

English 7/8890: “Communicating in Crisis: Technical Writing in Science and Medicine”

In a world dealing with the ongoing repercussions of COVID-19 and the effects of climate change, there are pressing questions about effectively and ethically communicating about public health and science. Scientific and medical information must be clearly portrayed to a variety of public audiences with different perspectives, experiences, and feelings about such topics. In this class, we'll study interdisciplinary theories and create practical projects addressing the complexities that arise when writing about topics that can have life or death consequences. We will ask questions such as: What does effective scientific and medical communication look like in a global information economy? How can we reimagine the binaries between “expert” and “nonexpert”? How can we enact socially just technical communication in science and medicine?