

Graduate Technical Writing Section 02 & 04

CS 200W

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/24/2023

Contact Information

Cristin A. Boyd

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Office hours: TR 1:00pm -1:20pm (in my office) AND by appointment.

Office Location: DH282 (look for door to another area next to elevators; enter door; office is at the base of the short stairway).

Phone: not regularly checked; please use email or Canvas messages.

Email is the best way to reach me. Canvas messaging is 2nd best. Messages written in "comments" of assignments often get lost in the shuffle. I will use these for comments on assignments. Please do NOT use assignment comments for any communication that requires a response from me. Thanks.

Announcements are regularly used in this course. Be sure Canvas settings are set up so that you will see these important Annoucements.

Course Description and Requisites

Graduate technical writing workshop to develop advanced communication skills that will meet the professional needs of computer scientists, along with research methodologies and proper documentation for the master's thesis project.

Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing. Allowed Declared Major: Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Data Science, Mathematics, or Statistics. Or instructor consent.

Note(s): This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master's program. This course does NOT satisfy the undergraduate GE Area Z requirement.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

You will attend two weekly class meetings at the scheduled class time and will complete assignments in class and online. Please note that the course has been designed with the assumption that all students will regularly attend class meetings and arrive on time.

Course materials are organized on Canvas in a series of weekly modules. You can find all content on Canvas: readings, videos, quizzes, detailed assignment instructions, assignment drop boxes, general course information, and links to useful information.

Canvas modules will open the week before we discuss their associated topic in class so that you can complete readings and review any other information in advance.

General Course Policies

- I begin each class at the scheduled time. Please arrive on time! Late entrances and early exits are highly distracting to your classmates and to me.
- Some activities, like in-class assignments and quizzes, cannot be made up. If you arrive late or miss class that day, you will lose
 any points awarded for those tasks. In general, you'll know in advance when we'll be working on an assignment in class. Quizzes
 are given at random, but I will drop two quiz scores to allow for unavoidable absences.
- If you know that you will be absent on a certain day, please do let me know via email.
- I reserve the right to make changes to assignments and the course schedule but usually notify you of this at least 48 hours in advance.
- Courtesy and respect towards your fellow students and towards me are expected at all times. While in class, please do not check
 your phone, read unrelated materials, or do homework for another class.
- Unless we are working on an in-class assignment or activity, your laptop should be in your backpack or if it is on the desk, it should be closed. If you need to use your laptop to take notes, please notify me via email or see me during my office hours.
- It is important to me that all students feel welcome and comfortable in my classroom. If you have a problem with the classroom
 environment, or the behavior of one of your classmates, please speak to me privately about the issue so that it may be resolved.

Textbook and Technology Requirements

There is no course textbook; all readings and other materials will be found on Canvas or will be distributed to you in class. However, you will need to have access to the following: a working laptop/tablet, Microsoft Word or a compatible word processing program, Google Docs/Suite, PowerPoint, reliable internet access, a webcam and a microphone (can be integrated into your computer or external), and a printer. Technology issues will not be accepted as an excuse for late work - so have backup plans! For help with technology problems, visit the IT Service Desk page here: SJSU IT Service Desk.

To prepare for the course, you should do the following:

- Visit <u>SJSU IT Software Installation Page</u> and download Microsoft Word (for PC and Mac) and PowerPoint (available at NO CHARGE to SJSU students)
- Locate a couple of printing stations on campus (one is outside the CS office on the 2nd floor of MacQuarrie Hall)
- Download the free Grammarly grammar checker app found here: Grammarly.com
- · Review how to use Canvas if you have not used it previously.

Canvas Website

Go to one.sjsu.edu to begin your Canvas login.

I send group communications to my students through Canvas Announcements, so I suggest that you adjust your Canvas Notifications settings so announcements are forwarded to the device you check most frequently. To do this:

- Go to Canvas
- Click on your Account tab, and then on the Notifications tab
- Navigate to the Announcements bar and make the appropriate selections.

