Department of Humanities

Program in Technology and the Humanities

Siegel Hall 218
3301 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60616
312.567.3465
humoffice@gmail.com
www.iit.edu/csl/hum/programs/grad

Chair:
Maureen Flanagan

Director, Graduate Studies:
Karl Stolley
kstolley@iit.edu

The Department of Humanities’ Graduate Program in Technology and Humanities prepares students for careers in emerging forms of technology-driven human communication, collaboration, and learning. Students have the opportunity to pursue a course of study and participate in faculty-led research projects in areas such as user experience design, web development, social networks, and content strategy. With programmatic roots in technical communication and a growing faculty in diverse areas broadly representative of the digital humanities, the Graduate Program in Technology and Humanities produces graduates who are skilled communicators as well as agile, innovative members and leaders of twenty-first century private, public, and academic workplaces.

Degrees Offered

- Master of Science in Technical Communication and Information Design
- Master of Science in Information Architecture
- Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication

Certificate Programs

- Instructional Design
- Technical Communication

Research Facilities

- The department supports a Usability Testing and Evaluation Center; an editing center, Edit IIT; the Collaboration and Social Media Lab @ IIT (CaSM Lab); Gewgaws Lab, a physical and virtual design production lab focused on open source; and a Speech Analysis Lab for applied research on natural and synthesized speech.
- IIT’s Galvin Library subscribes to more than 120 electronic databases with more than 25,000 full-text journals and is part of CARLI, which through I-Share provides access to more than 32 million items across Illinois academic library collections. Students have access to computer labs across the IIT campus, some of which also serve as classrooms for technical communication courses.

Research Areas

- Humanities department faculty conduct research in a wide range of areas. Among those especially relevant to technical communication are aesthetics; document and online design; ethics in the professions; history of art and architecture; humanizing technology; information seeking and retrieval; instructional design; intellectual property; knowledge management; linguistics; philosophy of science; rhetorical theory; social media; text analysis; and usability testing.
Faculty

Bauer, Matthew J., Associate Professor of Linguistics. B.A., University of Minnesota-Duluth; M.S., Ph.D., Georgetown University.

Dabbert, James, Senior Lecturer of English, Director of Humanities Writing Center, and Associate Director for ESL Programs. B.A., M.S., Indiana University.

Davis, Michael, Professor of Philosophy. B.A., Western Reserve University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Flanagan, Maureen A., Professor of History and Chair of the Department of Humanities. B.A., Dominican College; Ph.D., Loyola University of Chicago.

Hemphill, Libby, Assistant Professor of Communication and Information Sciences. A.B., University of Chicago; M.S., Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Hicks, Marie, Assistant Professor of History. A.B., Harvard University; M.A., Ph.D., Duke University.

Hildt, Elisabeth, Professor of Humanities.

Kocurek, Carly A., Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities and Media Studies. B.A., Rice University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Texas.

Power, Margaret, Professor of History and Chair of the Pre-Law Advisory Committee. B.A., Georgetown University; M.A., San Francisco State University; Ph.D., University of Illinois.

Pulliam, Gregory J., Senior Lecturer of Communication, Rhetoric, and Linguistics, Associate Chair, Director for ESL Programs, and Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Humanities. B.A., Memphis State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Missouri.

Schmaus, Warren S., Professor of Philosophy. A.B., Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh.

Snapper, John W., Associate Professor of Philosophy and Academic Policy Coordinator. B.A., Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago.

Stolley, Karl A., Associate Professor of Digital Writing and Rhetoric and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Humanities. B.A., Millikin University; M.A., Ph.D., Purdue University.

Waters, Michael J., Senior Lecturer. B.F.A., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; M.Arch., University of Virginia.

