

**SUMMER II, 2011
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

Note: Courses designated as meeting core area requirements may also count as electives in the English major and minor.

*Please note prerequisites for upper-level courses (3000-4000) as stated in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and University Timetable.

English 1654: Introduction to Science Fiction

(Meets and Area 2 Core Requirement)

Patton

This reading intensive course will explore the central themes that have defined the subgenres of literary and popular Speculative Fiction. Course content will be divided into seven units, each focusing on a thread of ideas that has engaged the attention of speculative writers across the decades. Course texts will include one novel per unit, plus numerous short selections from a pair of anthologies students have praised as “keeper” texts. We’ll read authors from the foundational to the experimental to the commercial, including Asimov, Clarke, LeGuin, Gibson, Bradbury, Bear, Crichton, Ellison, Gaiman, and even Freud. Assignments will include weekly quizzes, discussion board postings, on-line chats, and participation in the VTSF Wiki project.

English3154: Literature, Medicine and Culture

(Meets a Writing Intensive Core Requirement and an Area 2 Core Requirement.)

Hausman

This fully on-line course examines representations of health and illness in literature and medicine as a cultural practice. Students will read literature that includes images and themes concerning medicine, health, and illness, as well as personal narratives of doctors and patients; engage in cultural analyses of public health campaigns; and analyze discourses about health and illness in the media. Literature, Medicine, and Culture offers students experience in working critically with literary texts and the cultural analysis of social practices, long a part of cultural studies. The skills that students learn in this course — identifying and understanding medicine and medical practice as socially constituted, identifying ethical dilemmas in relation to illness and treatment, articulating the linkages between culture and health — are critical to informed citizenship.

English 3764: Technical Writing

(Meets a Writing Intensive Core Requirement)

Neilan (online)

This course is designed to introduce students to the types of written and oral work that will be expected of them in the work force. Students will draw from their specific majors to write manuals, various reports, proposals, summaries, lay articles, memos, and letters. Other types of work-related documents will be reviewed and discussed on-line. The course will stress grammatical correctness, audience

awareness, and clarity of expression. Students will have the opportunity to have their peers review and help to revise their work. A final project will require students to write a sustained document which incorporates many of the techniques discussed in the class. Students will prepare and give a Power Point presentation on the same topic as the final written project. Because we will not be using a textbook, each student is responsible for materials on Blackboard and distributed by email.

Mooney, J.

This course give you practical experience in the forms of written communication you will encounter as a professional in the technical workplace, from the simple memo to a proposal, from a progress report to an article for non-specialists.

By the time this course is over, you should be able not only to understand these documents, but also to produce them with ease and confidence. Attention will also be paid to such issues as the role of technology in the workplace and workplace ethics. Assignments include a resume/cover letter, a set of technical instructions, a proposal, an progress report, and a formal recommendation report. Reading quizzes and homework assignments also factor into the final grade.

Mooney, S.

This course gives you practical experience in the forms of written communication you will encounter as a professional in the technical workplace, from the simple memo to a proposal, from a progress report to an article for non-specialists. By the time this course is over, you should be able not only to understand these documents, but also to produce them with ease and confidence. Attention will also be paid to such issues as the role of technology in the workplace and workplace ethics. Assignments include a resume/cover letter, a set of technical instructions, a proposal, a progress report, an article for non-specialists, and a presentation. Reading quizzes and homework assignments also factor into the final grade.

Hagedorn, S.

English 3764 will prepare you to present information professionally in clear, concise, practical, and appropriate formats. This writing-intensive and on-line course examines the principles and procedures of technical writing (including audience and purpose analysis) and provides practice with such specialized forms as abstracts, proposals, resumes and cover letters, interviewing, citation styles, and technical correspondence. Students will be evaluated on the basis of numerous shorter writings and homework from the Department's on-line text, a discipline-specific portfolio of professional writing, and a separate written formal project, which will be presented to the on-line class in the form of PowerPoint slides (with commentary).

English 4964: External Field Study

Kark

Put your English major or minor to work before you graduate! This field study—also known as an *external internship*—gives you the opportunity to gain valuable workplace experience performing a variety of tasks related to your English degree and skills. Depending upon the placement (some are off-campus; some are on), you might find yourself doing anything from writing to editing, from producing publicity campaigns to developing web sites, and more. Good for your resume—great for your confidence! Additional information can be found at the Internship Program web site:

<http://athena.english.vt.edu/~intern/welcome.htm>.

(NOTE: Students seeking placement in an internship should contact Steve Kark, Internship Coordinator, at skark@vt.edu prior to enrolling for this course.)

