

English 4372
Studies in Technical & Scientific Communication
Summer 2026

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sidey
Email: msidey@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:00 and by appointment
Office hours will be on Zoom
Section: 461—this is an asynchronous online class

Course Description & Learning Outcomes

Survey of the field of technical/professional communication. Students will read, analyze, and discuss scholarly works in the field. Students will write a review of literature on a topic of their choosing that covers relevant technical/professional writing scholarly sources.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the field of technical/professional communication
- Read critically scholarly research in the field
- Analyze and respond to ethical issues
- Analyze technical documents
- Research and discuss issues and/or questions in the field

Textbook

Reading are online. There is no textbook to buy.

Course Grade & Assignments

For information on assignments, see Canvas.

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Discussion Board Posts	50%
Review of Literature	50%

Course Grade Scale

- A 90% to 100% of possible points
- B 80% to 89% of possible points
- C 70% to 79% of possible points
- D 60% to 69% of possible points
- F 0% to 59% of possible points

Extra-Credit Work

There is no extra credit work in this course.

Public Writing

I will use student work to discuss what is working well and areas for improvement. If you would like me to not use a particular piece of writing, please let me know.

Missed Work Policy

If you see that you will miss, or you do miss, a week or more of class work due to an illness or a significant life event, contact me ASAP. I will discuss the situation with you to determine if you can keep up with the class. Documentation may be required.

For relevant UTT policies, see the UTT policy on "[Class Attendance/Excused Absences](#)," and the [UTT policy on withdrawals](#) including "Medical Withdrawal/Course Load Reduction."

Submitting the Review of Literature

All drafts of the review of literature have to be submitted as a Word document and have to be submitted to the correct drop box in Canvas. Do not zip your files or submit a PDF. Drafts that do not adhere to these requirements, or that I cannot open, will be graded a 0.

Class Communication

There is a discussion board thread for questions on the class and assignments. Use this thread for general questions. If you have individual questions that can be answered quickly, send me a Canvas message. If you want to discuss your questions, send me a Canvas message to schedule a Zoom meeting.

The last day and time for Zoom conferences is noon Friday August 7th.

Announcements in Canvas

I will use announcements in Canvas to communicate essential information. It is your responsibility to read and utilize the information in announcements.

Contacting Me

A Canvas message is the most effective way to contact me. Per the [UTT Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Canvas messages and emails should provide a succinct overview of the topic and should have complete sentences and reasonably correct grammar. In the subject line list the class, your name, and a topic.

Academic Dishonesty & Disruptive Behavior

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention. For the UTT definition of “academic dishonesty,” see “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanction. For the UTT definition of “disruptive behavior,” see “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Using Work from Other Classes

From the UTT Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs Chapter 8. Student Conduct and Discipline:

Sec. 8-802. Academic Dishonesty

b. "Academic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable, in whole or in part, to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to: **submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor**, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. (Emphasis added)

Before you draw on research, written work, or any other work from another class for any assignment in this class, consult with me.

Required UTT AI Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool.

Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI Use in this Course

Using AI to read, write, revise, or edit discussion board posts is prohibited. This prohibition includes initial posts and follow-up posts.

- Read: Using an AI writing assistant to summarize or otherwise gather information from a reading or from peers' posts
- Write: Using an AI writing assistant to generate a draft of a post
- Revise: Using an AI writing assistant to revise your posts to meet grading criteria or to provide feedback which you then implement
- Edit: Using an AI writing assistant to edit your posts for sentence-level concerns

You can use the Editor feature in Word and the Tools feature in Google Docs.

Any discussion board post with AI-generated content or that draws on AI summaries of readings will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention for a scholastic dishonesty violation.

We will discuss and establish standards for ethical and productive use of AI writing assistants for the review of literature.

Required UT Tyler Policies & Information

See "University Policies and Information" in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Tentative Course Calendar

Week One	July 6-10	Intro to Tech Comm/AI/Plain language
Week Two	July 13-17	Style/Visual Rhetoric
Week Three	July 20-24	AI/Design
Week Four	July 27-31	Rhetorical Awareness
Week Five	Aug 3-7	Working on the Review of Lit

Key Dates

July 9 Census Date

July 29 Last Day to Drop

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: "The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students."