COMP 3040 - Technical Communication in Computer Science

Calendar Description: This course is designed to help students become more effective and confident writers in the context of the computing profession. Students will be introduced to a broad range of written and oral presentation styles used in the computing workplace.
Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in third year (or higher) of a majors or honours programme in the Department of Computer Science.

Outline

1) Introduction to Course and The Writing Process (1 week)
   Introduce approach of seminar-style course, Introduce and Overview the Writing Process, Importance of knowing purpose in writing, writing to different audiences.
2) The Writing Process, cont   (1 week).
   Generating Ideas, Researching, Outlining—importance of outlining and look at various outline styles
3) The Writing Process, cont. (1 week)
   Organizing and Writing the First Draft, Editing and Revising, Writing letters
4) Common Applications—Definitions and Descriptions (1 week)
   Definitions and Descriptions; Writing Reports
5) Common Applications—Instructions (1 week)
   Writing and Editing Instructions
6) Common Applications—Page Layout (1 week)
   Graphics, Page Layout, Working in MS Word
7) Common Applications—Oral Presentations (1 week)
   Components of Oral Presentations, Evaluation of Sample Technical Presentation, Oral Presentation Workshop
8) Group Assignment Editing Workshop I and Oral Presentations (1 week)
9) In-Class Assignment and Oral Presentations (1 week)
10) Group Assignment Editing Workshop II and Oral Presentations (1 week)
11) Common Applications: Proposals (1 week)
   Persuasive writing, Components of a Formal Proposal
12) Ethics in Technical Communications (1 week)
   Brief history, Using ACM Code of Ethics, Case studies

Texts: Pfeiffer, William S. and Jan Boogerd. *Technical Writing: A Practical Approach.* 4th Canadian Edition. Scarborough: Prentice Hall 2007.
Penner, Christina. *Comp 3040 Course Package of In-Class Exercises, Notes, and Grading Guidelines*. Available through the UMSU Copy Centre