

University of South Florida / Online Comments Report / Fall 2011

Instructor's note: the numeric ratings shown here are reproduced exactly as they appear on the USF website at this link: <https://fair.usf.edu/Custom/usf/EvaluationMart/EvaluationSearch.aspx>. The student comments appear as written except for minor formatting changes to make efficient use of space in this document.

Coll AM, Dept ENG
 Pfx ENC Course_number 3242, Section_enrl: 18, CRN: 91627
 Title Tech Comm for Majors, FacNam Thorold E. Roberts

Instructor : Roberts, Thorold	Course ID : ENC - 3242 - 591 / CRN : 91627		Course Title : Tech Comm for Majors
Course Term : Fall 2011	Number Enrolled : 18	Number Responded : 14	Percent Responded : 78.00

ITEM ID	ITEM	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		No Response		Mean
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
E1	Description of Course Objectives & Assignments	12	85.71	1	7.14	1	7.14	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.79
E2	Communication of Ideas and Information	12	85.71	1	7.14	1	7.14	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.79
E3	Expression of Expectations for Performance	12	85.71	1	7.14	1	7.14	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.79
E4	Availability to Assist Students In or Out of Class	12	85.71	1	7.14	1	7.14	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.79
E5	Respect and Concern for the Students	11	78.57	1	7.14	2	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.64
E6	Stimulation of Interest in the Course	11	78.57	1	7.14	2	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.64
E7	Facilitation of Learning	12	85.71	0	0.00	2	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.71
E8	Overall Rating of the Instructor	12	85.71	0	0.00	2	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.71

- I believe that the course helps me focus more on my career and I will definitely continue on that path.
- Great instruction; clear and concise; helpful and willing to answer any questions when addressed.
- Mr. Roberts was extremely thorough in his assessments of our assignments. This feedback was paramount to expanding my knowledge base for technical communications. The PowerPoint and audio file method of class instruction worked well for this particular subject.
- Professor Roberts is a very respectful and hardworking educator. He puts equal work into the course that is expected back from the students which is refreshing. Professor Roberts is respectful of students as he understands that make USFSM students are adults with full lives and sometimes life just gets in the way. While he is sure to hold deadlines in teaching students what will be expected in the career world, he is also flexible in understanding priorities and that sometimes young families trump a paper deadline. I thoroughly enjoyed this course and feel it better prepared me for future career
- Roberts brings his real world expertise to Technical Communications for Majors which is not something easy to come by with professors.
- Professor Roberts is an exceptional instructor. He is one of the very few professors I have had who actually prepares students for careers and expects the students to work hard and learn. I only wish I had more professors like him and that I had more time to devote to his courses.
- Excellent instructor. Clear and concise in the instructions and goals set out for the course. Grades accurately and fairly. As well, he teaches what needs to be taught to be successful.
- Professor Roberts did a great job teaching this class and he was always there to help, even on weekends when I had questions. He lays out clear guidelines of what he expects for each of his students, and makes sure that he's very thorough in his lessons. I like how he uses audio codes during his lectures--a great way to make us all listen!

9. Professor Roberts is an excellent teacher. His lectures are based on real life, not just what we need to learn in the course. I appreciate the time and effort he puts into responding to a student's inquiry about a project or just a question in general. He is very thorough and puts the students needs first. Thanks!

10. Roberts is a fantastic professor. Having taken his courses before, I find that I am always challenged, intrigued, and invested in the coursework and assignments. Roberts always offers his time and knowledge to help students and goes above and beyond his call of duty to make sure things are clear and understood. I am having some health issues this semester and he has been extremely accommodating and supportive. The Technical Communications course I am taking with him this semester is one of the first classes where I felt like my work applied to my intended career and was helpful, interesting, and exciting to learn about. I am grateful that Roberts has been a staple professor in my USF education.

11. Professor Roberts is a great teacher and I feel like his class really helped me learn how to be more professional. Gives excellent information that will benefit future career. Has real world knowledge that is extremely beneficial to all technical writing students. Very helpful, respectful and fun to learn from. Best professor I have had at USF.

