

Technical Writing Workshop

CS 100W

Fall 2026 Section 06 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 08/18/2026

Contact Information

Instructor:	Alesya Petty
Office Location:	FOB 224
Email:	Messaging through Canvas preferred (Alesya.Petty@sjsu.edu)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 PM and by appointment on Zoom
Class Days/Time:	Wednesdays 3:00-5:45 PM In-person
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall 444

Course Description and Requisites

Advanced writing through preparation of technical reports and presentations. Improving skills for writing subject-related reports, project proposals and personal resumes through practice and evaluation. Course assignments will be related to issues concerning careers in computer science.

Satisfies Writing in the Disciplines (WID).

Prerequisite(s): A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of C- or better); completion of core GE; and upper division standing. Or Graduate or Postbaccalaureate level. Allowed Declared Majors: Computer Science, Data Science, Computer Science and Linguistics, or Mathematics.

Grading: Letter Graded

Note(s): Must be passed with C or better to satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

* Classroom Protocols

Attendance in-person is crucial for the success in the class, for keeping up with the updates in the course, and for collaborative work for projects.

In-person meetings include collaborative work, interactive workshops, presentations, one-on-one conferences, instructor and peer feedback. Participation for in-person activities cannot be made up. No amount of solitary or make-up work can replace meaningful interactions with the class learning community in real time.

Homework must be completed before coming to in-person class and **all assignments are due on Tuesday night at 11:59pm.**

Late work for weekly homework and some classwork can be submitted with a 5% *penalty per day*. In-class group work when done remotely cannot be given credit.

Extensions up to one week on individual assignments can be considered in cases of emergency or sickness, extensions may be given for submitting a major assignment on an individual basis with a timely notification before the deadline and documented proof of the emergency or sickness.

Group projects are meant to be productive and collaborative experiences, preparing students for team-based work environment outside of college. Consistent, responsive, active, and responsible contributions and collaboration are expected of all team members. All teams and members will have evaluations at the end of the project. In cases, when a team member shows a lack of participation and contributions, they may be moved out of the group and may be allowed to do the project individually on case-by-case basis, in which case a student will not receive full credit for the individually written project due to the difference in the learning experience.

Missed classes. Please, hold yourself responsible to find out what you missed by contacting the classmates through various communication tools available to you through Canvas messaging, other communication channels set up for the class (student-organized Discord, etc.). Check updates on Canvas regularly. Class is a learning community of students who can help each other throughout the learning process. The role of the instructor is to help you navigate the course and to facilitate the learning. Instructors do not have the capacity to repeat or summarize taught lessons to individual students through messaging. Similarly, instructors do not have the capacity to provide individual tutoring services to preview drafts, etc. Please, use services and resources on campus to get additional help on your assignments. A lot of feedback is provided in class to manage projects and address issues. Being present and working with your peers is the best way to stay on top of your assignments and resolve issues that may arise. *Up to 2 in-class activities can be excused during the semester for any reason (sickness, appointments, emergencies, conferences, etc.). These are not logged automatically. Students must message the instructor about applying an excuse to missed classes.* There is one in-class reflection essay on the last day. If not written in class, it can be made up for 50% credit before the official final exam time for the class.

Office Hours are there for you to discuss concerns about performance in the course. Please, drop by virtual office hours or schedule an appointment to discuss anything relating to your ability to succeed in the course. I am here to help you with whatever situations may arise during the course of your studies. I am highly invested in your learning and wish you to be successful in your studies.

Final submissions. All final drafts and graded assignments must be proofread and polished. However, Grammarly or any AI digital tools are not permitted in this course, because their use prevents the development of skills trained in this writing course. See AI policy for more details. Make sure to leverage free resources and tutoring services available to you through the Writing Center and any other student support services. Assignments are usually graded within a week of submission date. This means that if you submitted an assignment 2 days later, it may also be graded later. There may be delays on the usual turn around time due to instructor's other professional responsibilities and circumstances (away for a conference, sick, etc.), in which cases I'll notify the class through announcements. Larger projects or drafts requiring feedback may take extra time as well.

Classroom netiquette. Be courteous and respectful of your classmates who constitute a diverse learning community. Class dynamics are much enhanced when all members can participate in the same conversation. Make the wise choice to stay on task in our sessions and ignore the urge to check your social media or engage in other distractions. You can bring a closed-top cup or water bottle to class, but please no snacking or eating as it interferes with learning. Just think of things you would not do in a business meeting and treat the class environment is a similar way. Please be on time, try not to interrupt if someone is speaking. If you have individual questions, please wait for the appropriate time during group/individual work or the end of class to ask them.

Recording in our classroom and sharing of the contents of the Canvas course are not allowed and are protected by university policies.