Weil, Vivian M., Professor of Ethics and Director of the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions. A.B., M.A., University of Chicago; Ph.D., University of Illinois.
Admission Guidelines (Master’s Degrees)

Applicants to the master’s program come from a variety of backgrounds. Some students enter with strong writing or design ability and learn to apply those skills in technical and scientific areas, while other students enter with a technical or scientific background and learn to enhance their communication skills. The program’s goal is to help students build upon existing strengths and develop new areas of expertise.

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year institution, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0.

In addition to the application form, the applicant must submit the following:
1. Professional statement discussing the applicant’s academic or professional goals and plans for graduate study
2. Two letters of recommendation from faculty or supervisors who can evaluate the applicant’s potential for graduate-level work
3. Official transcripts, or certified copies thereof, of all academic work at the college level or above
4. Required test scores

All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores with a minimum combined score of 1000 quantitative + verbal (with a minimum score of 500 in each area) and 3.0 (analytical writing). Students taking the revised GRE (2012 and later) must have a minimum scores of 144 in quantitative reasoning and 153 in verbal reasoning, and an analytical writing score of at least 4.0.

International students must submit TOEFL scores unless they are exempt as specified in the International Applicant Requirements section of this bulletin. The minimum TOEFL score is 95, with minimum section scores of 20 each in the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections. Students submitting IELTS scores must have a minimum score of 7.0.

Note: Enrolling in courses does not guarantee later acceptance into a degree program, nor does meeting the minimum admission requirements. Students who enter as non-degree or certificate students should first discuss their plans with one of the co-directors of graduate studies.

Admission Guidelines (Ph.D. Program)

The doctoral program in technical communication at IIT prepares students for careers in research and teaching at the postsecondary level, as well as for advanced supervisory and research positions in business and government. Building on a base of skills in workplace practices, the program incorporates theory-oriented advanced readings, seminars, and dissertation research leading to original contributions to scholarship in the field.

Students enter the Ph.D. program from a wide range of fields, but should have substantial academic preparation or professional experience related to technical communication.

Applicants must have completed a bachelor’s or master’s degree in a field that, in combination with the 27-credit-hour technical core, would provide a solid basis for advanced academic work leading to original research in the field. The relevance of previous degrees to the doctoral program will be assessed by the department’s graduate admissions committee.

In addition to the application form, the applicant must submit the following:
1. Professional statement discussing the applicant’s research interests and plans for graduate study, research interests, and goals
2. Three letters of recommendation from faculty or supervisors who can evaluate the applicant’s potential for advanced academic work. At minimum, one letter must be from a university faculty member
3. Official transcripts, or certified copies thereof, of all academic work at the college level or above
4. Required test scores

All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores with a minimum combined score of 1000 quantitative + verbal (with a minimum score of 500 in each area) and 3.0 (analytical writing). Students taking the revised GRE (2012 and later) must have a minimum scores of 144 in quantitative reasoning and 153 in verbal reasoning, and an analytical writing score of at least 4.0.

International students must submit TOEFL scores unless they are exempt as specified in the International Applicant Requirements section of this bulletin. The minimum TOEFL score is 95, with minimum section scores of 20 each in the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections. Students submitting IELTS scores must have a minimum score of 7.0.

Note: Enrolling in courses does not guarantee later acceptance into a degree program, nor does meeting the minimum admission requirements. Students who enter as non-degree or certificate students should first discuss their plans with one of the co-directors of graduate studies.
Master of Science in Technical Communication and Information Design

33 Credit hours
TCID core (15 hours)
Electives (minimum of 15 hours)
Project or thesis (minimum of 3 hours)
Project review or Thesis exam

The M.S. in Technical Communication and Information Design provides an understanding of communication practices, familiarity with information and communication technologies, and an awareness of the importance of collaboration in enhancing the flow of information throughout an organization.

Students preparing for careers as technical communicators are advised to take the project option, while students preparing for a Ph.D. may wish to take the thesis option. The exam committee for each option requires two Category 1 faculty members from the Humanities department, at least one of them from the Graduate Program in Technology and Humanities. Students may apply up to six hours of credit in one of the following courses: COM 594 (Project) or COM 591 (Thesis).

