English 5391/4372
Studies in Technical & Scientific Communication
Summer 2024

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sidey
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Office Hours: Via Zoom and by appointment
Section: 461—this is an asynchronous online class

Course Description & Learning Outcomes

Survey of the field of technical/professional communication. Students will read, analyze, and discuss scholarly work in the field. Students will produce a document that draws on course readings and that utilize tech/pro comm principles.

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

- Understand the field of technical/professional communication
- Read critically scholarly research in the field
- Analyze and respond to ethical issues
- Analyze technical documents
- Research and discuss issue and/or questions in the field

Textbook

Reading are in the class Canvas shell. There is no textbook to buy.

Course Grade

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Discussion Board Posts	60%
Project	40%

Grade Components
See Canvas for detailed information on discussion board post and the class project. Discussion board posts and the class project will also be discussed during the semester.

Course Grade Scale
A 90% to 100% of possible points
B 80% to 89% of possible points
C 70% to 79% of possible points
D 60% to 69% of possible points
F   0% to 59% of possible points

Extra-Credit Work
There is no extra credit work in this course.

Submitting Assignments
To be counted for a grade, assignments have to be submitted as a Word document and have to be submitted to the correct drop box in Canvas. Do not zip your files or submit a PDF. Assignments that I cannot open will be graded a 0.

For a free copy of Microsoft Office, including Word, click here.

Public Writing
I will use student work to discuss what is working well and areas for improvement. If you would like me to not use a particular piece of writing in class, please let me know.

Missed Work Policy
If you see that you will miss, or you do miss, a week or more of class work due to an illness or a significant life event, contact me ASAP. I will discuss the situation with you to determine if you can keep up with the class. Documentation may be required.

For relevant UTT policies, see the UTT policy on "Class Attendance/Excused Absences," and the UTT policy on withdrawals including "Medical Withdrawal/Course Load Reduction."

Additional Course Information

Contacting Me
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or are having difficulties. The most effective way to contact me is via Canvas message.

Per the UTT Email Policy, I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Canvas messages and emails should provide a succinct overview of the topic and should have complete sentences and reasonably correct grammar. In the subject line list the class (ENGL-5391 or ENGL 4372), your name, and a topic

The last day and time for Zoom meetings is 5:00 pm Thursday August 8.

Announcements in Canvas
I will use announcements in Canvas to communicate essential information. It is your responsibility to read and utilize the information in announcements.

For a tutorial on announcements, click here. To manage notifications, click on "Canvas notifications" in the blue box at the top of the page. For help in resetting notifications, click on the help button on the left-hand side of your UTT Canvas home page (the question mark in a circle) and call the "Canvas Support Hotline (Students)."

Academic Dishonesty & Disruptive Behavior
This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention. For the UTT definition of "academic dishonesty," see "University Policies and Information" in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanction. For the UTT definition of "disruptive behavior," see "University Policies and Information" in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Using Work from Other Classes
From the UTT Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs Chapter 8. Student Conduct and Discipline:

Sec. 8-802. Academic Dishonesty
b. "Academic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable, in whole or in part, to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to: **submission of essentially the same written assignment for**

two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. (Emphasis added)

Before you draw on research, written work, or any other work from another class for any assignment in this class, consult with me.

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: "The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students."

Required UT Tyler Policies & Information

See "University Policies and Information" in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Required UTT AI Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool.

Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI Use in this Course

You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. Any use of AI tools must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, following APA or MLA guidelines, including the specific version of the tool used. The submitted work should include the exact prompt that you used to generate the content and the AI tool's complete response as an appendix. Because AI-generated content is not necessarily accurate or appropriate, you must assess the validity and applicability of any submitted AI output. You will not earn full credit and may fail an assignment if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work. Further, the majority of any assignment should not be AI-generated content. Assignments with substantial AI-generated content will fail.

Tentative Course Calendar

Week One	July 8-12	Intro to Tech/Pro Comm/AI
Week Two	July 15-19	Empathy
Week Three	July 22-26	Visual Rhetoric/Narrative/Error
Week Four	July 29-Aug 2	Rhetorical Awareness/Ethics
Week Five	Aug 5-9	Working on Project

Key Dates
July 11 Census Date
July 30 Last Day to Drop