Coll AM, Dept ENG
 Pfx ENC Course_num 3250 Seq_num 522 Section_enrl 29 CRN 86945
 Title Professional Writing, FacNam Thorold E. Roberts

Instructor : Roberts, Thorold	Course ID : ENC - 3250 - 522 / CRN : 86945		Course Title : Professional Writing
Course Term : Fall 2011	Number Enrolled : 29	Number Responded : 27	Percent Responded : 93.00

ITEM ID	ITEM	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		No Response		Mean
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
E1	Description of Course Objectives & Assignments	14	51.85	11	40.74	2	7.41	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.44
E2	Communication of Ideas and Information	13	48.15	8	29.63	5	18.52	1	3.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.22
E3	Expression of Expectations for Performance	16	59.26	8	29.63	2	7.41	1	3.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.44
E4	Availability to Assist Students In or Out of Class	15	55.56	6	22.22	6	22.22	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.33
E5	Respect and Concern for the Students	14	51.85	5	18.52	7	25.93	1	3.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.19
E6	Stimulation of Interest in the Course	12	44.44	10	37.04	5	18.52	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.26
E7	Facilitation of Learning	13	48.15	7	25.93	7	25.93	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.22
E8	Overall Rating of the Instructor	12	44.44	12	44.44	2	7.41	1	3.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.30

- I thought that the audio codes were a great idea to ensure that students participate in the lectures. Very challenging, but beneficial course.
- Professor Roberts is an excellent teacher. He made taking this course online stress free, understandable, and informative.
- Get points across. Gives clear instructions. States expectations throughly. Found grading to be slightly inconsistent.
- I really enjoyed his class we wrote on practical information and I could tweak the class to my major as im sure any major could. The only thing that could get better is a better example of what you are looking for, for the assignment 4 business report.
- This was a fantastic online class that teaches the more important aspect of business - communication. I recommend this class to anyone who wants to learn professionalism in the workplace.
- Mr. Roberts is an effective professor with great communication. He responds promptly to questions or concerns with a follow up. Mr. Roberts reminds his students of his availability for any assistance current and through out career. He shows authority in his lectures and demands attention to detail for the best interest for all parties involved. I have learned a great deal of Professional Writing and the importance of writing for the reader! Overall assessment of Mr. Roberts is excellent and believe I have improved my skills and increased my education.

7. I highly respect Prof. Roberts for his knowledge and experience. I was not too happy about taking another English class as an accounting major, but I got so much out of his class that I am glad I did take it.
8. Great lectures, opened my eyes to important subjects I never paid attention before
9. I learned a lot in this class.
10. I want to say thank you to this professor. This has been one of the best classes I had taken so far throughout college. It was challenging but encouraging. I feel that I had learned much needed information about writing in a professional manner and this professor did just that. This class required more than just basic effort, which is what most professors require. Basic effort in this class will earn you a C. He challenged us to do better and that is where I learned the most, thank you.
11. Very good professor, but you have to really work in order to get an A.
12. It was a very good experience for me because english is my second language, but I enjoyed the course, the teacher kept me busy all the time.
13. great class, learned a lot

Coll : AM, Dept ENG
 Pfx ENC Course_num 4212 Seq_num 521 Section_enr 25 CRN 91822
 Title Business & Technical Editing, FacNam Thorold E. Roberts

Instructor : Roberts, Thorold	Course ID : ENC - 4212 - 521 / CRN : 91822		Course Title : Business & Technical Editing
Course Term : Fall 2011	Number Enrolled : 25	Number Responded : 22	Percent Responded : 88.00

ITEM ID	ITEM	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		No Response		Mean
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
E1	Description of Course Objectives & Assignments	16	72.73	5	22.73	1	4.55	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.68
E2	Communication of Ideas and Information	13	59.09	6	27.27	2	9.09	1	4.55	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.41
E3	Expression of Expectations for Performance	17	77.27	3	13.64	2	9.09	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.68
E4	Availability to Assist Students In or Out of Class	17	77.27	4	18.18	0	0.00	1	4.55	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.68
E5	Respect and Concern for the Students	16	72.73	4	18.18	1	4.55	0	0.00	1	4.55	0	0.00	4.55
E6	Stimulation of Interest in the Course	16	72.73	2	9.09	3	13.64	0	0.00	1	4.55	0	0.00	4.45
E7	Facilitation of Learning	16	72.73	3	13.64	2	9.09	1	4.55	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.55
E8	Overall Rating of the Instructor	17	77.27	2	9.09	2	9.09	1	4.55	0	0.00	0	0.00	4.59

1. The very first assignment required in this course was one which was taken from a graduate-level test, and we were not supposed to use any material to assist us in the completion of this project. Subsequently, the highest grade in the class was a [incomplete statement]. The professor told us later that he expected such grades from this assignment, even though it was intended to account for 15 percent of our grade. Luckily, after a good deal of pleading from the students, he dropped the grade - in light of all this, I felt this assignment was a waste of time on both the professor's part, as well as the students'.