**Required Courses**
- COM 525 User Experience Research and Evaluation
- COM 528 Document Design
- COM 529 Technical Editing
- COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
- COM 543 Publication Management

**Electives**
- COM 428 Verbal and Visual Communication
- COM 435 Intercultural Communication
- COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
- COM 506 World Englishes
- COM 508 Structure of Modern English
- COM 509 History of the English Language
- COM 515 Discourse Analysis
- COM 531 Web Application Development
- COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
- COM 535 Instructional Design
- COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
- COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 545 Writing for Academic Publication
- COM 553 Globalization and Localization
- COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication
- COM 571 Persuasion
- COM 577 Communication Law and Ethics
- COM 580 Topics in Communication
- COM 585 Internship
- COM 601 Research Methods and Resources

Other courses as approved by the student’s advisor and one of the co-directors of graduate studies. No more than 9 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.
Master of Science in Information Architecture

33 Credit hours
IARC core (18 hours)
Electives (minimum of 12 hours)
Project or thesis (minimum of 3 hours)
Project or Thesis
Project review or Thesis exam

The M.S. in Information Architecture enhances a technical communication core with specialized concepts, skills, and tools for designing, implementing, and managing websites and related digital media. This degree provides students with expertise for a number of tasks relevant to mid-level and advanced positions in the workplace: website design, website project management, information structure and retrieval, knowledge management, and usability testing and evaluation.

Students preparing for careers as technical communicators are advised to take the project option, while students preparing for a Ph.D. may wish to take the thesis option. The exam committee for each option requires two Category 1 faculty members from the Humanities department, at least one of them from the Graduate Program in Technology and Humanities. Students may apply up to six hours of credit in one of the following courses: COM 594 (Project) or COM 591 (Thesis).

**Required Courses**

- COM 525 User Experience Research and Evaluation
- COM 528 Document Design
- COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 543 Publication Management

**Electives**

- COM 428 Verbal and Visual Communication
- COM 435 Intercultural Communication
- COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
- COM 506 World Englishes
- COM 508 Structure of Modern English
- COM 509 History of the English Language
- COM 515 Discourse Analysis
- COM 531 Web Application Development
- COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
- COM 535 Instructional Design
- COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
- COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 545 Writing for Academic Publication
- COM 553 Globalization and Localization
- COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication
- COM 571 Persuasion
- COM 577 Communication Law and Ethics
- COM 580 Topics in Communication
- COM 585 Internship
- COM 601 Research Methods and Resources

Other courses as approved by the student’s advisor and one of the co-directors of graduate studies. No more than 9 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.
Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication

84 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, including

- Technical communication core (30 credit hours)
- Electives (minimum of 15 credit hours)
- Dissertation research (minimum of 24 credit hours)
- Additional electives or dissertation research (as needed to achieve total of 84)

Qualifying examination
Comprehensive examination
Dissertation proposal
Dissertation
Dissertation (final thesis) examination

Transfer Units
Students who have already earned master’s degrees or undertaken graduate work in relevant fields may transfer credit hours toward the doctoral degree (up to 36 credit hours for graduate coursework in relevant fields at IIT, up to 30 credit hours for graduate coursework in relevant fields at other institutions).

