



CSCI 303.01B and 01W

Technical Communication for Computer Professionals

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. R. Daniel Creider, Associate Professor

Office Location: Jour 216

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00am to 10:30am, Tuesday 9:00am to 11:00am; Other times by appointment (usually in on office on Fridays, no specific office hours). **Office hours may change depending on Covid 19 impact!**

Office Phone: 903-886-5407

Office Fax: 903-886-5404

University Email Address: Daniel.Creider@tamuc.edu: **include the course number/name in the beginning of the subject field for every email message**

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: 24 hours or sooner

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) None Required

Material from the internet will be assigned as needed

Course Description

The course will consist of a study of formal and informal communications for computing professionals. Types of communications that will be examined will include formal research papers for publication in ACM, IEEE journals, and conference proceedings; power point presentations for conferences and informal presentations to management; software manuals; in house technical reports, progress reports, and email messages. Some of these communications/documents will be created as an individual requirement and more formal presentations such as research papers for journals and conference proceedings, power point

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presentations for a conference, and manuals will be completed as a team project.
Prerequisites: Junior standing.

Student Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- 1) adapt rhetorical processes and strategies for audience, purpose and type of task;
- 2) organize and produce texts that meet the demands of specific genres, purposes, audiences and stances;
- 3) employ appropriate mechanics, usage, grammar and spelling conventions;
- 4) find, analyze, evaluate, summarize and synthesize appropriate source material from both print and electronic environments;
- 5) present focused, logical arguments that support a thesis;
- 6) use reliable and varied evidence to support claims, incorporate ideas from sources appropriately, and acknowledge and document the work of others appropriately;
- 7) use electronic environments to draft, revise, edit and share or publish texts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Knowledge of English grammar structure and writing skills

Instructional Methods

This is a web assisted course which will require you to have a PC and access to the internet. You can also access this course in any computer lab on campus.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Instructor Availability:

To communicate with me about this course you are to use the email address on this syllabus. Please include the course number/name in the beginning of the subject field for every email message (**see the top of the first page of this syllabus for more information**). **Email messages that are missing this information are likely to be automatically redirected to a folder the instructor will seldom check, or will possibly be deleted.** You must send me a *formal email* as described in Week 2 or I may send it back for you to correct and re-send. During the week, you can generally expect a response to your emails within a day, though sometimes it may take longer. I do not normally log on over the weekends and check email. If you email me a question on Friday afternoon, I may not read that email until Monday morning. You can also call me at my office (prefer an email) or stop by my office during office hours.

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are individual assignments, and thus must be completely the original work of the student submitting them.

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Sharing Your Work - instructor

All work produced by students may be shared by the instructor with the class for purposes of example and training. Such work will be as anonymous as possible. Finally, the instructor may share your work anonymously with future classes or in his own writing and research.

Submitting Assignments:

Unless special instructions are provided, assignments are *NOT* to be posted on any discussion board. Your completed work must be placed in the appropriate *Dropbox* in D2L Online. **DO NOT EMAIL ME ANY ASSIGNMENTS AS THEY WILL BE DELETED.** Please follow the rules for naming and posting assignments.

Exams: You will have a midterm and final exam during this course. Material over which the exam will be tested will be available on line. The Exam may be online. *The exam is not a team assignment and there will be no make-up for this exam. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for an excused absence before the exam. A grade of zero will be assigned for an exam missed without an excused absence. If an emergency arises the week of the midterm exam, contact the instructor immediately.*

Late Work:

All assignments are due at the time specified. **Please keep in mind that no late work will be accepted without penalty.** If an assignment is turned in after the due date, **10%** of the grade will be forfeited for each day late. **No assignment will be graded if submitted 7 or more days after it is due. An assignment must be submitted within 6 days of the due date if you want it graded.** If you have a problem submitting an assignment on time you should contact me before the due date.

Cheating on Exams and assignments

Students who share information about answers on the exams and assignments or receive assistance from external sources during the exam or for an assignment will receive a zero grade for the exam/assignment.

Plagiarism is not permitted in this course and **will result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or failure in the course.** "Plagiarism occurs when a writer [1] copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; [2] paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; [3] turns in a paper written by somebody else". As a point of academic integrity (see below), you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89.9%

C = 70%-79.9%

D = 60%-69.9%

F = 59.9% or Below

Assessments

Your Final Grade Distribution is as follows:

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Submission of Required Assignments not assigned a letter grade	10%
Writing Assignments	30%
In Class Presentation of Report (video presentation online only)	10%
Technical Report	30%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%
Total	100%

Assignments not assigned a letter grade but must be submitted; 10% of grade

Technical Report Drafts 1-4 and a required outline for week 1; feedback will be provided for the Report Drafts but no letter grade will be assigned. Each must be submitted **on time** to get part of 10% of semester grade.

There will be writing assignments, and exams. These methods will be used to assess learning objectives (LO) and related level of learning.

All writing will be graded on *content as well as proper grammar and syntax*. Format your work according to APA Style, single-spacing texts, using 12 pitch, Times New Roman font, and configuring 1-inch margins. Always revise and polish your work carefully before submitting it.

Specific instructions for all assignments are located on D2L. They must be submitted on their respective due dates and times as .doc, or .docx. After completing each assignment, go to the Dropbox and upload the file.

When appropriate, only include images and figures that support the message of your document. Images and figures must be introduced in the text before they appear. Moreover, each image or figure should be named (e.g., Figure 1, Image 1, Table 1, Equation 1, etc.) as well as include a descriptive caption and a source. If you created the image or figure yourself, list the source as "Author."

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

See Above

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

See Above

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Important Information about COVID-19

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

CSCI 303 assignments due dates (all assignments are due by 11:59pm of the due date)

Assignments submitted late will be penalized. (-10% per day late)

No assignment will be graded if submitted 7 or more days after it is due. An assignment must be submitted within 6 days of the due date if you want it graded, otherwise the grade will be zero.

Week 1 – Read and analyze the technical report available on D2L

Create and submit an outline of this paper: – Sunday, 1/17/21

Week 2 – Writing a Formal Email: Sunday 1/24/21

Select and submit your topic for technical report

Week 3 – Writing an Interoffice memo: Sunday 1/31/21

Submit an outline for your technical report, including references

Week 4 – Writing a resume: Sunday 2/07/21

Week 5 – Submit Draft 1 of technical report: Sunday 2/14/21

Week 6 – Writing a cover letter: Sunday 2/21/21

Week 7 – Submit Draft 2 of technical report: Sunday 2/28/21

Week 8 – Mid Term Exam: Sunday 3/07/21 On Line Exam

Week 9 – Submit Draft 3 of technical report: Sunday 3/14/21

Week 10 – Writing a Progress report about technical report: Sunday 3/21/21

Week 11 – Submit Draft 4 of technical report: Sunday 3/28/21

Week 12 – Creating a power point for technical report: Sunday 4/04/21

Week 13 – Submit Completed technical report: Sunday 4/11/21

Week 14 – Technical Report Presentations using power point: TBA

Week 15 – Technical Report Presentations using power point: TBA

Final Exam: available 4/25/21 – 4/28/21 online

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