

Course Calendar

The readings assigned each day are the ones that are DUE for that class period. All required readings should be finished before class.

Course Calendar is subject to change. Please keep watch for announcements over email, on Blackboard, and in class for changes to the calendar.

Reading Locations:

- *SP*=*Solving Problems in Technical Communication*
- *CW*=*Central Works in Technical Communication*
- PDFs are posted on Google Drive

When possible, try to complete the reading in the order outlined below. Sometimes, these are designed to work chronologically or in a particular order.

Week 1, August 28: Introductions and Connections

Course introductions: blog setup, survey, general orientation and introduction

Required Reading (in class):

- Wedge, Marilyn. "Science, Rhetoric, and the Creation of Preferred Realities." *The Huffington Post* (PDF)
- Derkatch, Colleen and Judy Segal. "Realms of Rhetoric in Health and Medicine." *University of Toronto Medical Journal* 83 (2005): 138-142. (PDF)
- Read Academic Field Analysis Assignment

Week 2, September 4: Labor Day, No class

Week 3, September 11: Histories and Definitions

DUE: Academic Field Analysis. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Writing: Blog 1

Required Reading:

- Read Journal Review Assignment
- Connors, Robert. "The Rise of Technical Writing Instruction in America," *CW*
- Durack, Katherine. "Gender, Technology, and the History of Technical Communication," *CW*
- Miller, Carolyn. "A Humanistic Rationale for Technical Writing," *CW*
- Rude, Carolyn. "Mapping the Research Questions in Technical Communication." *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* 23.2 (2009): 174-215. (PDF)

Week 4, September 18: Theoretical Approaches to Professional Writing (Classical Rhetoric, Rhetorical Situation)

Writing: Blog 2

Required Reading:

- Porter, James. "How Can Rhetoric Theory Inform the Practice of Technical Communication?" *SP*
- Bitzer, Lloyd F. "The Rhetorical Situation." *Philosophy and Rhetoric*. 1(1968): 1-14. (PDF)
- Aristotle. *On Rhetoric, Book 1, Chapters 1-3*. Trans. George A. Kennedy. (PDF)
- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics, excerpts from Book VI*. Trans. David Ross. (PDF)
- Cicero. *Rhetorica Ad Herennium, excerpts from Book I*. Trans. Harry Caplan. (PDF)

Week 5, September 25: Theoretical Approaches to Professional Writing (Context Analysis)

Writing: Blog 3

Required Reading:

- Read Annotated Bibliography Assignment
- Driskill, Linda. "Understanding the Writing Context in Organizations," *CW*
- Spinuzzi, Clay. "How can Technical Communicators Study Work Contexts?" *SP*

Week 6, October 2: Theoretical Approaches to Professional Writing (Genre Analysis)

DUE: Journal Assignment Draft. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Writing: Blog 4

Required Reading:

- Henze, Brent. "What Do Technical Communicators Need to Know about Genre?" *SP*
- Miller, Carolyn, "Genre as Social Action." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 70 (1984): 151-167.
- Wardle, Elizabeth. "Identity, Authority, and Learning to Write in New Workplaces." *Enculturation* 5.2 (2004): http://enculturation.net/5_2/wardle.html

Week 7, October 10*: Research in Professional/Technical Communication and Rhetoric

*Please note: this week, Monday night classes meet Tuesday night for fall break.

DUE: Journal Assignment. Journal Presentations in class. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Week 8, October 16 Practices and Contexts of Professional Writing (Technology and Media)

Writing: Blog 5

Required Reading:

- Read Industry Analysis Assignment
- Wysocki, Anne Frances. “What do Technical Communicators Need to Know about New Media?” *SP*
- Swarts, Jason. “How Can Work Tools Shape and Organize Technical Communication?” *SP*
- Pflugfelder, Ehren. “Reddit’s ‘Explain it Like I’m Five’: Technical Descriptions in the Wild.” *Technical Communication Quarterly* (PDF)

Week 9, October 23: Practices and Contexts of Professional Writing (Visual Communication)

DUE: Research Memo Due. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Writing: Blog 6

Required Reading:

- Barton, Ben and Marthalee Barton. “Ideology and the Map: Toward a Postmodern Visual Design Practice,” *CW*
- Schriver, Karen. “What Do Technical Communicators Need to Know about Information Design?” *SP*

Week 10, October 30: Special Event: Clay Spinuzzi, Research Hall 163

DUE: Research Proposal and Preliminary Annotated Bibliography due. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Week 11, November 6: Practices and Contexts of Professional Writing (Industry Analysis)

DUE: Industry Analysis. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details. Brief presentations in class.

Writing: Blog 7

Required Reading:

- Henry, Jim. “How Can Technical Communicators Fit into Contemporary Organizations?” *SP*
- Cook, Cargile Kelli, Emily Cook, Ben Minson, and Stephanie Wilson. “How can Technical Communicators Develop as Both Students and Professionals?” *SP*

Week 12, November 13: Contexts and Practices of Professional Writing (Publics and Communication)

Writing: Blog 8

Required Reading:

- Evia, Carlos, and Ashley Patriarca. "Beyond Compliance: Participatory Translation of Safety Communication for Latino Construction Workers." *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*. 26.3(2012): 340-367. (PDF)
- Blythe, Stuart, Jeffrey Grabill, and Kirk Riley. "Action Research and Wicked Environmental Problems: Exploring Appropriate Roles for Researchers in Professional Communication." *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* 22(2008): 272-298. (PDF)

Week 13, November 20: Contexts and Practices of Professional Writing (Communicating Science and Medicine)

DUE: Annotation 1. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Writing: Blog 9

Required Reading:

- Fahnestock, Jeanne. "Accommodating Science: The Rhetorical Life of Scientific Facts." (PDF)
- Ross, Derek. "The Role of Ethics, Culture, and Artistry in Scientific Illustration." *Technical Communication Quarterly* 26.2 (2017): 145-172. (PDF)

Week 14, November 27: Ethics and Professional Communication

DUE: Annotation 2. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Writing: Blog 10

Required Reading:

- Katz, Steven. "The Ethic of Expediency: Classical Rhetoric, Technology, and the Holocaust," *CW*
- Moore, Patrick. "When Politeness is Fatal: Technical Communication and the *Challenger* Accident." *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* 6.3 (1992): 269-292. (PDF)
- Dombrowski, Paul. "Can Ethics be Technologized? Lessons from Challenger, Philosophy, and Rhetoric." *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* 38.3 (1995): 147-150. (PDF)

Week 15, December 4

DUE: Annotated Bibliography and Reflective Memo. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.

Required Reading:

- Read Professional Portfolio and Literature Review Assignments; come to class with a decision on an assignment and preliminary materials necessary to work on your literature review or portfolio

Final Exam: DUE: Professional Portfolio or Literature Review. See assignment sheet for deadlines, requirements, and other details.