Required Courses (30 credit hours)

- COM 521 Key Concepts in Technical Communication
- COM 525 User Experience Research and Evaluation
- COM 529 Technical Editing
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 543 Publication Management
- COM 601 Research Methods and Resources
- AND one of the following:
  - COM 528 Document Design
  - COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
  - COM 535 Instructional Design
- AND one of the following:
  - COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
  - COM 506 World Englishes
  - COM 508 Structure of Modern English
  - COM 509 History of the English Language
  - COM 515 Discourse Analysis
- AND one of the following:
  - COM 602 Qualitative Research Methods
  - COM 603 Quantitative Research Methods

Electives (at least 15 credit hours)

- COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
- COM 506 World Englishes
- COM 508 Structure of Modern English
- COM 509 History of the English Language
- COM 515 Discourse Analysis
- COM 528 Document Design
- COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
- COM 531 Web Application Development
- COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
- COM 535 Instructional Design
- COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
- COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
- COM 545 Writing for Academic Publication
- COM 553 Globalization and Localization
- COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication
- COM 571 Persuasion
- COM 577 Communication Law and Ethics
- COM 580 Topics in Communication
- Other courses as approved by the student’s advisor and one of the co-directors of graduate studies. No more than 9 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.

Dissertation Research

- COM 691 Research and Dissertation for Ph.D. degree (at least 24 credit hours)

Additional Courses

Additional coursework or dissertation research sufficient to meet the requirement of 84 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. All work for a doctoral degree should be completed within six calendar years after the approval of the program of study; if it is not, then the student must re-pass the Qualifying Examination.
Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication - continued

Examinations

The Qualifying Examination assesses a student’s analytical ability, writing skills, and research potential. The exam must be taken by the end of the student’s third semester in the Ph.D. program. Each student prepares (1) a brief statement of research interests and (2) a Qualifying Paper—a sole-authored research paper of at least 5,000 words, demonstrating original analysis and familiarity with existing research. The examining committee consists of three Category I faculty, at least two from the technical communication program. Based on exam results, the committee may recommend changes to the student’s Program of Study. If the student fails the Qualifying Examination, the committee may recommend a re-examination. The second attempt at the exam is regarded as final.

The Comprehensive Examination assesses a student’s expertise and ability to apply the literature in three research areas. The exam should be taken by the end of the student’s third year in the Ph.D. program. The examining committee consists of three Category I faculty from the technical communication program and one from a Ph.D.-granting academic unit at IIT other than the Humanities Department. The student works with the committee to select research areas and develop a reading list for each one. Areas and reading lists must be approved by all committee members prior to the exam. A timed, written exam requires the student to respond to one or more questions in each area. The committee may recommend a re-examination over any area(s) that the student fails. The second attempt at the exam is regarded as final.

The Dissertation Proposal is a detailed written plan for original research that will culminate in the dissertation. The proposal is typically presented within one semester after the student has passed the Comprehensive Examination. The proposal is developed under the guidance of the student’s major advisor and typically addresses (1) the research problem or issue to be investigated, (2) its significance to the field, (3) a thorough review of relevant research, (4) a detailed description of and rationale for the research method(s) to be used, (5) a plan of work, and (6) a statement of anticipated results or outcomes. The proposal review committee consists of four Category I faculty: three from technical communication and one from a Ph.D.-granting academic unit at IIT other than the Humanities Department. The committee must formally approve the proposal before the student begins further work on the dissertation. As part of the review process, the committee may request one or more meetings with, or presentations by, the student.

The Final Thesis Examination is an oral defense of the dissertation. The Dissertation Committee consists of four Category I faculty: three from technical communication and one from a Ph.D.-granting academic unit at IIT other than the Humanities Department. A student who fails the exam may be re-examined after 30 days. The second attempt at the exam is regarded as final.

The Dissertation should constitute an original contribution to scholarship in technical communication and may address areas of interaction between technical communication and other disciplines (e.g., history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, and rhetoric/composition). The research topic and method may be empirical (perhaps employing the facilities of the Usability Testing and Evaluation Center or Speech Analysis Lab), pedagogical, historical, or theoretical.
Certificate Programs

Admission Guidelines

Applicants must have a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.5/4.0 and must be admitted as a graduate certificate student. Certificate students who later apply to one of the department’s M.S. programs or the Ph.D. program must meet the admission guidelines for that program. All coursework taken toward a certificate in technical communication or in instructional design and passed with a grade of “B” or better may also be applied to the M.S. in Technical Communication and Information Design, the M.S. in Information Architecture, or the Ph.D. in Technical Communication (for students who are admitted to one of those programs), as long as those courses were not applied to another degree. However, no more than 9 hours of 400-level coursework may be counted toward a degree program.

