This graduate seminar is designed to provide an overview of the kinds of thinking and work that technical communicators (TCs) typically do, including the following:

- The rhetorical foundations and rhetorical universe of TCs. How is TC unique? How does it remain relevant?
- The kinds of problems that professional and technical communicators (TCs) typically or atypically resolve. Why is resolving these problems key to the work of TCs? How can resolving these problems become a way for TCs to demonstrate their value?
- Typical stages of the composing process for TCs, including research, analysis, planning, problem solving, drafting, evaluation, and revision. How are these processes key to the success of TCs? What are some of the challenges and rewards of this kind of work? What do writing specialists need to learn, understand, and do in order to be successful with any particular documentation project?
- Select genres that TCs do routinely or atypically as part of their job. What are some challenges and opportunities associated with creating successful professional and technical communication?

I will soon order 2-3 required texts. One of these will be the following anthology: *Solving Problems in Technical Communication*. Edited by Johndan Johnson-Eilola and Stuart A. Selber. The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Assignments in this seminar will likely include these:

- Weekly class discussions (in the Discussion Forum) centering on a single question (prompt) that encourages critical and creative thinking based on assigned readings; these will alternate with one-page written responses by individuals that offer original insights to issues/problems in the field (20%)
- Collaborative research about one problem in the field, culminating in an online PowerPoint presentation and report to the class. Select student responses to each project. (20%)
- Individual completion of 4-5 common genres of TC; each “practice” assignment will likely include an initial draft, some form of evaluation, and a final draft, along with a “project analysis” (30%)
- Individual argument concerning one issue or challenge in the field, culminating in a draft of a journal article aimed at an academic and/or practitioner audience (30%).