You may also use this procedure to have Canvas notify you of approaching assignment due dates. For Canvas help, call eCampus at (408) 924-2337 or go to the eCampus Canvas help page.

Submitting Assignments to Canvas

- Assignments are considered to be submitted when they are fully uploaded to Canvas and recognized by the system. You should
 not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment because uploads may take some time, and you might miss the submission
 deadline.
 - On Canvas, a due time of 11:59 pm means 11:59:00 any assignment submitted after that time will be marked late and will receive a late penalty. The Canvas clock rules all deadlines.
- If you cannot submit an assignment to Canvas because you have missed the due date/time and it is locked, DO NOT email the
 assignment to me or submit it as an attachment to a comment.

- While I can read these, I cannot offer feedback on assignments submitted in this way or use any associated grading rubric, and, thus, the assignment WILL NOT be graded.
- Assignments are graded as uploaded to Canvas, and incorrect, blank, or unreadable files will receive no points. Avoid this by
 clicking on the "View Submission" option after uploading your work to ensure you have submitted a correct and readable file.
 - o Do this every time you upload an assignment!
- You can re-submit assignments as many times as you would like before a deadline; I will grade your final submission. Note that if
 you submit an assignment by the due date and then decide to re-submit it for grading during the late period, a late penalty will be
 assessed.

Late Policy

- Late work is accepted up to 48 hours after a due date, except where otherwise indicated (typically, the final assignments of the semester must be submitted by the specified due date/time and no late submissions are accepted; late submissions are not allowed for peer reviews).
- Work submitted up to 24 hours late will receive a 10% penalty, and work submitted from 24 to 48 hours late will receive a 20% penalty. These penalties are based on the total points possible and are automatically assessed by Canvas.
- After 48 hours, no late assignments are accepted; the online assignment dropbox will close, and you will NOT be able to submit
 assignments or access quizzes/exams. Ungraded course content, like videos and readings, remains available throughout the
 semester.

Exceptions are made to this policy only in rare circumstances; for example, for a long illness. Please contact me regarding this.

Plagiarism and Cheating

I place a high value on the "honest pursuit of knowledge" and have near-zero tolerance for plagiarism and cheating. Submitting a writing assignment that contains text that is **not your original written work** is a violation of the SJSU policy on cheating and plagiarism, which reads as follows:

"Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University and the <u>University's Academic Integrity Policy (Academic Senate Policy S07-2)</u>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all alleged violations of the Academic Integrity Policy to Student Conduct and Ethical Development."

Plagiarism or cheating on any written assignment will result in a score of zero on the assignment, a report made to the university, and appropriate administrative sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have previously submitted or plan to submit for another class, please request this via email before doing so. Should you be tempted to cheat because you find an assignment challenging, the better course of action is to contact me for help.

Please note, we are all aware of the exciting new reality of Al-generated content. Turning in work that is significantly composed of Al-generated content is cheating, plain and simple. Thus, I strongly recommend avoiding its use.

Using the Turnitin.com generic assignment/s

You will be required to submit all of your major writing assignments to Turnitin.com, an application that checks student writing assignments for plagiarism by comparing the contents of the assignment to internet sources and prior student submissions stored in the Turnitin database.

This course includes zero-value Turnitin.com generic assignments so that you can use them to check your writing assignment for plagiarism. You can use these assignments as many times as you would like throughout the semester; any submission that you make to this dropbox will not be added to the Turnitin student submission database.

These assignments are added for your convenience as TII slows down the return of originality reports after the 3rd submission to an assignment.

Please note that the Turnitin dropbox is <u>for the use of students in this class only</u>; please do not submit the papers of other students, and, ideally, not for other courses. You can ask other professors to create generic assignments in their courses.

Writing in CS200W/Getting Help with Writing and Research

All of the writing you do in this class will be developed according to the process model of writing which has four steps: planning,

drafting, revising, and editing. You will submit two drafts of each writing assignment and will receive feedback on the first drafts from me and from your peers. You will also be asked to participate in at least one conference with me; we will discuss your final project of the semester, the literature review. Of course, you can receive additional writing help by attending my office hours or working with a writing tutor.

