

ENGL 651: STUDIES IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING

ACCESSIBLE USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN



A banner for Disability Studies from Stockton University. Features, from left to right, the International Symbol of Access, a pair of hands symbolizing sign language, a figure with a cane symbolizing blindness, and a symbol of a human brain representing neurodiversity.

This course introduces User Experience Design (UXD) in the context of Technical and Professional Writing (TPW). At the heart of any UXD is an understanding of the needs of an audience; it's important to realize that different users interact with things differently.

Drawing on intersectional work from the field of Disability Studies, our readings and coursework will emphasize accessibility in designing TPW documents for online and print. We will be working with websites, digital images, PDFs, audio and video recordings, and as well as the online platforms through which such media circulates.

A core practice in this course will be Usability Testing (UT)—collecting feedback from users of our documents as an integrated part of the development process. UT for TPW is a highly marketable skillset with applications in organizations of any size and in nearly any field; it is also an area that demands to be understood through a Disability Studies frame.

Class meetings will heavily feature discussions of assigned readings, and projects will be geared towards practical intervention in problems facing people with disabilities.