Master of Technical Communication Course Descriptions

Section A: Core Requirements

ENGL 6400: Advanced Editing

| 3 credits; offered spring semester in even years

Examines complex roles editors assume in creating technical and non-technical documents. Principal components include working with the substance of documents, mediating the writer-reader relationship, and exemplifying the application of rhetorical theory in editing. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 6410: Introduction to Technical Communication

| 3 credits; offered fall semester in even years

Introduces students to the tensions, histories, and major theories of technical writing and communication. Students explore the scope of the field, mapping key trends and topics. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 6830: Introduction to Rhetorical Theory

| 3 credits; offered spring semester in odd years

Covers intellectual traditions of rhetoric from classical times to the present: major theories and controversies in the field. This class is repeatable for credit once, if taught by a different instructor.

Section B: Issues in Professional Communication

Courses Offered Regularly

ENGL 6440: Cultural Research Methods

| 3 credits; offered fall semester in even years

Survey of cultural research methods that apply to contemporary practices in technical communication and rhetoric. These methods may include feminism, queer theory, postcolonial theory, critical race theory, and disability studies. This class is repeatable for credit once, if taught by a different instructor.

ENGL 6460: Studies in Digital Media

| 3 credits; offered fall semester in odd years

Focuses on the production of documents in or about advanced digital media. During this class, students examine theories underlying such publications. Topics vary. This class is repeatable for up to 12 credits.

ENGL 6480: Studies in Technology and Writing

| 3 credits; offered spring semester in even years

Study of theoretical aspects of technologies affecting writing in social and professional contexts. Topics vary. This class is repeatable for up to 12 credits.

ENGL 6800: Teaching Online

| 3 credits; offered fall semester in odd years

Examines principles and their implementation in online writing instruction. Emphasizes writing instruction within English Departments. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 6860: Teaching Technical Communication

| 3 credits; offered spring semester in odd years

Prepares students to teach technical writing courses at the undergraduate level. Students learn about the history and scope of the field of technical and professional communication and develop pedagogical materials for use in academia or industry. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 7000: Empirical Research Methods

| 3 credits; offered spring semester in even years

Survey of empirical research methods for conducting professional communication research in academic and nonacademic settings. Not repeatable for credit.

Courses offered occasionally

ENGL 6420: Usability Studies and Human Factors in Professional Communication

| 3 credits

Examines the concepts and practices of usability studies and human factors in the design and production of print and online documents. Emphasis is placed on developing objectives, criteria, and measures for conducting tests in the lab and field. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 6430: Publications Management

| 3 credits

Covers processes for developing and producing publications, including information development cycles, supervision, and budgets. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 6450: Reading Theory and Document Design

| 3 credits

Examines how reading theory interacts with the rhetoric of graphics, layout, and type to influence the way documents are designed for maximum information and readability. Not repeatable for credit.

ENGL 6470: Studies in Specialized Documents

| 3 credits

Focuses on the writing and design of specific genres in professional communication. Genres include environmental impact statements, software documentation, proposals, manuals, annual reports, newsletters, and fact sheets. Topics vary. This class is repeatable for up to 12 credits.

ENGL 6890: Studies in Writing and Rhetoric

| 3 credits

Provides students and faculty with the opportunity for in-depth study of timely topics. This class is repeatable for credit once, if taught by a different instructor.