Certificate in Technical Communication

This certificate is designed for students seeking an entry-level position as a technical communicator in a broad range of fields (e.g., industry, manufacturing, health care, publishing and advertising, and government agencies). The program consists of 12 credit hours of coursework (four courses).

Required Courses

COM 424  Document Design
OR
COM 528  Document Design

COM 525  User Experience Research and Evaluation

COM 425  Editing
OR
COM 529  Technical Editing

Certificate in Instructional Design

This certificate is primarily for experienced technical communicators who wish to acquire focused competency in instructional design. Graduates of this certificate program can serve as information specialists to systematically design and develop instructional materials and training programs for businesses, individuals, health and education institutions, and government. This certificate teaches the core concepts, instructional methods, and assessment instruments for designing materials using various forms of text, visual media, technology, and instructional techniques. The program consists of 15 credit hours (five required courses).

Required Courses

COM 424  Document Design
OR
COM 528  Document Design

COM 525  User Experience Research and Evaluation
COM 530  Standards-Based Web Design
COM 535  Instructional Design
COM 542  Knowledge Management
Course Descriptions

Communication

COM 501
Introduction to Linguistics
An introduction to the systematic study of language. Focus on the core areas of linguistics such as sound patterns of language (phonology), form (syntax, morphology), and meaning (semantics, pragmatics) as well as applied areas such as language variation, language, acquisition, psychology of language, and the origin of language.
(3-0-3)

COM 503
Analyzing & Communicating Quantitative Data
An introduction to statistics and data analysis tailored to the needs of communication and information professionals. Emphasis is placed on developing intuition as to which analyses are appropriate given one’s questions of interest as well as how to interpret and communicate the results of analyses. Students will analyze real data sets using SPSS in the computer lab.
(3-0-3)

COM 506
World Englishes
Analysis of the variations of the English language throughout geographic and cultural regions of the world.
(3-0-3)

COM 508
Structure of Modern English
Analysis of English grammar from four major perspectives: prescriptive, descriptive, transformational-generative, and contextual perspectives. Different methods for analyzing sentences, ways of applying each method to problems in editing and writing, and contributions of linguists such as Noam Chomsky. While focusing on sentence structure, students also look at the structure of words (morphology) and larger units of text (discourse) at various points in the semester.
(3-0-3)

COM 509
History of the English Language
Study of the origins and development of key features of the English language through its important stages, including Old, Middle, and Early Modern English.
(3-0-3)

COM 510
The Human Voice: Description, Analysis, & Application
Analysis of human and synthetic speech intended for technology mediated environments and devices. Focus on talker characteristics that affect speech intelligibility and social factors that affect talker characteristics. Attention to design characteristics of technology mediated speech and how humans react to it.
(3-0-3)

COM 511
Linguistics for Technical Communication
This course examines linguistic theory as it relates to everyday problems. The course is divided into four sections, each of which expose students to an application of these topics to broader issues. Topics include sound patterns of speech, sentence structure, meaning and language and society.
(3-0-3)

COM 515
Discourse Analysis
Analysis of spoken and written texts on the intersentential and metalinguistic levels (e.g. semantic roles; given-new information; deixis and anaphora; presupposition and entailment; direct and indirect speech acts; schema theory). Applications to social and professional issues such as intercultural communication; sociopolitical discourse; discourse in educational, legal, and medical settings; narratives and literary texts.
(3-0-3)

COM 521
Key Concepts in Technical Communication
Broad coverage of concepts and issues in current and classic scholarship in the field of technical communication. Intensive work in bibliographic research methods for academic genres.
(3-0-3)