If you find writing a challenge, I encourage you to work with the SJSU Writing Center, which offers one-on-one tutoring services and workshops on a variety of writing topics. For more information, visit the Writing Center website: <u>Visit the SJSU Writing Center</u>. You can also find a link to the Writing Center on the course Home Page on Canvas. Note that the services provided by the Writing Center are free to all SJSU students.

To obtain help with the library research you will be conducting for this class, please contact the SJSU Computer Science Subject Librarian Anamika Megwalu via email: anamika.megwalu@sjsu.edu.

Program Information

Diversity Statement - At SJSU, it is important to create a safe learning environment where we can explore, learn, and grow together. We strive to build a diverse, equitable, inclusive culture that values, encourages, and supports students from all backgrounds and experiences.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

- 1. Compose with a clear focus on purpose, scope, and audience.
- 2. Critically observe and discuss the composing processes of self and peers.
- 3. Write using a variety of technical writing formats.
- 4. Organize and produce papers and documents according to discipline-based editorial and citation standards, using IEEE style.
- 5. Create appropriate graphics to accompany a report.
- 6. Effectively use library resources and electronic databases pertaining to their discipline to carry out research.
- 7. **Distinguish** between scholarly and non-scholarly published literature as well as **define** the characteristics of good scholarly writing in terms of content, format, and style.
- 8. Organize, analyze and synthesize information from various sources to develop a literature review.
- 9. Determine the difference between plagiarized and non-plagiarized text.
- 10. Organize and deliver an effective oral presentation for a professional audience.

Quizzes: On random days throughout the semester, you will be given a short 'pop' quiz featuring questions on topics discussed during the prior class session or in your assigned readings. The quizzes are typically distributed at the beginning of class and are worth 5 points each; sometimes an in-class activity will count as a quiz. If you are not in class when the quiz takes place, you lose any points available; quizzes cannot be made up. There will be ten quizzes offered and the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped.

Job-related correspondence: You will prepare a targeted résumé highlighting your education, accomplishments, and relevant job experience, and a cover letter/email. These assignments have specific requirements for this course based on established conventions and protocol of professional communication. Using previously written documents without revision will very likely end up with lower points!

Project proposal: At the beginning of the semester, you will select a research topic of interest and later will write a project proposal. This proposal includes a description of the project's importance, how the project will be implemented, a work plan for carrying out the project, and a description of possible challenges presented by the project. This assignment has two parts: first, you will write a one-page description of your topic (a worksheet/fact sheet) and then you will write the full project proposal. You will submit one draft of the topic worksheet and two drafts of the proposal.

Literature review: Using the topic you selected for your proposal, you will write a literature review of scholarly sources (books, peer-

reviewed journal articles, refereed professional conference proceedings) that describe work already completed in your research area. The review will be written following IEEE editorial standards and will include at a minimum a title page, an abstract, a table of contents, the review itself, and a list of references in IEEE format. You will submit two drafts of the literature review.

**On-going academic research: While not graded independently of writing assignments, you will need to complete significant research related to your topic. You should be researching your topic, taking notes on articles, summarizing content, and completing other source-based tasks on a weekly basis.

***Please note: equal weight is given to early and later drafts. The expectation, thus, is that both drafts are "as absolutely good" as you can make them *before* submission to me. This means significant attention & skill should be applied to every draft submitted to me.

Oral presentation: At the end of the semester you will present the topic of your project proposal/literature review in a TED/Grad Slamtype, 3-minute long presentation that uses a maximum of three PowerPoint slides (plus a title slide).

Knowledge Checks/Writing exercises: You will complete brief exercises throughout the semester focusing on various aspects of academic writing, including grammar, editorial style, and formatting.

