



Technical Communication Courses

Introduction to Technical Communication

This course introduces students to the principles of technical communications and provides them with the fundamental writing and design skills needed to create print and online communications. In this course, students learn how to create an electronic portfolio, present technical research, design and write an instructional brochure, and critique and design websites. For all projects, students work with either a real or simulated audience. Specifically, they learn how to analyze their audience, create page and screen layouts, develop document structures, present information, and analyze both print and online communications. Software programs used in the course include Microsoft FrontPage, Microsoft PowerPoint (multimedia features), and Microsoft Word (desktop publishing).

Print Media and Design

This course offers advanced study of writing strategies and design principles for print media. Students learn how to write, design, and create informational brochures, quick reference cards, marketing materials, and longer communications using desktop publishing software. In addition, students learn how to effectively incorporate color, design principles, graphics, photo images, and screen shots into their communications. This course is entirely service learning or client based.

Designing and Testing Online Communications

This course offers advanced study of writing strategies and design theory for developing effective feasibility reports, instructions, proposals, and online help systems. Students learn how to apply technical communications and design principles to write, design, and test both user instructions and online help systems. This course is entirely service learning or client based.

Introduction to Web Design

In an Introduction to Web Design, students study writing strategies and design theory for developing effective websites through service learning projects. Students learn how to apply technical communications and design principles to write, design, and test websites for specific audiences. As part of the web design projects, students learn the principles of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) tags, HTML editors, and Cascading Style Sheets.

Advanced Web Design

This course offers an advanced study of writing strategies and design theory for developing effective websites. Students continue to learn how to apply technical communications and design principles to write, design, and test websites for specific audiences. This course is entirely service learning or client based.

Introduction to Graphic Design

In this introduction to graphic design, hand-made art merges with computer-based graphics. Students use varied media in the process of creating designs that will ultimately be completed on the computer. Students delve into photo editing, logo design/illustration, and package design. The course draws on fine art and popular culture icons as examples of graphic design in everyday life.