COM 523
Communicating Science
This course focuses on strategies for communicating scientific information in professional settings. Students develop a literature review, proposal, and feasibility study; learn how to adapt scientific information to various audiences; and complete exercises on style, grammar, and other elements of effective professional communication. Emphasis on usability, cohesion, and style in each assignment.
(3-0-3)

COM 525
User Experience Research & Evaluation
An introduction to principles of user-centered design and to methods for conducting user experience research. Students will learn how to plan and conduct projects that evaluate the design, interface, and experience of a product or service. Course work includes designing studies, collecting and interpreting data, and reporting findings and recommendations from the perspective of user-centered design.
(3-0-3)

COM 528
Document Design
Principles and strategies for effective document and information design focusing on print media and familiarizing students with current research and theory as well as with practices in document design. Students design, produce, and evaluate documents for a variety of applications, such as instructional materials, brochures, newsletters, graphics, and tables.
(3-0-3)

COM 529
Technical Editing
Principles and practical applications of editing at all levels, working with both hard and soft copy and including copymarking, copyediting, proofreading, grammar and style, and comprehensive editing. Attention primarily to documents from science, technology, and business.
(3-0-3)

COM 530
Standards-Based Web Design
Theory and practice of structuring and designing information for web-enabled devices. This course emphasizes web standards, accessibility, and agile design methods.
(3-0-3)
COM 531
Web Application Development
A production-intensive course in applied theory and practice of developing web-based applications emphasizing interface and experience design using emerging Web standards and backend development using Ruby-based web application frameworks.
Prerequisite(s): [(COM 530*) OR (COM 541*) OR (COM 537).]
(3-0-3)

COM 532
Rhetoric of Technology
A course that explores the theoretical and applied intersections of the rhetorical tradition and digital communication technologies.
(3-0-3)

COM 535
Instructional Design
Teaches the essentials for the development of instructional materials, including analysis of human performance problems, strategic interventions, specified learning tasks, and validation instruments.
(3-0-3)

COM 536
Proposal & Grant Writing
Course covers all aspects of federal and foundation proposal cycle, from proposal development through review and decision-making process. Emphasis on research proposals incorporating quantitative and qualitative methods, but activity-based proposals addressed as well.
(3-0-3)

COM 538
Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
Corporate and independent roles of technical communicators. Concepts and techniques needed to market services or to address the marketing needs of clients. Modes, goals, and strategies for verbal and written interaction with clients, corporate decision-makers, and communications staff, with attention to presentation technologies.
(3-0-3)

COM 541
Information Structure & Retrieval
An examination of conceptual foundations and applied uses of structured languages and databases for structuring information with an emphasis on approaches to single-sourcing materials for presentation in digital and print formats.
(3-0-3)

COM 542
Knowledge Management
Analysis of the nature and uses of knowledge in organizations and groups with attention to technical communicators' roles and tasks in collecting, codifying, storing, retrieving, and transferring information within organizations. Emphasis on web-based strategies, techniques, and tools.
(3-0-3)

COM 543
Publication Management
Intensive work developing and using systems to create and deliver content digitally and in print. Special emphasis on project management and large-team collaboration. Formerly known as COM 537
Prerequisite(s): [(COM 530*) OR (COM 541*) OR (COM 542*)] An asterisk (*) designates a course which may be taken concurrently.
(3-0-3)

COM 545
Writing for Academic Publication
Practice in developing written and spoken academic genres (e.g., reviews, articles, conference papers, CVs, job talks). Special attention to analyzing and evaluating academic journals; submitting items to journals and conferences; managing time during the research, writing, and publication process; revising work and providing feedback to others; and mastering the conventions of academic writing.
(3-0-3)

