

**RESEARCH METHODS AND TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION (1 CREDIT)**  
**CHEN 5838 (Section 001)**  
**Fall 2025**  
**Course Syllabus**

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**Instructor:**

Instructor: Prof. Tim White  
 Office: JSCBB E1B38  
 E-mail: [timothy.j.white@colorado.edu](mailto:timothy.j.white@colorado.edu) (preferred)

**Class Times and Information:**

Lecture: Friday 11:45-12:35 PM  
 Location: JSCBB (BIOT) A104  
 Course Website: Canvas (<https://canvas.colorado.edu/>)

**Duration:**

August 22, 2025 to November 23, 2025 (due to Fall Break/Reading Day)

**Lecture Format:**

Lecture will be delivered in person.

If you happen to miss lecture, you can view a recording via Classroom Capture. The link to Classroom Capture will be provided on Canvas. All lectures will be recorded and available for students participating remotely or unable to attend class. I will endeavor to assure that the A/V will work properly; however I cannot guarantee this. Generally, presentation materials will be made available in advance of lecture when possible.

Lecture materials will be uploaded to Canvas in the Files tab in the “Lectures” folder.

**Lecture Topics (Tentative):**

<b>Fall 2025</b>		<i>CHEN 5838:001; Research Methods and Technical Communication</i>	
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	
1 Friday	22-Aug-25	What is the value of research?	
2 Friday	29-Aug-25	How does research contribute to technology maturation?	
3 Friday	5-Sep-25	Research methods, data analysis, interpretation, and statistics	
4 Friday	12-Sep-25	Tech communication I01	
5 Friday	19-Sep-25	Using literature review to build a narrative	
6 Friday	26-Sep-25	Publications + writing	
7 Friday	3-Oct-25	Persuasion + graphics	
8 Friday	10-Oct-25	Scientific Integrity and Ethics/Discussion I	
9 Friday	17-Oct-25	Lightning Presentation Exercise - 3 min Pitches	
10 Friday	24-Oct-25	Role of AI In Scientific Research/Discussion II	
11 Friday	31-Oct-25	Presentations	
12 Friday	7-Nov-25	Presentations II	
13 Friday	14-Nov-25	Presentation Exercise - I	
14 Friday	21-Nov-25	Presentation Exercise - II	
<b>N/A Friday</b>	28-Nov-25	No Class - Fall Break	
<b>N/A Friday</b>	5-Dec-25	No Class - Reading Day	

**Communication and Announcements:**

Class announcements (cancellations, schedule changes, reminders) will be made through Canvas notifications and email announcements. Please ensure you monitor your CU email address for updates and notifications (or redirect to another address).

**Office Hours:**

I will not hold formal office hours. However, I am happy to meet with you as needed – please talk to me before/after class or arrange a meeting via email.

**A Note on the Course Schedule:**

An Excel version of the class schedule can be found on the “Home” page on Canvas. This schedule is tentative and subject to change over the course of the semester. Any changes (and the implications of these changes on the rest of the schedule) will be announced. The class schedule will be updated on the Canvas landing page.

**Prerequisites:**

None.

**Textbook:**

There is no textbook.

I will cite sources in the lecture slides.

**Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:**

The breakdown of course grades is as follows:

Reflection	15%
Lightning Presentation	20%
Paper Analysis	20%
Discussion Facilitation	20%
Presentation	25%

**Course Policies:**

All assignment submissions should be original. Generally, late assignments will not be accepted. If you are ill and unable to submit an assignment, this should be communicated in advance of the submission deadline when possible. In the case of travel, the student should submit assigned work *in advance* of the due date.

**Any instances of plagiarism or cheating will be taken extremely seriously and will result in 0 for the assignment and potentially the course.**

**Educational Goal:**

The goal of this class is to acquaint graduate and undergraduate students to research, introduce them to methodologies, and survey best practices in technical communication.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Classify research as fundamental, applied, or developmental
- Identify and communicate sound hypotheses and research questions
- Become acquainted with scientific publishing
- Introduction to best practices in technical communication

**My Teaching Style:**

My atypical journey to this role informs my (atypical) teaching style. I like to use humor. I tell stories primarily from my own experience but sometimes others. I utilize multi-media to visualize content.

***University Policies – Required Syllabus Statements*****Classroom Behavior**

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the classroom behavior policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

**Honor Code**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part of adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution and will be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit Honor Code for more information on the academic integrity policy.

**Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website. If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website.

**Preferred Student Names and Pronouns**

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information does not always align with how they identify. If you wish to have your preferred name (rather than your legal name) and/or your preferred pronouns appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, visit the Registrar's website for instructions on how to change your personal information in university systems.

**Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination and harassment, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of any issues related to these policies regardless of when or where they occurred to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and resolution options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

**Religious Holidays**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, **please consult with Prof. White via email and if necessary, an in person or virtual discussion.**

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

**Mental Health and Wellness**

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#), located in C4C, or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

**Acceptable Use of AI in This Class**

I have no firm guidance or restriction for this class. I just ask that if you used AI to assist you – tell me how it benefited you and explain why you used it.