Computing Science Course Outlines

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. Through active 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 be covered, including the analysis of peer-reviewed data while taking into account ethical considerations. The examination of group dynamics, including team leadership, dispute resolution and collaborative writing will be covered.

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 also bring to light questions on the reliability and validity of research data, as well as how the recognition of fallacies, and opposing viewpoints will strengthen your argument. Writing assignments will be both formal and informal in nature, which includes: research essays (an outline and a final draft), evidence worksheets, group projects, as well as calibrated reviews of work done by your peers. This is a W course.

Prerequisites:
see go.sfu.ca

Topics:
- 1. Five stages of communication.
- 2. Develop a credible argument.
- 3. Warrants, opposing viewpoints & fallacies.
- 4. Advanced researching.
- 5. Critical thinking & ethics of research.
- 6. Group dynamics & resolution.

Grading:
Midterm, Final exam, Written Assignments, Participation, Quizzes, and Presentations. A more detailed marking scheme will be provided in the first lecture.

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).