Schedule of Assignments and points

Assignment/Learning Outcomes	Points
Quizzes (CLO 1-10)	65
Knowledge Checks/Writing Exercises (CLO 1-10)	80
Resume (CLO 1-3)	
- First Draft (10 pts. peer review/40 pts. first draft)	50
- Final Draft	50
Cover Letter (CLO 1-3)	
- First Draft (10 pts. peer review/40 pts. first draft)	50
- Final Draft	50
Project Proposal (CLO 1-4, 6)	
- Topic Fact Sheet	30
- First Draft (15 pts. peer review, 70 pts. first draft)	85
- Final Draft	100
Literature Review (CLO 1-6, 8)	
- First Draft (15 pts. peer review/100 pts. first draft)	115
- Final Draft	250
Grad Slam Presentation (CLO 5,10)	75
In-class Activities (CLO 1-10)	~20-50
Total	~1,020-1050

Grading Information

My goal is to make the grading process as clear as possible. Descriptions of how assignments and exams will be graded can be found in the assignment/exam instructions AND in the grading rubric. Here are some facts about how your grades will be determined in this course:

Grade calculation: Each assignment is given a point value. Once the assignment is scored, the points you earn are applied to your final course grade, which is a percentage of the number of points that you earn out of the total points available.

Grading turnaround: My goal is to return your assignments as soon as possible; you can generally expect returns within two weeks... at the latest.

Final course grade: Your final course grade will be the letter grade equivalent of the percentage shown on Canvas after the final assignment of the semester is completed and graded (see the chart below). There is no extra credit or extra work offered at the end of the semester to raise your grade, nor will grades be rounded up.

Grade Chart:

98%+ = A+	93%<97% = A	90%<93% = A-	87%<90% = B+	83%<87% = B	80%<83% = B-
77%<80% = C+	73%<77% = C	70%<73% = C-	67%<70% = D+	63%<67% = D	60%<63% = D-
Below 60% = defaults to 55% F					

Grade inflation & Accurate Grade Descriptors

Please note that grade inflation is a very real issue in U.S. universities. Yet, in the real world, your work will be seen and assessed based on real-world standards (i.e. uninflated assessment). If you do average work, you won't likely get a raise. If you write an average cover letter, you won't get an interview. Keeping in mind that as grad students accepted into the SJSU CS Masters program, you are very likely a high achiever/advanced level student, I strive to grade honestly & authentically; your grades in this class will reflect your ability, skills, and knowledge based on my 20+ years of teaching/writing experience. Please use these grade descriptors to help you understand expectations and grades.

Please use these grade descriptors to help you understand grades in CS200W.

An 'Exceeds Expectations' submission is an outstanding, publishable-quality work. The paper demonstrates a thorough understanding and fulfillment of the assignment requirements and audience expectations. If research is involved, as in the case of the literature review, a wide range of sources have been read and synthesized in the work. Word choice and sentence and paragraph construction demonstrate a broad vocabulary, a strong understanding of grammar, and high-level coherence and cohesion ('flow'). The paper is meticulously formatted, follows IEEE guidelines, and has only insignificant errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. There is no plagiarism; all source material is skillfully paraphrased and/or synthesized. Students who write 'A' papers fully engage in the writing process by producing and revising multiple assignment drafts before submissions; they often work outside of class with the instructor, writing tutors, and/or with other student writers to refine their work.

A 'Meets Expectations' submission is solid graduate-level work. The paper demonstrates a clear understanding of the assignment requirements and audience expectations and suggests that a strong effort has been made to satisfy these requirements. If research is involved, an acceptable range of sources (at least the min number specified in the assignment prompt) have been read, paraphrased and/or synthesized. Word choice, sentence, and paragraph construction demonstrate a good vocabulary, an understanding of grammar, and an effort to achieve coherence and cohesion ('flow'). The paper is well formatted and follows IEEE guidelines with perhaps only a few minor errors in these areas. There may also be a few errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation but these are minor and do not interfere with the audience's understanding. There is no plagiarism; all source material is adequately paraphrased and/or synthesized and cited. A 'B' paper is usually produced by students who engage in the writing process with some revision and editing before submission; more work and attention (*i.e.*, revising, working with instructor or tutors, etc.) would have improved draft quality.



student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Example 2 Course Schedule

My final schedule was confirmed only last week. This schedule is still in process. However, assignments for major assignments are near-100% certain. The general weekly workload is accurate as well.

