising skills for fluency and precise wording.</p> <p><i>Linn-Benton is closed Feb. 16 for the Presidents' Day Holiday.</i></p>	<p>Readings for Week 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ Chap 8 Interpreting Information <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewing the Final Report Assignment Guidelines. ▪ Preparing one section of your report 	
<p>Week 8: Feb. 24 – Mar. 2</p> <p>We will review resources to use in organizing your draft and how to integrate page layout.</p> <p>The feedback provided by your peer reviewers will be crucial in this beginning stage of the drafting process. By the end of this week, your goal is to finalize one section of your report.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ Chap 10 Organizing for Readers. ▪ REVIEW: Chap 12 Designing Visuals (pages 251-269 & 277-288) ▪ SKIM Chap 13 Designing Pages and Documents <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revising and finalizing the Section Draft ▪ Preparing a rough draft of the entire report. 	<p>Due Wed., Feb. 25, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section Rough Draft (one per person) due to be posted online within the Forum in Moodle. <p>Due Friday, Feb. 27, by midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Discussion Review two Section rough drafts posted within Moodle.
<p>Week 9: Mar. 3-9</p> <p>Your goal this week is to compile a rough draft of the complete report, with all sections, the introduction, and conclusion and recommendation. You will also be reviewing the required prefacing and supplementing elements of the report.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ READ Chap 4 ▪ REVIEW Chap 22 Front Matter and End Matter in Long Documents & Analytical Report Checklist (pages 533-552) <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing a rough draft of the entire report. 	<p>Due Wed., Mar. 4, at midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section Final Draft (one per person) due to be emailed to your instructor. You will not be posting this within Moodle. <p><i>**All remaining late work is due Week 9.</i></p>
<p>Week 10: Mar. 10-16</p> <p>This week you will prepare the final document with supplements to finalize your report and will deliver a brief of your findings and conclusions to an audience you choose. There is no other final exam for the course.</p>	<p>Readings for Week 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ REVIEW Chap 24 Oral Presentations <p>Work on this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalizing the final report ▪ Preparing your Oral Briefing 	<p>Due Monday, Mar. 16, at midnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final Report with complete supplements due to be emailed to your instructor. Please send the report in one file. ▪ Oral Briefing. Send your instructor the Oral Briefing Grading Criteria that you filled out with a summary of the audience's reception and question and answer session.

Congratulations on completing WR227!