COM 552
Gender & Technological Change
Have you ever wondered why more men choose to portray themselves as women online than the reverse? Or why there are more boys than girls in China? Or why vibrator technology was seen as a medical necessity in the 19th century? Have you ever thought about how the interplay between technology and gender constructs everything from our modern military to how we choose to spend our free time? To where we work? This course explores the history of technology by using gender as a category of analysis. It also looks at how technological objects and tools participate in molding elements of our culture that we may take for granted as logical or timeless. By looking at change over time, we will analyze the different ways technology affects how we live and see ourselves and how gender defines technological priorities.
(3-0-3)

COM 553
Globalization & Localization
The examination and application of research on cultural dimensions in communication such as individualist versus collectivist. Also, an examination of topics from a theoretical linguistic perspective such as contrastive rhetoric. These topics are then related to best practices in web and document design.
(3-0-3)

COM 554
Science & Technology Studies
This course focuses on the latest work in science and technology studies and the history of technology from ethics in genetic engineering to the social dimensions of computing. Other topics include the intersection of gender and sexuality with new technologies, the role of communications media in rewiring our brains and our social connections, and the role of the world wide web in constructing national and global technocracy. In the course, students will read and discuss works by academics as well as journalists in order to offer grounding in the historical, social, and economic background of key technical topics and the presentation of technical topics for wider audiences. The course will also focus on the ways in which authors leverage different information technologies to communicate to wider audiences and how those methods are evolving.
(3-0-3)

COM 561
Teaching Technical Communication
Principles, strategies, and resources for teaching technical communication and for developing and assessing technical communication curricula, especially at the postsecondary level.
(3-0-3)

COM 571
Persuasion
The study of covert and overt persuasion and their influences on society and individuals.
(3-0-3)
COM 574
Communications in Politics
This course introduces students to the general theories and practices of political campaign communication today. It investigates how those rules and types apply in the current presidential campaign. More generally, the course teaches students to produce written and oral discourse appropriate to the humanities.
(3-0-3)

COM 577
Communication Law & Ethics
This course explores ethical and legal issues concerning communication in diverse contexts, such as: the mass media - e.g. print, broadcast, and electronic; government and politics; organizational hierarchies - e.g. public and private sector workplaces; academic life - e.g. the classroom, student, and faculty affairs; and interpersonal relations - e.g. love, friendship, marriage. Students will research and write an article length paper, and may also do additional research and/or classroom work.
(3-0-3)

COM 580
Topics in Communication
An investigation into a topic of current interest in communication, which will be announced by the instructor when the course is scheduled.
(3-0-3)

COM 583
Social Networks
This course will discuss a variety of measures and properties of networks, identify various types of social networks, describe how position within and the structure of networks matter, use software tools to analyze social network data, and apply social network analysis to areas such as information retrieval, social media, and organizational behavior.
(3-0-3)

COM 584
Humanizing Technology
This course will investigate and experiment with both conceptual and applied efforts to humanize technology, especially computer technology. We will question the goals of humanization and its relationships to concepts such as design ethics and user-centered and emotional design. While the focus of the class will be on computer technology and programming languages, we will also look at humanization with regard to industrial design, engineering, architecture, and nanotechnologies.
(3-0-3)

COM 585
Internship
The internship is a cooperative arrangement between IIT and industry. It provides students with hands-on experience in the field of technical communication and information design.
(Credit: Variable)

COM 594
Project
Projects will require students to complete a theoretically based analysis of a practical communication situation, create a document appropriate to the situation, and write and analysis of or commentary on the choices made in the production of the document. (Credit: Variable. Most M.S. students take 6 credits of project studies)
(Credit: Variable)

COM 597
Special Problems
Permission of instructor required.
(Credit: Variable)

COM 601
Research Methods & Resources
This course addresses the logic of research design. The first part of the course focuses on formulating clear research questions and hypotheses. The second part addresses various designs (surveys, correlations, experiments, mixed designs, etc.) and their potential to test hypotheses.
(3-0-3)

COM 602
Qualitative Research Methods
This course is intended for graduate students in technical communication and related fields who are planning to conduct qualitative research in a variety of settings.
Prerequisite(s): [(COM 601)]
(3-0-3)

