

Course Journal

CS4900 -- Technology and Transformation

As part of the TT sequence (CS4900, 4901, 4902), we ask you to maintain a course journal. This is a notebook in which you record your impressions and reflections about class sessions, homeworks, or other related actions while they are still fresh. You can record

- what you learned
- what you expect from a decision
- moods
- new insights
- challenges faced
- breakdowns encountered
- new questions that came up for you

These notes do not need to be extensive, but they should be sufficient to help you recall your key experiences during the event.

A good example of a journal is the engineer's speckled notebook, recording key insights, discoveries, hypotheses, commitments, and events. Peter Drucker would also record key decisions you made and what the expected results will be; later you can compare the actual results with the expected.

You do not need to hand this in. We from time to time issue a "journal call" in which you show your journal to one of the instructors. This will verify for us that you are engaged in the journaling practice. At your request, we will be delighted to review it and give you feedback.

Keeping a journal is valuable professionally. We encourage you to continue this practice for your projects after you complete this sequence. Journal entries can help you reconstruct and date what happened at meetings and at other times during projects. They can help you detect patterns in your responses and learn from them. They can help you determine which kinds of decisions lead to the expected outcomes, and which do not.