

Advanced Technical Communication

Sample Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Overstreet

Email: -----

Course Description:

This project-based course explores how science and engineering professionals find, create and deliver complex technical information. Students will learn about key communications concepts such as audience and purpose, as well as compose a variety of technical and professional genres. They will compose in textual and multimodal forms, using industry-standard design software such as Adobe Illustrator and Blender to create technical drawings, infographics and 3D digital models. Previous experience with digital composing tools is useful, but not required.

Learning Goals:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the rhetorical conventions of common technical and scientific documents;
- Analyze common workplace communication contexts and respond appropriately;
- Produce high-quality technical documents in a variety of genres;
- Articulate and deploy basic multimodal design principles;
- Combine communication modes to convey technical information;
- Work effectively as a member of a design team.

Assessment:

There are no quizzes or exams in this course. Your final grade will be based on the degree to which you: 1) complete every assignment as directed; 2) present evidence of sustained effort and engagement; and 3) progress towards achievement of the course learning goals.

The relative weight of each task is as follows:

Textual Memos	20%
Multimodal Projects (infographics, 3D animations, technical drawings)	20%
Technical Description (text + 3D model)	20%
Proposal (group project)	30%
Website (selection & presentation of collected work)	10%

Computers & Software:

In this class, we will use the following software programs:

- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint & Excel (or the equivalent)
- Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign
- Blender

Blender is available for free at www.blender.org. Students will need to install these programs on their personal laptops and bring their laptops to each class session.

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