

ENGL 406

XML for Professional Communicators

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Course description: eXtensible Markup Language (XML) underpins most modern document encoding. This course offers a brief history of markup and of markup languages; an introduction to the development, principles, and applications of XML syntax; an overview of common XML encoding languages and environments where they are used; and an in-depth look at the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI-XML), XML metadata models (e.g., MARC-XML), and selected XML schemas used by the BC Government. You will learn to model content, read encoding guidelines, parse and customize schemas, write documentation, capture and update metadata, process XML datasets, and edit XML documents. The course will not teach website design, but will make you aware of the tools and technologies required to publish XML datasets on the web and convert XML-tagged content into HTML webpages (including XSLT and CSS). Classes combine instruction, demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on encoding practice. Visiting speakers from professional workplaces will share their experience with you.

Proposed assignments:

- 10% Five in-class quizzes
- 10% Correcting and validating an XML document using a defined schema
- 15% Encoding exercise
- 20% Content modelling / needs analysis
- 45% Project. You will have an opportunity to develop your own final projects. Possibilities include: developing and documenting a new XML language; modelling and marking up content using an existing XML language; and editing a literary or historical document in TEI-XML.

Proposed reading list:

- Morrissey, Sheila M. "More What You'd Call "Guidelines" Than Actual Rules': Variation in the Use of Standards."
- Selections from "Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fifth Edition). W3C Recommendation 26 November 2008."
- Text Encoding Initiative. *P5: Guidelines for Electronic Text Encoding and Interchange*.
- Walsh, John. "Comic Book Markup Language: An Introduction and Rationale."