

Technical Communication Course for International Students: Collaboration, Design, and Teaching

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM (ELP)
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



Unique Qualifications that ELP brought to the table

- ▶ Leena Chakrabarti –

 - Training in teaching Technical Communication for Engineers at Kansas State University

 - Seven years of experience in teaching Technical communication for Engineers

 - Experience in creating, advertising, recruiting students and teaching Technical Writing for International Students at the ELP

- ▶ Christina Luster –

 - Coursework in technical communication

 - Tech Committee Chair – technical expertise

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Creation
 - Inception
 - Collaboration
- ▶ Curriculum
 - Literature Review
 - Planning
 - Teaching
- ▶ Assessment
- ▶ Lessons Learned
- ▶ Finished Product and Conclusion

Creation → Inception

- ▶ Fall 2012 -- Dr. Kyung-Goo Doh of Hanyang University contacted Kansas State University Computing and Information Sciences Department (CIS)
- ▶ CIS contacted Division of Continuing Education and the English Language Program for proposals
- ▶ Proposal with SLOs and potential assignments – taken to S. Korea by our Curriculum and Assessment Director, Dr. Abby Franchitti

Creation → Inception

- ▶ SMASH (Software Maven School at Hanyang University) Program
 - Juniors in college
 - Embedded Systems Course
 - Technical Writing Course

Creation → Collaboration

- ▶ Administrative Collaboration
- ▶ Dean Sue Maes, Division of Continuing Education
- ▶ Dr. Gurdip Singh, Department Head, CIS
- ▶ Mary Wood, Director, ELP
- ▶ Dr. Abby Franchitti, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, ELP
- ▶ Dr. Leena Chakrabarti, Assistant Director, ELP



Creation → Collaboration

► Curricular Collaboration

Masaaki Mizuno → Embedded systems instructor

Christina Luster → Technical Writing instructor

Leena Chakrabarti → ELP supervisor

Worked closely to create assignments that were relevant to both classes



Curriculum

Relevant Literature

- ▶ Dautermann (2005)
 - ▶ Technical writing abroad in China
 - ▶ Students preferred style guides
 - ▶ Collaborative learning environment
- ▶ Dennett (1998)
 - ▶ Differences between Japanese and native English users' approach to technical writing
 - ▶ Non-native need: formal prewriting, more audience awareness, less grammar focus until final draft
- ▶ Hunsinger (2006)
 - ▶ Teaching technical writing with focus on culture/nationality is ethnocentric and ineffective
 - ▶ Instead, focus on global values and organizational culture

Curriculum

Planning



- ▶ CEA Accreditation
- ▶ Diagnostics used
- ▶ Course Policy
- ▶ Course Objectives
- ▶ SLOs

Curriculum

Planning

“Technical Writing in English is designed to address the needs of non-native English students who are interested in technical communication in its written and oral form. This course introduces the vocabulary, conventions, forms of documents, and practices of technical communication. Emphasis will be on communication styles as they vary from field to field. Grammar and pronunciation support is also provided as needed. In this class you will create a portfolio (including a resume, project proposal, memos, analysis of reports, conference poster, and a DVD of presentations) that demonstrates your knowledge of the standards of technical writing.”

- ▶ SLOs matched to assignments
- ▶ Condensed Curriculum
 - ▶ 5 week course
- ▶ Tools for the workplace
- ▶ Language support
- ▶ Met computer science needs

Curriculum → Teaching

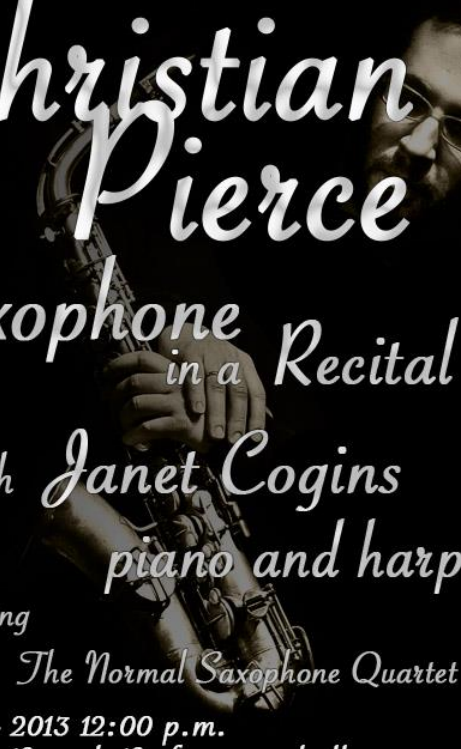
Applying traditional
principles to a non-
traditional class



- ▶ Structure
 - ▶ Short lectures
 - ▶ Workshops
 - ▶ Style guides, modeling
- ▶ Translation welcome, not English only classroom

Student Samples → Visual Design

The Truman State University
Department of Music presents



Christian Pierce

saxophone
in a Recital

with Janet Cogins
piano and harp

Featuring
The Normal Saxophone Quartet

April 14 2013 12:00 p.m.
Ophelia Parrish Performance hall

The Truman State University Department of Music presents

CHRISTIAN PIERCE

SAXOPHONE in a Recital

with Janet Coggins Piano & Harp
Featuring The Normal Saxophone Quartet

APRIL 14, 2013
12:00 p.m.
Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall

PROGRAM

Sonata, Op. 19.....Paul Creston(1960 - 1985)

