

Courses

I offer four undergraduate, face-to-face classes on authoring in an interactive environment.

1. Students examine the rhetorical and technical problems involved with help file authoring. During the class, students have worked with a variety of authoring systems including WinHelp Compiler, RoboHELP, and Doc-to-Help, in addition to HTML-Based help.
2. HTML-Based Media focuses on the design and production of major Web Sites. Students examine HTML, JavaScripting, VB Scripting, Java, Active-X, VRML, QuickTimeVR, HTMLHelp, and Macromedia ShockWave. In addition, they examine the techniques (e.g., calling variables) masters use for creating sites that can measure in the hundreds or thousands of pages. Finally, students examine the secondary software used for manipulating visuals (e.g., PhotoShop), videos (e.g., Premier), animation (e.g., Flash and Maya), and sound (e.g., Sound Forge). Students taking this class will be able to design and manage the development of major corporate sites and major magazine sites. Description consolidating
3. In the CD-Based Media class, students using ToolBook will build large-format, CD-ROM projects. Students capture and manipulate video and sound.
4. Professional Writing Technology is an introductory course for entering majors. Students are presented the physical contents of the computer (cards, busses, processors, etc.), the nature of operating systems, the nature of networks, the Internet and WWW, and most of the software applications students will be expected to use in the more advanced classes. Students will spend the first half of the quarter learning about computers and exploring the Internet and will spend the second half of the quarter examining software. Syllabus.

I also offer several graduate seminars online: The nature of these seminars changes every semester. Typically, I begin the seminar at the end of available information. For example, technical communication is currently struggling with how to evaluate web sites after usability breaks down. My relevant course looks briefly at usability, user preference, and cognition studies, then moves to a new theory that involves assigning genre information to individual pages and evaluating quality based on that. Other, previous courses, have examined the impact of offshoring on writing professions, looking for individual solutions to the problems of job jeopardy.

Finally, I offer graduate courses that examine the evolution of communication beginning with the origins of speech and ending with quantum communication theories.