HU2600, Introduction to Scientific and Technical Communication
Fall 2000, Walker 134, 12:35-1:50 TR
Dale Sullivan, 344 Walker, 487.3263, dsullivan@mtu.edu
Michael Moore, 145 Walker, 487.3274, mmoore@mtu.edu

Description and Objectives
In HU2600, we study the profession of technical communication. Students define scientific and technical communication, study the process of producing scientific and technical communication products, analyze the role of technical communication in the technological society, and explore the profession and think about ways of entering it and gaining expertise in it. Students will develop an understanding of the definition and technical communication, understand its practice and processes, its place in the modern world, and the nature of professional life and practice.

Texts
Everett M. Rogers, Diffusion of Innovations
Reserve readings including the following:
1. Beck, "Implications of Metaphor" (cover page is Defining Technical Communication)
2. Kalmbach, Jobst, Meese, "Education and Practice" (cover page is Perspectives on the Profession)
3. Blum and Knudson, Technical Communication, 2nd Ed., ch. 2
4. Hayes, "It Isn't What You Write" (cover page is Writing a Professional Life)
5. Bloom, "Try and Try Again" (cover page is Writing a Professional Life)
7. Larsen, An Internship with the National Cancer Institute
8. Tymes, "Diary of a Tech Writer" (cover page is Writing a Professional Life)
9. Connatser, "The Great Pyramid War"
10. Asay, "Glimpse into Reality"
11. Rutten, "How I Became a Goddess"
12. Hoeniges, "It's Not Mark Twain's River Anymore"
13. ile, "I've Been Working on the Railroad"

Grading, Assignments, Schedule
Participation (includes in-class activities, impromptu reports, homework) (40%)
First paper (defining scientific and technical communication) (15%) Due 9/22
Second paper (describing the process of developing technical documentation) (15%) Due 10/16
Third paper (to be determined—in response to Rogers' book) (15%) Due 11/15
Fourth paper (getting started in the profession) (15%) Due 12/15

Module 1 (Defining Scientific and Technical Communication) Weeks 1-4
Module 2 (Exploring the Process of Developing S & T Documents) Weeks 5-7
Module 3 (The Role of Technical Communication in the Technological Society) Weeks 8-11
Module 4 (Getting Started in the Profession) Weeks 12-14

Policies
• We will not keep role or grade on attendance, but you can not make up in-class activities on which your participation grade is based.
• Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 pt. type. They are due at the beginning of class on their due dates. Late papers will be graded without comment and will be docked a letter grade for each day they are late. We expect you to create a thesis or purpose statement, support your thesis or purpose statement fully, signal a clear structure for your paper, write coherent paragraphs, use correct grammar and spelling, and cite sources adequately.