



**Course** ECS 3390 Professional and Technical Communication  
[ECS 3390-052 \(51349\)](#)

**Professor** Wade Crowder, Ph.D.

**Term** Summer I '19

**Meetings** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. in JO 4.504

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## Professor's Contact Information

**Office Phone** 972-883-2188

**Office Location** JO 5.109

**Email Address** [wac010100@utdallas.edu](mailto:wac010100@utdallas.edu)

**Office Hours** TBA and by appointment.  
(Schedule appointments in advance to confirm availability.)

## General Core Area 010 Communication

**Description:** Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

**Core Objectives:** **Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information  
**Communication (COM)**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication  
**Teamwork (TW)**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal  
**Personal Responsibility (PR)**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## General Course Information

**Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions** RHET 1302 and junior standing, IEEE Formatting and Style:  
[https://elearning.utdallas.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2412060-dt-content-rid-61038433\\_1/courses/2192-UTDAL-ECS-3390-SEC008-24588/IEEE-Citation-Style.pdf](https://elearning.utdallas.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2412060-dt-content-rid-61038433_1/courses/2192-UTDAL-ECS-3390-SEC008-24588/IEEE-Citation-Style.pdf)

**Course Description** Expands students' professional and team communication skills and strategies in technical contexts. Integrates writing, speaking and group communication by developing and presenting technical

information to different audiences. Written assignments focus on creating professional technical documents, such as proposals, memos, abstracts, reports and letters. Presentation assignments emphasize planning, preparing and delivering dynamic, informative and persuasive presentations. Attendance at first class mandatory.

Writing  
Center/CommLab

<http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/writing-and-speaking/>

Required Texts &  
Materials

Textbook:

Business and Technical Communication: A Guide to Writing Professionally, Second Edition by Maribeth Schlobohm and Christopher Ryan. Copyright 2014 by Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-1-4652-7633-9. (Please note: it is important that you purchase the second edition of this text.) Alternatively, an electronic version may be purchased at <http://kendallhunt.com/store-product.aspx?id=216492>.

Suggested Texts,  
Readings, &  
Materials

Internet connectivity is a requirement for the course. The course uses eLearning, which you should check frequently. Reliable connectivity is necessary for class preparation, submission of assignments, and work on group projects. All assignments that are to be submitted through eLearning must be submitted via eLearning (turnitin.com) for credit prior to beginning of class on the due date. (Submitting assignments via e-mail is not acceptable. Otherwise, submission of assignments by any other method for work that is assigned to be submitted through eLearning, will not be accepted and will result in a grade of zero.) Assignments should be submitted in MS Word files (not pdf, .odt, etc.) so that grading comments and edits may be tracked. **Hardcopy of assignments are also due when class begins on date of assignment due.** Please do not delay by attempting to print assignment after class has started. (Daily and weekly Tech Articles will be posted on course homepage. Students are required to read and be ready for discussion.)

Course  
Learning  
Outcomes

1. Ability to enhance credibility through communication that adheres to professional and ethical norms.
2. Ability to adapt to different purposes, constraints, and audiences.
3. Ability to develop arguments with front-loaded claims and appropriate evidence.
4. Ability to use visual rhetoric to enhance message effectiveness.
5. Ability to collaborate in a team to research, plan, and present information.
6. Ability to research, draft, and edit documents that adhere to technical and professional standards using MLA style.
7. Ability to prepare organized speeches and present them with appropriate verbal and nonverbal delivery.

## ABET Student Outcomes

### For the BE, CE, EE, ME, SE and TE programs (Engineering Accreditation Commission)

- a) An understanding of professional and ethical responsibility.
- b) An ability to communicate effectively.

### For the CS program (Computing Accreditation Commission)

- a) An understanding of professional, ethical, legal, security, and social issues and responsibilities.
- b) An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences.