INSTRUCTOR COMMENT: The first assignment in ENC 4212 was based on questions about English usage and grammar from the General Management Admission Test (GMAT), required at some schools for students who are applying for graduate study in business. It was not, however, "at the graduate level" in the sense in which this student claims. I dropped the test from the overall grade calculation not because it was a waste of time but because most students scored so poorly that it would have damaged their grades beyond a level acceptable to them. Unfortunately, the test results showed that many students even in an advanced 4000-level (senior) course are woefully ill-prepared in their knowledge of the rules needed to write English competently in a professional setting. This reflects not so much the students' lack of diligence or ability but rather the shamefully weak instruction they have had in previous academic courses.

2. I cannot say enough great things about Mr. Roberts. He has a wealth of information to share and teach students. Very helpful and respectful of students. I wish all my professors were as great as Mr. Roberts. I will recommend him to all current and future students. He deserves a raise.
3. Professor Roberts is great. I feel that taking his classes will help me in the future to have a better shot at getting my dream job. I am happy to have taken his class and I know that the assignments I have done here will look great in my portfolio to show prospective employers.
4. Mr. Roberts is a great professor. I would recommend him to anyone. I learned so much in this class.
5. Professor Roberts was a fun, interesting, and helpful instructor. All expectations of the course were straight forward. As a student for many years, I could tell that he loves the subject of editing and technical writing. He is a professional and helpful teacher, available at all times to answer any question which he then sends the answer (if relevant) to the whole class so everyone can benefit from others' questions. (Similar to a classroom setting). Loved the assignments, they were challenging but not unrealistic. He prepares you for what the real career field will be like. His lectures are well organized, not too lengthy, and easy to follow. Great course, great instructor. Thanks Professor Roberts!
6. I always appreciate taking Professor Robert's courses because I know I'm going to learn so much. He really pushes you to do your best and is always available to assist his students.
7. Mr. Roberts is a very fair professor and is very clear in his directions. He has figured out what works and what doesn't work for online classes, and makes it much easier to understand than many other professors I have had. I have taken Professor Roberts for four classes and would take him again if there were more classes offered.
8. Although there were issues with the first assignment, Mr. Roberts was willing to assess the situation and deal with it as necessary. Always available for assistance, and provides a ton of information for students to go the extra mile. One tip: If the lecture is an hour, mention that it should be listened to in increments either before the onset of the lecture or in the email that announces the lecture is posted. Thank you for a great semester!
9. Professor Roberts does a great job communicating, responding, explaining and helping students. I thoroughly enjoyed working under his instruction.
10. Class turned out to be much more interesting and worthwhile than first day opinion.
11. Professor Roberts has assisted me tremendously in preparing for my career. He is one of the few professors whose assignments are practical and who expects excellent achievements from students. I truly benefit from and appreciate his courses.
12. Professor Roberts holds high expectations for student submissions; however, in return holds himself to the same standards when posting audio notes, responding quickly to e-mails and speedy turn around times when grading assignments. Professor Roberts is fair in his grading techniques and offers the opportunity to learn from mistakes by doing optional rewrites, that I always took advantage of. This course was a great last semester course as I feel in truly prepared me specifically for the career world I am entering. While I am still highly anxious, I feel not only better prepared but also as if Professor Roberts would be willing to offer advice post graduation if needed.
13. Mr. Roberts is actively involved in the class; he is readily available via e-mail and posts regular lectures.
14. Professor Roberts promotes a desire in students to learn and do their best in all assignments. He does this through example. His lectures are newly recorded for each class and semester; he stimulates understanding in our career futures through his career experiences; he is genuinely interested in students' educational and experiential growth. It's rare to find such an enthusiastic educator.
15. Excellent instructor. Teaches effective communication skills.
16. Well worth the price of admission.