All Learning Activities can be found in the Canvas modules and should be completed before coming to class on the day that they are assigned. This course schedule is subject to change, with fair notice.

Wk	Class Date/Day	Topic	Assignments Due
0			Please pay careful attention to due dates. Read Module 1 content Syllabus, in particular Syllabus, in particular Syllabus, in particular ** Most Canvas assignments are due on Friday night. Some are due on Monday to give you more time.
1	1/25/23 Wednesday	Introduction to CS200W	Pead all Module 1 content (if not already done) Look for a job ad (due in class 2/6) Assignment Due Friday** 1/27/23 (submit to Canvas): Quiz: Introduction to CS200W Note: Each week's work is usually required to unlock next module ** Canvas assignments due dates vary. Again, please pay attention to dates. ***** Gentle reminder, Learning Activity work should be completed before class meeting. Thus, See Mon. 1/30!!
2	1/30/23 Monday	Technical Writing/Dukes Part I	Learning Activities: • Read Dukes Sci Writing Introduction & Part I (These tasks are expected to be completed Before the class meeting date on the left)
2	2/1/23 Wednesday	Technical Writing/Dukes Part II & III	 Read Dukes Sci Writing Part II & III (Remember: These tasks are expected to be completed Before the class meeting date on the left) Assignment Due Friday, 2/3/23 (submit to Canvas): Knowledge Check: Technical Writing/Dukes I & II

3	2/6/23 Monday	Writing Resumes - Analyzing a Job Posting	 Read the Resume Basics section in the Career Center Resume Guide Review Sample Resumes Assignment Due Today (in class): Find a current online posting for a job or internship in your MS field; bring a printed copy of your complete ad to class. See assignment for more details. Topic Check-in #1 (submit on Canvas)
3	2/8/23 Wednesday	Writing Resumes - Writing Effective STAR Statements	 Read Using the STAR Method to Write a Dynamic Resume Bring a copy of your resume and/or a list of past experiences (jobs, volunteer, clubs, school (projects and other interactions) Assignment Due Friday, 2/10/23 Knowledge check - Star Statements w/self assessment Assignment Due Monday, 2/13/23 (submit to Canvas): Resume First Draft (for instructor review)
4	2/13/23 Monday	Peer Review of Resume	Assignment Due Today (in class): Bring printed copy of your resume to class for peer review; highlight keywords!
4	2/15/23 Wednesday	Writing Cover Letters	 Read CS200W Introduction to Writing Cover Letters Read Career Center Cover Letter and References Guide Review Sample Cover Letters Assignment Due Monday, 2/20/23 (submit to Canvas): Cover Letter First Draft (for instructor review)
5	2/20/23 Monday	Peer Review of Cover Letter	Assignment Due Today (in class): Bring printed copy of your cover letter to class for peer review; highlight keywords
5	2/22/23 Wednesday	Plagiarism and Paraphrasing	 Read All About Paraphrasing Read Department of Computer Science Policy on Paraphrasing Assignments Due Friday, 2/24//23 (submit to Canvas): Resume Final Draft Knowledge Check: Plagiarism and Paraphrasing
6	2/27/23 Monday	IEEE Formatting and Citation	Read CS200W IEEE Style - Formatting and Citation Read CS200W IEEE Quick Reference Guide Read Formatting Headings in Small Caps in Word Review IEEE Style Manual and IEEE Reference Guide Online to familiarize yourself with the contents