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

*[Topics, Reading Assignments, Assignment Due Dates]*

The schedule for class topics, readings, and assignments (aside from low-impact assignments which will be provided in class) is as follows (and please note that all chapter readings are expected to be completed **before** each class on the dates the chapters are assigned.):

### Academic Calendar Summer I 2019:

[https://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar/files/Academic\\_Calendar\\_Summer\\_2019.pdf](https://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar/files/Academic_Calendar_Summer_2019.pdf)

### Thursday, May 23, 2019 (Day 1)

Introduction of syllabus, textbooks, students, and instructor  
Importance of professional and technical communication

Technical communication

Reading: Chapter 1 (Principles of Technical Communication)

Working in teams

Reading: Chapter 4 (Working and Writing Collaboratively)

In class: Select teams for team project and introduce team and individual projects

Daily Minute (each student will introduce him or herself, tell major, and give a brief summary or bio. . . **who are you? in 60 seconds or less!**)

### Tuesday, May 28 (Day 2)

*(Return signed copy of syllabus)*

Ethical considerations

Audience

Reading: Chapter 2 (Audience)

Cross-cultural audiences

**In class: Introduce cross-cultural assignment**

### **Thursday, May 30 (Day 3)**

**\*\*\*Cross-cultural assignment due** (in eLearning before class; hardcopy by 8:30 a.m.)

Correspondence

Reading: Chapter 5 (Telephone, text Messaging, Email, Letters, and Memos)

Team Research and Writing

### **Tuesday, June 1 (day 4)**

Communication in the pursuit of employment (part I)

Reading: Chapter 9 (Gaining, Retaining, and Advancing Employment)

Communication in the pursuit of employment --Interviewing (part II)

In class: Introduce cover letter and resume assignment

Instructive communications

Reading: Chapter 7 (Stand-alone and Supplemental Documents)

### **Thursday, June 6 (day 5)**

*Cover letter and resume assignment due* (in eLearning before class; hardcopy by 8:30 a.m.)

Design

Reading: Chapter 3 (Document and Presentation Design)

Reports and Proposals

Reading: Chapter 6 (Reports, Proposals, and White Papers)

Presentations

Reading: Chapter 8 (Presentations)

### **Tuesday, June 11 (day 6)**

*Team Feasibility Reports* (only one team member, in eLearning before class; hardcopy due by 8:30 a.m.)

Write and present individual project proposals (in class)

Team Presentations

No assigned reading

**Thursday, June 13 (Day 7)**

*Individual Recommendation Reports due (in eLearning before class; hardcopy due by 8:30 a.m.)*

Social media

Reading: Chapter 10 (Social Media and Intellectual Property)

Instructive communications

Reading: Chapter 7 (Stand-alone and Supplemental Documents)

**Tuesday, June 18 (Day 8)**

Personal Statements for graduate application: review, define, demonstrate examples. Complete in-class writing assignment (Personal Statement) due prior to end of class submit to Turnitin.com and print hardcopy prior to end off class

**Thursday, June 20 (Day 9)**

*Individual slide due for students who present on this date.*

Individual and group extemporaneous presentation practice

First group of individual presentations (for those selected to present on this date)

**Tuesday, June 25 (Day 10)**

*Individual slide due for students who present on this date.*

*Final Reflection: in-class writing for 45 minutes.*

Second group of individual presentations (for those selected to present on this date)

**\*\*End of course\*\***

**Course Policies (Grading)**

**Assignment and Grade Values**

Grading is based on the UTD Undergraduate Catalog and a 1000-point cumulative scale for points earned from assignments. Grades are awarded as follows:

Grade	Cumulative Credit Points
A+	970-1000
A	930-969
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	0-599

Credit points are awarded based upon the following maximum values per assignment or competency:

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
Resume and Cover Letter Assignment	100
Cross-Cultural Assignment	100
Personal Statement	100
Team Feasibility Report	100
Team Presentation (and Team Collaboration)	100
Individual Recommendation Report RD	100
Individual Recommendation Report FD	100
Individual Presentation	100
Communication Competency/Attendance*	100
Minor/Low Impact Assignments, Final Reflection	100
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>1000</b>

Note: Students must complete and submit major assignments (Team Recommendation Report and Individual Feasibility Report) and complete the Team and Individual Presentations to pass the course. \*Communication Competency is a grade based on daily participation, communication with classmates, and the ability to remain engaged throughout class meetings. Mental and physical attendance are required and documented daily. Business casual attire is required on days of formal presentations.