- I. With vigor
- II. With tranquility
- III. With gaiety

Gabriel's Oboe.....Ennio Morricone (b.1928)
Arr. Cristian Pierce

Tableaux de Provence.....Paule Maurice (1910 - 1967)

- IV. Dis Alyscamps l' Amo Souspire
- V. Lou Cabridan

•Intermission•

Quartet in Bb, Op. 109.....Alexander Glazunov



- I
- II
- Variation I
- Variation II
- Variation V

Historie du Tango.....Astor Piazzola (1921 - 1992)

- I
- II

Back Burner.....Frank Ticheli (b.1958)

Mr.Pierce is from the studio of Professor Jose A. Zayas-Caban



Assessment

Meeting students'
needs



- ▶ Rubrics
- ▶ Providing Feedback
 - ▶ Written and oral feedback
 - ▶ Feedback from Masaaki
 - ▶ Students evaluated each other
 - ▶ Capstone project and portfolio
 - ▶ Assessed as a team

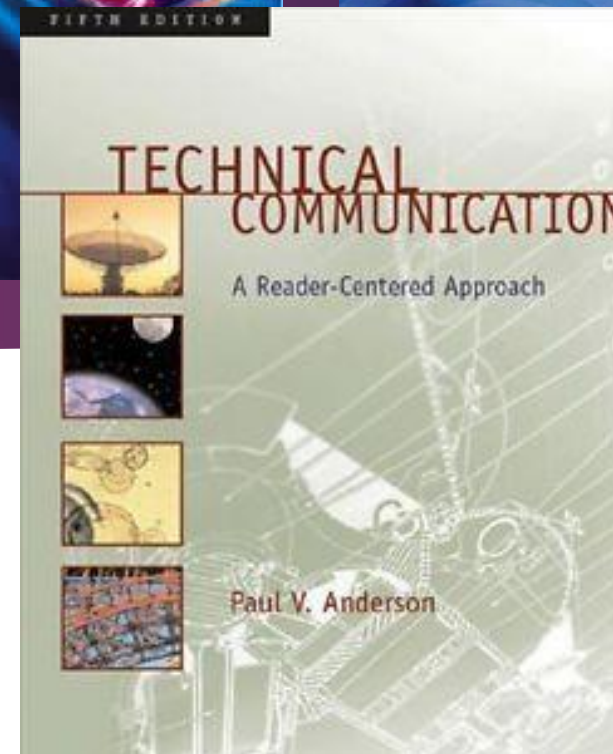
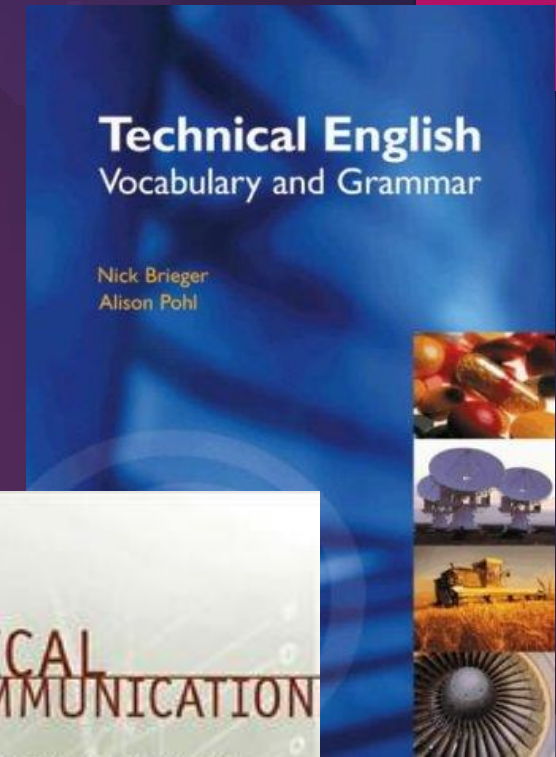
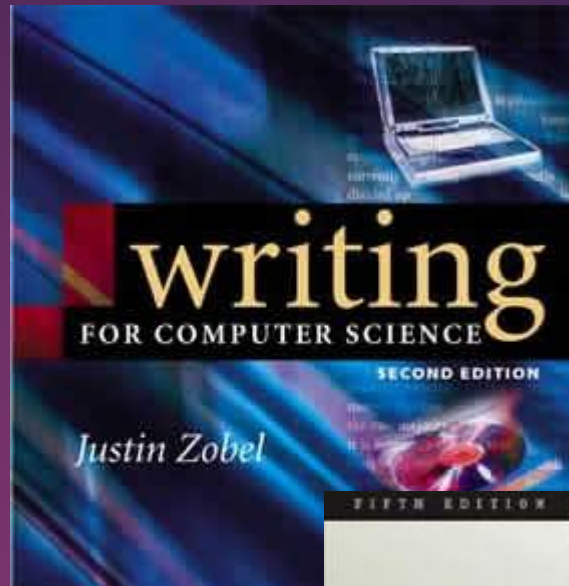
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Lessons learned

Collaborative process was flexible,
open to critique,
and welcomed change

Lessons learned

Books



Finished Product



- ▶ Students walked away with a portfolio, including:
 - ▶ 3 ring binder that included final products of all assignments
 - ▶ A CD of their final presentation
 - ▶ Certificate of completion