CMPT 376W - D100 Technical Writing and Group Dynamics

Instructor(s): Steve Pearce
SFU Burnaby

Calendar Objective/Description:
Covers professional writing in computing science, including format conventions and technical reports. Examines group dynamics, including team leadership, dispute resolution and collaborative writing. Also covers research methods.

Instructor's Objectives:
This course will introduce students to a range of writing processes and styles. It will emphasize writing to understand disorganized ideas more clearly, writing to persuade others, and writing to draw conclusions. The course will include both informal and formal writing approaches. Assignments will generally have an initial draft, then a finished draft. This is a W course.

Written work for this course will be submitted via Turnitin, a third party service licensed for use by SFU. Turnitin is used for originality checking to help detect plagiarism. Students will be required to create an account with Turnitin, and to submit their work via that account, on the terms stipulated in the agreement between the student and Turnitin. This agreement includes the retention of your submitted work as part of the Turnitin database. Any student with a concern about using the Turnitin service may opt to use an anonymous identity in their interactions with Turnitin. Students who do not intend to use Turnitin in the standard manner must notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance of any submission deadline. In particular, it is the responsibility of any student using the anonymous option (i.e. false name and temporary e-mail address created for the purpose) to inform the instructor such that the instructor can match up the anonymous identity with the student.

Prerequisites:
CMPT 275 or CMPT 276. Students with credit for CMPT 376 may not take this course for further credit.

Topics:
- Informal writing to generate material
- Drafting and revising
- Types of technical documents (genres): Explanations, recommendations, emails, and others
- Clarity of sentence structure
- Style and voice
- Arguing from performance data
- Rhetorical situation: Audience, message, author, and context

Grading:
To be discussed the first week of classes
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).