

English 347/547

Writing Proposals and Grants

Meetings:

Tuesday/Thursday

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

CCC 323

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Fall 2023 Office Hours:
Tue. & Thur., 11:00 a.m.-12 noon (or by appointment)

Welcome to English 347/547: Writing Proposals and Grants. This course provides a basic understanding and experience in locating and interpreting proposal requests, identifying grant-funding sources, and writing persuasive proposals and grant applications.

This course will introduce you to the analysis of proposals, rhetorical strategies used to write proposals, and practice in writing proposals.

Course goals

By successfully completing the course, you will have accomplished the following course goals:

- Understand what a Request for Proposal is and its importance in the proposal and grant writing process
- Understand the process of locating proposal opportunities and grant funding sources
- Know how to develop a strategy to write a successful proposal
- Understand the structure of a sound proposal
- Develop marketable skills and enhance workplace communication

Learning outcomes

In order to achieve the course goals, you will have the opportunity to successfully complete the following course learning outcomes:

- Analyze a Request for Proposals (RFP), Invitation for Bids (IFB), and other requests
- Locate funding opportunities
- Interpret specific grantor guidelines
- Apply principles of rhetorical analysis to successfully complete two grant applications or proposals as we:
 - Develop clear goals and a specific plan
 - Present achievable objectives
 - Develop a budget that reflects the plan accurately
 - Write persuasively

Required materials:

Here's what you'll need for this course:

- (Rental text) *Writing Proposals*, second edition, Richard Johnson-Sheehan (Longman, 2008).
- Laptop for course work during class (I will try to announce when laptops are needed).
- A UWSP email account that you check daily (for course announcements, additional material, and such).

How you will earn your grade

The points available for each course component are as follows (Professionalism means your professional responsibility as a member of this class. That is, attendance and contribution to our learning in discussions, peer review comments, and so on):

Assignment	Points
RFP analysis	75
Proposal analysis	100
Short proposal	200
Letter of inquiry	100
Long proposal	300
Professionalism	125
Total	900

Course Grade	Total Points
A	846+
A-	810-845
B+	783-809
B	756-782
B-	720-755
C+	693-719
C	666-692
C-	630-665
D+	603-629
D	576-602
F	Below 576

The process to complete both proposals will entail producing several smaller documents that, although ungraded, will be a required part of the course work. I will distribute detailed explanations of the assignments as we get into the semester.

Graduate students

If you are a graduate student, we will meet and mutually agree on work that will be completed beyond the course requirements previously described. This work will be appropriate for graduate-level study and may be as simple as writing two longer proposals.

Attendance

Simply put, plan to attend each class period. The majority of our work in class will involve our writing and analysis, and our classmates' writing and analyses. Missing class means you will miss the input from classmates, and they will miss yours. Both are valuable and should not be neglected.

That said, you will not succeed in passing this course if you miss six or more classes (roughly 20%). Beginning with the fourth absence, your grade may be lowered one step (e.g., A- to B+, C to C-).

Missing 20 percent or more of our class time will imperil your final grade. This is not a correspondence course; your participation is important for your work and that of your classmates.

In the event of extenuating circumstances when several days or more of a week will be missed and you are unable to participate or otherwise complete course work (for example, with our current situation, that may be Covid-related), you must contact me and let me know your situation as soon as it is evident you will be unable to participate. In other words, do not wait until you've missed a week of class and then send me an email that says, "The reason I haven't logged on for eight days is because...." As long as I am aware of your situation, we can work out a reasonable solution to make up lost work.

How I assess work

I truly enjoy making comments on student work and contributing to the process of improving student writing. But when it comes to assigning a points value to that work, frankly, I'd rather not. Yet, that's part of the academic process. So when I evaluate your work, I'll do so from the perspective of writing in a professional setting, basically answering the question: "If you submitted this document as part of your professional job responsibility, is it ready for final delivery to the intended audience?" Although I operate on a straight points system, what follows is the correlation between how I consider your work and the letter grade that goes with it:

A range	Yes! Your audience would be impressed and your supervisor would remember the work when considering a promotion for you. You took extra steps to be original or creative in developing content, or developing visual or verbal style.
B range	Well, OK... You got the job done and the document is complete content-wise, well-organized, and shows attention to style and visual design. Your supervisor would be satisfied with the job, but not impressed, and likely would have suggestions to revise and improve the document.
C range	Hmmm... You finished the job and while it is complete, content-wise, and organized, your audience would have questions. Your supervisor would be disappointed and ask you to revise or rewrite sections before allowing others to see the work.
D range	Ohmigosh! The document is completed, but that's the best we can say. Your supervisor would be troubled by the poor quality of the work and would demand significant revision.
F	Uh-oh... Your supervisor would start looking for someone to replace you (or you committed plagiarism).

Recordings

Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from Professor Morgan. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom, and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism

Taking credit for someone else's work is plagiarism. It is stealing. Plagiarism is not tolerated at UWSP and there can be serious consequences for offenses. Avoiding plagiarism does not mean you cannot use the exact words from a source, but that you must give the source credit.

Finally

The DATC (Disability Services and Assistive Technology programs) provides "accessibility, accommodation, and assistive technology services to students with disabilities, working individually with qualified students to identify, design, and implement an accommodation plan that will aid them in acquiring equal access to their education. For additional information, including a Request for Accommodations Form, contact UWSP's Office of Disability Services, 609 Albertson Hall, x3365.