6	3/1/23 Wednesday	IEEE Formatting and Citation	Assignment Due Friday, 3/3/23 (submit to Canvas): Cover Letter Final Draft Knowledge Check: IEEE Formatting and Citation (list of 5 sources for your chosen topic)
7	3/6/23 Monday	Library Research Practice w/ Anamika Megwalu	Learning Activities: • Read Conducting Research in the SJSU Library
7	3/8/23 Wednesday	Writing Problem Statements/Proposal Topic Fact Sheet	Learning Activities: • Read CS200W Research Topics and Research Questions • Review Proposal Fact Sheet Assignment Assignment Due Monday, 3/13/23 (submit to Canvas): • Proposal - Topic/Problem Fact Sheet • Do all LA work for next week also!
8	3/13/23 Monday	Introduction to the Project Proposal	Learning Activities: Read Writing the CS200W Project Proposal Read Project Proposal Informational Handout
8	3/15/23 Wednesday	Reading with intent	Learning Activities: • Read Reading with Intent
9	3/20/23 Monday	Organizing and Synthesizing Literature	Learning Activities: • • Read Synthesizing Literature Step-by-Step • Review Synthesis Matrix
9	3/22/23 Wednesday	Peer Review of Proposal	Assignment Due Today (in class): Bring printed copy of your Proposal to class for peer review Assignment Due Monday, 3/27/23 (submit to Canvas) (Submit early if traveling) Proposal - First Draft for Instructor Review Knowledge Check: Organizing and Synthesizing Literature (Syn Matrixdue 4/17) Getting ahead over Spring Break Find another 10 sources, read and fill out synthesis matrix Reading for week 11
10	3/27/23 Monday	Spring Break	No Class Meeting Today While I would love for you to be able to travel, have fun, sleep more, etc., unfortunately, graduate school allows little time for these fun pursuits. To be well-prepared for our upcoming assignments, you should be reading articles, taking notes, and filling out your synthesis matrix.
10	3/29/23 Wednesday	Spring Break	No Class Meeting Today

11	4/3/23 Monday	Introduction to the Lit Review	Learning Activities: Read Lit Review Quick Reference Read What is a Literature Review? by M. Harvey Review Sample Lit Reviews
11	4/5/23 Wednesday	Analyzing a Lit Review	Assignment Due Monday, 4/10/23 (submit to Canvas): Proposal - Final Draft Knowledge Check: Analyzing a Lit Review (begun in class)
12	4/10/23 Monday	Deciding on LR- Subsections/body of LR	Learning Activities: TBA Assignment Due Monday 4/17/23 (submit to Canvas): TBA
12	4/12/23 Wednesday	Introducing a Lit Review/Scientific Illustrations	Read Sample Introductions (1-3)
13	4/17/23 Monday	Writing Abstracts	Learning Activities: • Read All About CS200W Abstracts
13	4/19/23 Wednesday	Peer Review of the Lit Review	Assignment Due Today (in class): • • Bring printed copy of your literature review to class for peer review • Sign up for 1-1 LR conferences Assignment Due Monday, 4/24/23 (submit to Canvas): • Literature Review - First Draft for Instructor Review
14	4/24/23 Monday	Giving a Grad Slam Presentation/Effective PowerPoint Slides	Read Grad Slam Handout Read Assignment Prompt: Grad Slam Style Presentation of Research Watch Death by PP
14	4/26/23 Wednesday	Writing Self- Assessment	Assignment Due Today (in class): Writing Self-Assessment work Signup for Grad Slam presentations Assignment Due Monday, 4/24/23 (submit to Canvas): •
15	5/1/23 Monday	Conferences on Lit Review (5/1 and 5/2)	No Class Meeting Today 1-1 Conference is mandatory (1 full grade drop on final draft for arriving too late/missing your conference!)

15		Grad Slam Presentations	Assignment Due Wednesday, 5/3/23 (submit to Canvas): • 5/4 Presenter Upload of Presentation Slides
16	5/8/23 Monday	Grad Slam Presentations	Assignment Due Monday, 5/8/23 (submit to Canvas): • 5/9 Presenter Upload of Presentation Slides
16	5/10/23 Wednesday	Final Qs/Revision Workshop for LR	 Bring a printed copy of full LR or a *cord-free computer/device to class for workshopping Assignments Due Monday, 5/15/23 (submit to Canvas): Literature Review - Final Draft (250 points!!)

^{*}If your device needs to be plugged in, you must use a printed copy. You will be moving around the room. Cords are a trip hazard & will not be allowed.