

Teaching Philosophy Statement

Dr. Craig M. Baehr

My teaching is informed by a balance of both theory and practice, underscoring the importance role technology plays in technical communication. My ten years of industry experience as a technical communicator and Web developer has helped me develop practical components and a working context for many of the courses I teach. I strive to maintain up-to-date knowledge on topics, technologies, and trends in my field, to best prepare my students for their future careers. Additionally, the increasing production of online publications and growing need for online instruction inform my instructional methods and goal to help prepare students for their work as scholars, teachers, and practicing professionals.

While at Texas Tech University, I have taught both onsite and online courses integrating the use of online resources, communication technologies, research methods, and Web-based instructional materials to supplement my course curricula. In developing course assignments, I encourage students to take a creative problem solving approach to completing their coursework. My course curriculum integrates a combination of course Web sites, student portfolios, texts, and communication tools with the goal of exposing students to wider range of perspectives. While exposing them to new tools and methods, I encourage them to select those which they are most proficient and find most useful for the task at hand. At the end of each semester, I participate in discussions and share teaching methods, best practices, and lessons learned with fellow instructors, both formally and informally.

In teaching, I use both traditional and contemporary theoretical texts on subjects and encourage a discussion-centered approach to help students apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate material. I also encourage interdisciplinary connections between theories in technical communication and other related fields. I actively explore connections between my teaching and research, and integrate my findings into appropriate courses, assignments, materials, publications, and lectures. I also emphasize important rhetorical and usability concerns, including the visual and spatial aspects in the development of documentation and design projects.