

Writing and Speaking with Style

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This is the course webpage for CIS8100, a semester-long course on technical writing and speaking for PhD students in engineering and the sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, with most examples drawn from computer science.

Resources

- [Semester schedule](#)
- [Lecture slides](#)
- Some [materials](#) for in-class discussions
- A compendium of “[beautiful papers](#)” from across computer science

Sharing

You are welcome to use, copy, and modify these materials in whatever way you wish (attribution is appreciated, of course). You can make yourself a local copy by cloning this [Google Drive folder](#).

We’ve collected some [notes for instructors](#) that may be useful if you are interested in putting on a similar course.

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, or variants of the material that you’d like to tell us about, we’d love to hear from you! Our email addresses are easy to find. :-)

Credits

The course was created by [Benjamin C. Pierce](#) and [Rajeev Alur](#) in Spring of 2021 and further developed by Benjamin in 2022 and 2023 offerings. [Harry Goldstein](#), [Tom Z. Jiahao](#), and [Joe Cutler](#) helped improve it.

The original inspiration for the course came from Norman Ramsey’s wonderful report on [Teaching Technical Writing Using the Engineering Method](#). Much of the content is drawn from two wonderful books, Stephen Pinker’s [The Sense of Style](#) and Joseph Williams’s [Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace](#).