Technology issues will not be accepted as an excuse for late work. To avoid these issues, you should do the following:

- Have a backup plan in case of equipment failure. (You can rent laptops from the MLK Library.) Save back-up copies of all your course work on Google Drive. After submitting an assignment on Canvas, review it to ensure that you uploaded the correct file. All assignments are graded as submitted.
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If you experience technical difficulties and have issues submitting your work on Canvas, you are responsible for reaching out to the IT support department to obtain documentation of the issue.

Technology Requirements

During all class meetings on campus, you are also required to have access to some technology, such as a laptop or a tablet. As we will use online tools, such as a digital whiteboard, live during the class, you must have access to a laptop or tablet for participation purposes. We will also complete writing tasks during

class, which you must type and submit online. Additionally, we will use Canvas, the SJSU Learning Management System, for instructional materials, activities, and assignments. Therefore, you will need regular access to the internet and technology for this class. If you need to borrow laptops, tablets, and other electronics, please contact [Student Computing Services](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services) at <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>.

To produce and share your work, you will use Google Docs and enable viewers to comment on your work. If you need help to access these technologies, please contact the IT Service Desk at <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php>.

Plagiarism and AI Policy

San Jose State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Please check out SJSU's policy in full [here](#).

Academic Integrity

Recording, distributing, or publicizing course/instructor activities and materials is not allowed by the university policy. Additionally, students are not permitted to allow any other person to access the course materials or to share materials with anyone.

AI Policy

This policy is designed to provide guidance for the use of Generative AI tools in regards to the value of academic integrity and personal intellectual growth. It applies only to this course. Individual course instructors at the same university, department, or program may have different policies regarding the use of AI. While some disciplines and content lend themselves well to using AI, others don't. AI development is so rapid that the policies may need corrections throughout the semester. In case of new developments in AI ethics and technology, the instructor reserves the right to amend this policy with fair notice to protect academic integrity and ethical standards.

AI Use is Not Allowed and Discouraged in this course. To rightfully take credit for the work you have completed and for the instructor to witness your progress, you show that you are responsible for your learning, thinking, writing, and working with other students. In the age of AI, this means that you must exercise personal integrity, critical thinking, decision-making, communication, and collaboration - skills that will remain the most important human attributes. The only exception to this policy is AI use for images, which can be an alternative to using other image generating tools such as Figma, Canva, and so on. Project instructions will specify the AI for images use.

Although AI and any other inventions are becoming a part of the world and of the future, the effects of how they affect how we learn and how we communicate may be unpredictable. The existence of a digital tool does not make it reliable and has to be used with caution and discretion. Although AI use has some benefits, some ethical & professional considerations of using AI include:

- bias embedded in AI systems
- data privacy and student confidentiality
- equity in access to digital tools
- how AI aligns or conflicts with democratic and culturally sustaining practice

Other issues show that AI can

- produce inaccurate, biased, offensive or otherwise unethical content,
- “hallucinate” and produce false and non-existing information, sources, and citations.
- aim to please you and change outputs as it has no logic, insight or understanding of what it does.

Outsourcing any cognitive, thinking, reading, or writing tasks that you are not performing yourself does not support your learning. By engaging in critical reflection, questioning, and refining your ideas and language, you can promote deeper engagement with concepts, develop your voice, agency, and identity. When you generate ideas, draft, summarize readings, observations, or experiences, you boost all the processes central to your ability to develop higher-level skills. As a learner in college, you train literacy skills by challenging your mind to perform essential tasks

- by interacting with the text, you improve understanding,
- by practicing invention and ideation strategies, you overcome “blank page” anxiety,
- by discussing ideas with peers, you evaluate perspectives,
- by organizing your notes, you reflect on your thinking and learning.

AI Detection and Consequences. Students are required to submit their original work for every assignment, activity, and task. Students who plagiarize, use sources when not allowed by the assignment, or who cheat on essays or quizzes by collaborating with or using the work of others or of a general AI violate the academic standards of the course. Although methods of detection for AI generated text are not accurate and reliable, consistent evidence of AI use from AI detectors can result in a substantiated suspicion of compromised integrity and academic misconduct. The instructor reserves the right to reduce or give zero credit for the assignment or the whole course on a case-by-case basis under the suspicion of non-compliant AI use.

Program Information

Writing in the Disciplines (WID) courses develop students’ abilities to communicate effectively in their major course of study and in their careers. With an emphasis on critical thinking, these upper-division core courses advance students’ understanding of the genres, audiences, and purposes of college writing while preparing them for successful communication in their chosen professions. Completing Writing in the Disciplines with a C or better is an SJSU graduation requirement.