COM 603
Quantitative Research Methods
This course is for doctoral students of technical communication who have a command of general research methods but who require a deeper understanding of methods for the collection and analysis of quantitative data.
Prerequisite(s): [(COM 601)]
(3-0-3)

COM 691
Research & Thesis Ph.D.
This is a variable credit course which Ph. D. candidates sign up for as they work on their dissertations. Permission of instructor required.
(Credit: Variable)

History

HIST 597
Special Problems: History
Advanced topics in the study of history, in which there is special student and faculty interest. Variable Credit: 1-6
(Credit: Variable)

Humanities

HUM 601
Teaching Assistant Seminar
Required of all teaching assistants at IIT, this course introduces students to classroom and course management issues, strategies, and ethics. In addition, students give classroom-lecture style presentations using basic instructional visual aids.
(0-0-0)
Philosophy

PHIL 551
Science & Values
This course will consider questions such as: What role should values play in scientific inquiry? Should scientists consider only epistemic or cognitive values, or should they take into account social and cultural values? Could science be objective and make progress if it is shaped by social and cultural values?
(3-0-3)

PHIL 560
Ethics
A study of the fundamental issues of moral philosophy.
(3-0-3)

PHIL 570
Engineering Ethics
A study of moral and social responsibility for the engineering profession including such topics as safety, confidentiality, and government regulation.
(3-0-3)

PHIL 571
Ethics in Architecture
A study of the moral problems architects must resolve in the practice of their profession, including problems of confidentiality, candor, esthetics, and economy, arising from the special responsibilities of architects to the public, client, employer, and colleagues.
(3-0-3)

PHIL 573
Business Ethics
Ethical issues relating to individual and corporate responsibility, self and governmental regulation, investment, advertising, urban problems, the environment, and preferential hiring.
(3-0-3)

PHIL 574
Ethics in Computer Science
Moral problems that confront professionals in computer-related fields, including questions raised by the concept of intellectual property and its relationship to computer software, professional codes of ethics for computer use, and responsibility for harm resulting from the misuse of computers.
(3-0-3)

PHIL 580
Topics in Philosophy
An investigation into a topic of current or enduring interest in philosophy, which will be announced by the instructor when the course is scheduled. Graduate standing required.
(3-0-3)

PHIL 597
Special Problems in Philosophy
Advanced topics in the study of philosophy, in which there is special student and faculty interest. Variable Credit: 1-6 Prerequisite: Instructor permission required.
(Credit: Variable)

Study of Ethics in the Professions

SEP 501
Foundation of Ethics in Profession, Business & Government
This course covers the sources and substance of business and government standards and professional codes. It focuses on issues that concern all these institutions, for example, confidentiality, loyalty, conflict of interest, and obligations to the public.
(3-0-3)

SEP 503
Business Engineering: Ethics & Cultural in Workforce
This course covers issues raised by real and apparent differences in standards in different countries. Bribery, compensation standards, and workplace safety are among the problems to be considered. The course also covers cultural differences in the composition of the workforce in the home country and abroad and issues of respect for persons and fair treatment that arise.
(3-0-3)

Undergraduate Courses Available to Graduate Students

Note: Students may take up to an approved number of the following courses.

AAH 491
Independent Reading and Research

COM 401
Advanced Composition and Prose Analysis

COM 421
Technical Communication

COM 423
Communication in the Workplace

COM 424
Communication in the Workplace

COM 425
Communication in the Workplace

COM 428
Verbal and Visual Communication

COM 430
Introduction to Web Design and Management

COM 431
Introduction to Web Design and Management

COM 432
Introduction to Web Design and Management

COM 435
Intercultural Communication

COM 437
Video Documentation

COM 438
Video Documentation

COM 440
Introduction to Journalism

HIST 491
Independent Reading and Research

PHIL 491
Independent Study