	Technical English A
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	2009		
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	1-302		

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The goal of Technical English A/B is to prepare students for the international research environment by helping them improve their written and spoken technical English.

In the written English section of Technical English A, students are taught to write journal manuscripts which are clear and easily understood by the scientific community. The emphasis is on document structure, appropriate vocabulary, and correction of sentence-level problems. In the spoken English section, presentation structure and word pronunciation are taught. Class projects will be assigned; most students will use their graduate research as a basis. Feedback is given from both the instructor and from class peers.

No specific previous course are required.

Students must be currently conducting research, and intend to write about it in English. Most students taking the course intend to submit a paper to a journal or conference. Students must have enough English skill to prepare a manuscript on their own.

Technical English A is not a requirement for Technical English B.

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No required texts.

Recommended texts:

The Elements of Style. William Strunk and E. B. White.

Writing for Computer Science, Second Edition. Justin Zobel, 2005, Springer.

Oxford Guide to Plain English. Martin Cutts.

About 80% of the course is on writing, about 20% on making oral presentations. Both Technical English A and B will cover many of the following points.

    The standard Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion (IMRAD) format of academic writing is reviewed.
    Improve basic writing skills by focusing on these points within the area of technical writing.
    Prepare for making oral presentations at conferences.
    Preparation of visuals, such as graphs of numerical results, is considered.

Students are expected to participate in discussions, and ask questions during class. For the in-class presentations, if students do not have their own laptop computer, then one will be provided.

Students are given frequent writing assignments, and the opportunity to improve and revise their work, done outside of class. Students will make oral presentations during the semester, to be prepared using software such as PowerPoint outside of class.

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Written assignments: 50%
Final report: 20%
Final oral presentation: 10%
Oral participation: 10%
Attendance: 10%

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West 1, Room 302. Monday, 14:40 to 16:10. Or email for an appointment.

This class is run like a workshop.   The students must frequently submit writing.   So the students' work is used for discussion and teaching examples in class.   In this way, students can get feedback on their writing, while the other students can hear about common mistakes and how to correct them.