

# Franklin University

## Department of Humanities and Communication

**Course Name and Number:** Exploring Professional Identities ENG 220

**Meeting Time and Location:** Online

**Instructor:** Rob O'Donnell

**Email:** robert.odonnell@franklin.edu

Welcome to ENG 220: Exploring Professional Identities at Franklin University!

### **Introduction**

In ENG 220, you'll develop your academic writing and research skills, but you'll also explore professional identities, both those related to your field of choice and those reflecting professions of classmates and future coworkers. Given this thematic focus of the course, we will start by spending time defining the term "professional." While the first major paper will give you a chance to explore a variety of definitions, and even allow you to posit your own definition, the following observations may help ground the exploration of professional identity that we'll pursue throughout the course: First, by "professional," we don't simply mean "work-related" or "job-related." Professional identities actually go beyond the workplace to include broader interests in a field of study. Consequently, in this class we won't focus on workplace writing, such as business correspondence or technical reports. Instead, we'll explore a variety of ways professionals communicate amongst each other in a variety of settings. Later courses (for example, ENG 320: Business and Professional Writing and MIS 320: Technical Communication) will provide much more focused exposure to and practice in particular workplace genres of composition.

Because of the unique focus of ENG 220, we will explore common forms of academic writing, including analytical, argumentative, and exploratory research writing. Each of these forms of composition will be used to examine the term "professional" and how one establishes a professional *ethos* within different fields of study. All along, keep in mind that an academic community is simply a special kind of professional community, so many of the forms of communication are transferable, with minor adjustments, to professional communities associated with non-academic forms of work.

Furthermore, by "professional," we don't simply mean "paid for work," such as is typically meant to distinguish professional from amateur athletes. While most people consider financial interests when choosing their professional fields, many professionals regularly do some work *pro bono*—that is, they do it simply *for the good* they can freely offer in sharing their professional expertise. In fact, having expertise in a particular field might be considered more of a defining quality for a professional than being paid. Still, even this criterion may not be enough. There are plenty of individuals who have in-depth knowledge of a particular field, but who have difficulty putting their knowledge to good use due to their inability to work with others.

There appears, then, to be a social aspect to professional identity, an aspect that we will explore significantly in the first part of the course as we work to establish our definitions of "professionalism" across career fields. Our mode of exploration will include a variety of research and writing assignments, including three formal papers and multiple shorter writing assignments that ask you to engage with readings. Other exercises and activities will involve critical discussions of readings and exploratory research. In particular, the class will build a knowledge base of professional identities. As we'll discuss, a shared knowledge base often serves as a foundation of collaborative and cooperative professional work.

Finally, while many of you have chosen a major that can serve as a focal point for your research and writing in this class, some of you may not have chosen a major yet, or you may be pursuing a degree in interdisciplinary studies. Don't worry. This means you can let your curiosity drive your coursework. Are you curious about particular fields of work or study? If so, now is your chance to explore those areas before you make a commitment. In fact, those who have chosen a major may want to use this as an opportunity to explore other fields as potential areas of study.

## **Course Description**

This is an intermediate writing course focusing on the composition of research papers. Students in this course prepare to be active participants in professional discourse communities by examining and practicing the writing conventions associated with their own fields of study and work. By calling attention to the conventions of disciplinary writing, the course also prepares students for upper-division college writing and the special conventions of advanced academic discourse. Course activities include three extended research papers, semi-formal writing addressing interdisciplinary communication, and readings fostering critical engagement with disciplinary conversations.

## **Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Use online resources, including library databases, search engines, and other research tools, to locate materials relevant to professional interests.
2. Use analytical strategies to identify key claims, as well as supporting reasons, assumptions, and evidence, in academic, popular, and professional readings.
3. Evaluate the relevance and quality of sources for formal writing projects addressed to academic and professional audiences.
4. Use critical reading, discussion, and other prewriting strategies to explore topics relevant to issues of particular interest to academic and professional audiences.
5. Use communication technologies to participate in critical conversations about professional topics.
6. Formulate specific and compelling thesis statements falling within the scope and genre of a given research writing assignment.
7. Provide logical and coherent development of introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs to demonstrate a research paper's thesis to expert and lay audiences.
8. Use critical reading and proofing strategies to review one's own formal writing and to peer review that of others, especially by drawing on relevant writing conventions.
9. Revise and edit to eliminate irrelevancies, inaccuracies, and breaches of writing conventions and to improve readability, coherence, and overall effectiveness in communicating with academic and professional audiences.

## **Course Materials**

### **Required Materials**

- Miller-Cochran, S., Stamper, R., & Cochran, S. (2019). *An insider's guide to academic writing* (2nd ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN 9781319228064.
- Franklin University Library [APA Citation Style guide](#)
- For online sections, a headset with a microphone. This will allow you to participate fully in class meetings.

This course uses an embedded e-textbook, which can be accessed through the eReader platform in the course navigation menu.

### Optional materials:

You might benefit from purchasing the full APA manual:

- American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. (7th)*. American Psychological Association. ISBN: 1433805618.

## Course Concerns and Policies

You may find the answers to many course questions and concerns under Policies and Resources in the course navigation menu. If you can't find or are unclear about the answers, please first discuss your concerns with your professor. However, if your concerns are not addressed, or if you have a critical issue with the professor, you should then contact your Lead Faculty. You can send your Lead Faculty a message through the People tab in the course navigation menu.

## Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Mon May 17, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-1] Module 1 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 19, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Read and Respond 1</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment <a href="#">[SA-1] Your Professional Identity</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 23, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-1] Exploring Job Listings</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 24, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-2] Module 2 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 28, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-2] Exploring Popular Images</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 30, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-3] Job Trends</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 31, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-3] Module 3 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 2, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Professionalism Paper: Workshop</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 6, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PRO-1] Professionalism Paper: Draft</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 7, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-4] Module 4 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 10, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Professionalism Paper: Peer Review</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 13, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-4] Exploring Popular News Sources</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-5] Exploring Professional Sites</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 14, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-5] Module 5 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 18, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-6] Exploring Trade Journals</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 20, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PRO-2] Professionalism Paper: Final</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 21, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-6] Module 6 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 23, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Perspectives Paper: Topic Workshop</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 27, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-7] Critique of Article</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment <a href="#">[SA-2] Writing Self-Assessment</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 28, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-7] Module 7 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 30, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Perspectives Paper: Draft Workshop</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 4, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PER-1] Perspectives Paper: Draft</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 5, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-8] Module 8 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 7, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Perspectives Paper: Peer Review</a>	due by 11:59pm

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Due</b>
Sun Jul 11, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[KB-8] Exploring Scholarly Journals</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 12, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-9] Module 9 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 14, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PRO-1] Common Topic Paper: Proposal</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 18, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PER-2] Perspectives Paper: Final</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 19, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-10] Module 10 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 21, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Common Topic Paper: Workshop</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 25, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PRO-2] Common Topic Paper: Draft</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 26, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-11] Module 11 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jul 29, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP] Common Topic Paper: Peer Review</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 1, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[SA-3] Reflection Paper</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 2, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[CP-12] Module 12 Overview</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sat Aug 7, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">[PRO-3] Common Topic Paper: Final</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment <a href="#">Course Evaluation</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment <a href="#">Faculty Course Feedback Questionnaire</a>	