HU200: Introduction to Scientific and Technical Communication  
Instructor: Dale Sullivan, 344 Walker, 7.3263, dsulliva@mtu.edu

Schedule

Grades

- A: 920-1000
- A/B: 890-919
- B: 820-889
- B/C: 790-819
- C: 820-789
- C/D: 690-719
- D: 600-689
- F: 599 and below

You may earn 50 points extra credit by filling out and returning an STC-related survey for a study being conducted by Cindy Selfe and Gail Hawisher, being administered by Julie Estep.

Assignments

Group Work

1. Instruction set, 200 points
2. Editing of short document, 100 points
3. Rhetorical analysis, 200 points

Individual Work

1. Home page and webfolio, 100 points
2. Position paper, 200 points
3. Final, 200 points

Policies

- I subtract 5% of your grade for each unexcused absence.
- Papers are due at the beginning of class on their due dates.

Description and Objectives

In Introduction to Scientific and Technical Communication, we study the profession of technical communication and our degree programs in the field. As we study the profession, we will look at its history, at the major professional association (STC), and at the experiences of technical communicators in the field. As we study our degree programs, we will look at the semester degree schedules and sample some of the kinds of subject matter you will study as you pursue this degree. Among other things, we will have a brief introduction to technical writing, to media (in the form of web pages), to technical editing, to rhetorical and communication theory, and to the philosophy and sociology of science and technology. Since this is an introductory course, we will not be able to go very deeply into any of these topics, but we will do enough to give you a clear impression of what to expect in other classes.

Students will

- become familiar with the broad outline of the history of scientific and technical communication
- become familiar with the national profession and with the work of active professionals
- understand the degree structure for our BA and BS degrees in technical communication
- gain preliminary experience in technical writing, technical editing, and web design
- gain a preliminary understanding of how rhetoric and communication theory informs the practice of technical communication
- arrive at a preliminary philosophical position regarding science and technology in modern society

Texts

- Handouts to be distributed as email attachments or put on reserve in library.

Americans with Disabilities Act: MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call the Associate Dean of Students (2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~dsulliva/classes/hu200/200_spr00/  
2/29/00
**HU200 Schedule for Spring 2000, (tentative)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: March 7, 9</td>
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<td>2: March 14,16</td>
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<td>3: March 21, 23</td>
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<td>Instruction set due.</td>
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<td>4: March 28, 30</td>
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<td>5: April 4, 6</td>
<td>Edited document due.</td>
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<td>6: April 11, 13</td>
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<td>7: April 18, 20</td>
<td>Rhetorical analysis due.</td>
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<td>8: April 25, 27</td>
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<td>Students meet with Advisory Board during class.</td>
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<td>9: May 2, 4</td>
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<td>Memo describing homepage and webfolio, with URL due.</td>
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<td>10: May 9, 11</td>
<td>Position paper due.</td>
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<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>Final test (time to be determined)</td>
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