1.0 Course Description

In this workshop course, students learn to present technical information to audiences with a range of technical knowledge. The course teaches students various forms and content strategies relevant to the computer industry so they can communicate clearly and persuasively in online and traditional media. Students analyze and respond to professional situations involving documentation plans, style guides, usability testing and project planning. Lab: 3 hours.

2.0 Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- To develop sensitivity to language, tone and organization of textual, visual and oral messages
- To analyze audiences specific to the computer industry such as clients, users, and colleagues
- To practice writing and speaking skills, such as proposing ideas, collaborating with peers, and assisting users

3.0 Topics Covered

3.1 Professional communication theory and practice
3.2 Strategies for routine and persuasive communication
3.3 Visual and document design
3.4 Short reports and proposals
3.5 Presentation skills
3.6 Effective online writing
3.7 User documentation and instructions
3.8 Project collaboration

All topics will be covered, but not necessarily in the order listed above.
4.0 Teaching Method

4.1 Workshops

In this workshop course, students have the opportunity to prepare assignments in class with the guidance and supervision of the instructor.

4.2 Graded Assignments

Students will prepare at least four written assignments and one professionally related informative oral presentation. At least two of the written assignments will be timed in-class assignments. Additional in-class work may be assigned. The weighting of each assignment will be announced by the instructor.

5.0 Course Materials

5.1 Readings

Course reading materials will consist of recent journal articles, web texts, and other material that will be provided in electronic form on D2L Brightspace. Additional readings may be added by the instructor.

5.2 Forms

Designated speech evaluation forms may be required.

6.0 Course Policies

6.1 Students must adhere to university policies; see http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies. The most relevant policies are the following:

- Policy #46 Policy on Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing ("GPA Policy")
- Policy #60 Academic Integrity
- Policy #61 Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct
- Policy #134 Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals
- Policy #135 Examination Policy
- Policy #145 Course Management Policy
- Policy #150 Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance
- Policy #157 Establishment and Use of Ryerson Student E-Mail Accounts For Official University Communication
- Policy #159 Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
6.2 Print and Digital Copying Guidelines

Ryerson University complies with Canada’s Copyright Act which protects both creators/owners and users of copyrighted materials. Students should familiarize themselves with Ryerson’s Copyright policies and procedures, and contact the Copyright and Scholarly Engagement Librarian at copyrt@ryerson.ca for questions, concerns and clarification of the copyright rules.

6.3 Turnitin.com

By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternative arrangements.

Please note the following from Policy 145 Course Management Policy:

4.3.1.2 Even when an instructor has not indicated that a plagiarism detection service will be used, or when a student has opted out of the plagiarism detection service, if an instructor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor is permitted to submit that work in a non-identifying way to any plagiarism detection service.

6.4 Email Communication

Ryerson requires that any official or formal email communication from students be sent from their official Ryerson electronic accounts.

6.5 Video and Audio Recording

No video or audio recording is permitted in class without the express permission of the instructor.

7.0 Ryerson’s Learning Management System

Ryerson University supports Brightspace by D2L as its official Learning Management System. University Policies governing Brightspace have been documented at the Courses @ Ryerson Privacy and Security website.