HU2600, Introduction to Scientific and Technical Communication
Spring 2001, Walker 134, 2:05-3:2 TR
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Description and Objectives
In HU2600, we study the profession of scientific and technical communication, the contexts in which professionals work, their research and production processes, and their communication products. Students read stories and articles that explore these topics, they write papers developing their own views on them, and they give oral reports based on their reading and writing assignments. By the end of the course, students have a realistic view of the profession, the abilities required in it, and their own goals in relationship to the field.

Texts
Deborah Blum, *The Monkey Wars*
Tracy Kidder, *The Soul of a New Machine*
Gerald Savage and Dale Sullivan, *Writing a Professional Life*

Reserve readings and online texts

Grading, Assignments, Schedule
Participation (includes in-class activities, impromptu reports, homework, oral reports, etc.) (40%)
First paper (the experience of being a technical communicator) (20%) Due 2/15
Second paper (working with subject matter experts in corporate environments) (20%) Due 3/27
Third paper (research practices of science writers) (20%) Due 5/1

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. If you have to miss class, contact us ahead of time, and we'll arrange an alternative assignment to make up for the participation grade.
- 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.

Tentative Schedule
Module 1: The Experience of Being a Technical Communicator, Jan 16 to Feb 15
From Savage and Sullivan: Dwyer, Connatser, Asay, Potts, Alton, Rutten, Lee, Bailie, Hart, Tymes, Pellar-Kosbar, Hayes

Module 2: Working with subject matter experts, Feb 15 to March 27
Kidder's *Soul of a New Machine*
Ratliff’s “O Engineers” (Reserve)

Module 3: Research and science writing, March 27 to May 3
Kidder's *Soul of a New Machine*
Chapters 10,11, 12 from Blum and Knudson (Reserve)
Blum's *Monkey Wars*
Larsen, Internship Report (Reserve)