<b>Make-up Exams</b>	No exams will be given, so no make-ups are necessary.
<b>Extra Credit</b>	No extra credit will be offered.
<b>Late Work</b>	<p>All assignments are due on the assigned date. Similarly, all presentations are to be conducted on the assigned dates. If the date for your presentation or any deliverable is a problem, you must notify me as soon as possible so that we can address the situation and consider any alternatives. Do not request a new date and time for a presentation in class on the day your presentation is scheduled. It cannot be rescheduled at that point, and you will receive a zero for your grade if you are not able to present.</p> <p>Late submissions for written work will receive a 33% deduction if submitted within 24 hours of the deadline. Another 33% (for a total of 66%) deduction will be applied if submitted between 24 hours and 48 hours after the deadline. After 48 hours, no credit will be given for the assignment. Incorrect attachments will be evaluated as final submissions, unless alternative submissions are made to the instructor via UTD email prior to the assignment's deadline. If class is canceled for any reason, including inclement weather, the posted assignment due date is still the deadline for the assignment. <b><i>A hardcopy of the assignment is due (8:30 a.m. on same day as electronic.)</i></b></p>
<b>Minor Low-impact assignments</b>	Possible pop-quizzes, reading, writing checks may be included
<b>Class Attendance</b>	You are expected to attend all classes, read assigned material, perform all assignments, and contribute to the class. Although I expect you to attend all classes. Absences will be reflected in your Final Reflection grade. Absences

	are also likely to adversely affect your grades in additional ways, as low-impact assignments conducted in class cannot be made up outside of class. Just as in a business, I encourage you to let me know in advance if you know when you are going to miss a class and explain your absence if you have missed a class for which you did not give me advanced notice. More than three unexcused absences could result in a failure of the course (grade of "F"). Out of respect for your fellow class members and your instructor, you are expected to be on time for class, too. Each set of three tardy arrivals is treated as one absence. Attendance and late arrivals are documented in eLearning for all class meetings.
<b>Personal Circumstances</b>	If personal circumstances impact your performance, please address the circumstances with me as soon as possible. It is possible that we will be able to work around your situation if we can address the circumstance when it arises. Initiating the conversation late in the semester or well after the situation has arisen will limit the likelihood of us finding alternatives to work around your personal circumstances.
<b>Deadlines</b>	In industry-related technical communication and in just about any other part of the working world, deadlines are a reality. Failure to meet deadlines leads to issues such as costly delays in product releases, breaking of contracts, lost current or future business, and inconvenienced co-workers. Consequently, this class will focus on the need to meet deadlines. Late or incomplete assignments will be penalized 33% of the assignment grade. For late assignments, the 33% deduction applies to each 24-hour period following the assignment deadline. After 72 hours, an assignment that has not been submitted will receive a score of 0. A hardcopy of the assignment is due on same day as electronic at 8:30 a.m.
<b>Classroom Citizenship</b>	Students are expected to operate in the classroom in a civil and professional way. Similarly, when working with classmates on projects outside the classroom, students are expected to work with fellow students in a cooperative manner. <b><i>The use of electronic devices for personal use (email, games, texting, social media, etc.) during class time is strictly prohibited.</i></b>
<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i>  <i>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</i>

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. Check eLearning frequently for updates and syllabus changes.***

Please acknowledge that you have reviewed this syllabus.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name (Legible)