Writing in the Disciplines Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of a Writing in the Disciplines course, students should be able to:

1. explain, analyze, develop, and critique ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse;
2. organize and develop complete discipline-specific texts and other documents for both professional and general audiences, using appropriate editorial and citation standards; and
3. locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing;

4. produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of CS100W, students should be able to:

1. Understand how to follow the stages of the writing process (prewriting/writing/rewriting) and apply them to technical and workplace writing tasks.
2. Produce a set of documents related to technical and workplace writing tasks and have improved their ability to write clearly and accurately.
3. Understand the basic components of definitions, descriptions, process explanations, and other common forms of technical writing.
4. Define basic technical writing elements, such as audience analysis, use of jargon and visuals, and citation, formatting and presentation.
5. Read, understand, and interpret material (based on primary and secondary research) related to advanced technology, and have an appreciation for some of the ideas, issues, and problems involved in writing about technology and in workplace writing.
6. Understand basic sources and methods of research and documentation on topics in technology, including online research, and synthesize and integrate material from primary and secondary sources in a research-based technical writing project.
7. Determine the difference between plagiarized and non-plagiarized text.

Course Materials

Required Textbook

This course is a part of the Affordable Learning Solutions grant and is using Open Educational Resources and MLK Library resources.

Technical Writing Essentials: Introduction to Professional Communications in Technical Fields, by Suzan Last, Candice Neveu, and Monika Smith. - open source textbook, available free on Canvas.

Recommended Readings

Business Communication Today, 15th Ed., by Courtland L. Bovee and John V. Thill

Technical Communication, 13th Ed., by Markel M., & Selber, S. A. (2020). Bedford/St. Martin's.

Business and Professional Writing: A Basic Guide, 2nd ed. by Paul MacRae (ISBN 9781554814718)

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: the official guide to APA style (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Other Readings

Various articles and other content will be linked on Canvas. Some will be direct links, and other readings will be found under "Library Course Materials" in the blue menu on the left side of Canvas. The syllabus indicates where readings can be found.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Please make sure that ALL documents are kept in a cloud folder; do not rely on your laptop/desktop for storage. Please download both the Zoom app and the Canvas app to your cell phone in case a blackout occurs in your area. You will always need to plan for a back-up solution.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit [45-hours per 1-unit of credit] (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found by visiting University Policy S12-3 or using the link <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Table 1 shows how course assignments will help you meet CLOs and GE learning objectives:

Assignments	Word Count	Weight	Learning Outcomes
Career Documents	1200	10%	WIDLO 2 CLO 1 & 3
Participation/ Homework/ Presentations	3000	part of other categories	WIDLO 1-4 CLO 1- 6
Technical Writing Article Project	500	10%	WIDLO 1-4 CLO 1-5
Professional Communication 7Cs Project	1000	25%	WIDLO 1,3 CLO 2-5

Term Project	2300	30%	WIDLO 1-4 CLO 1-6
Final Reflection and Quiz	700	10%	WIDLO 1-4 CLO 1-6

All items above will be posted to Canvas inside weekly modules. Activities and assignments place emphasis on developing the writer's abilities to clearly define the audience and purpose, practice genre and language conventions, and design a professional presentation of each document.

"NOTE: It should be noted that the Academic Vice President in a memorandum dated October 25, 1977 cites a university policy that states that there shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the officially scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course."

✓ Grading Information

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Grade Distribution based on Canvas 100% grading scale is as follows:

	100-98 A	97-95 A-
94-92 B+	91-89 B	88-86 B-
85-83 C+	82-80 C	79-77 C-
76-74 D+	73-71 D	70-68 D-
67 and below F		
All assignments are submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism screening. You must check your originality report for submitted assignments to make sure you are not plagiarizing.		

Passing Grade for the course is C or better. **No** incompletes will be given for the course.

Though there is no specific extra credit in the course, these low-stakes activities and assignments work in a similar way to extra credit to boost consistent effort, work ethics, and participation, allowing students to catch up with partial credit.

Final Examination or Evaluation

"Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment." In our courses, we will create a portfolio at the end of the semester as our culminating activity.



University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as 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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.



Course Schedule

Fall 2024 Course Schedule and Due Dates

All homework is due at 11:59pm on Mondays before in-person meetings of the week.

Weeks	Assignments due
Week 1	Introductions.
Week 2	Career Documents. Profiles. Bios.
Week 3	Resume. Cover Letter. Interviews.
Week 4	Intro into Professional and Technical Writing.
Week 5	Article Project. IEEE.
Week 6	Professional Communication. 7Cs Project start.
Week 7	7Cs draft and review.
Week 8	7Cs presentations.

Week 9	Term Project start.
Week 10	TP Memo, Outline, Design.
Week 11	TP draft and review. APA.
Week 12	TP Presentations.
Week 13	Veteran's day. No class.
Week 14	Informational Interview Project due. Share.
Week 15	Thanksgiving. No class.
Week 16	Final Reflection In-class essay.
Finals week	Final Quiz.