CMPT 376W - D100 Tech. Writing and Group Dynamic

Instructor(s): Jacqueline Nelsen

Calendar Objective/Description:
Tech. Writing and Group Dynamic

Instructor's Objectives:
This course teaches professional writing in computing science, including format conventions and technical reports. A range of technical writing processes and styles will be introduced, which includes the use of industry specific genres, and rhetorical patterns. Through active in-class participation, students will be able to explain, defend, promote, and analyze the strengths and limitations of a research topic, as well as develop oral and written communication skills. Research methods will also be covered, including the analysis of peer-reviewed data while taking into account ethical considerations. The course will also bring to light questions on the reliability and validity of research data, and opposing viewpoints will strengthen your argument. Writing assignments will be both formal and informal in nature, which includes: a research essay, in-class assignments, group projects, as well as calibrated reviews of work done by your peers. This is a W course.

Prerequisites:
see go.sfu.ca

Topics:
- Five stages of communication.
- Develop a credible argument.
- Warrants, opposing viewpoints & fallacies.
- Genres & rhetorical patterns
- Advanced researching.
- Critical thinking & ethics of research.
- Group dynamics & resolution.
- ACM Code of Ethics

Grading:
Written Assignments (including a research essay, in-class assignments and two group projects), Participation, Quizzes, and Presentations. A more detailed marking scheme will be provided in the first lecture.

Students must attain an overall passing grade on the weighted average of exams in the course in order to obtain a clear pass (C- or better).

Required Books:

Academic Honesty Statement::
Academic honesty plays a key role in our efforts to maintain a high standard of academic excellence and integrity. Students are advised that ALL acts of intellectual dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the SFU Academic Honesty and Student Conduct Policies (http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html).