

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall, 2018	COURSE NO: CMNS 112	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Communication Studies	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES None

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to foster a spirit of critical inquiry as to how communication and meaning-making processes relate to the structures and experience of everyday life. The course introduces students to problems, issues, and debates in media, communication technologies, communication systems, symbolic exchange, interpersonal and intercultural communication.

COURSE NOTE

CMNS 112 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Littlejohn, S. & Foss, K. (2011). *Theories of Human Communication*. 10th ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognise and define theoretical frameworks for understanding the social and cultural dimensions of communication
- Apply theoretical frameworks to a reflexive analysis of students' own communication practices
- Identify and describe broad traditions in communication theory
- Recognise the applicability of theoretical models for understanding phenomena pertinent to communication
- Apply theoretical frameworks for the analysis of communication phenomena
- Participate in discussion of issues in communication and communication theory

- Recognise and define applicable theoretical frameworks for understanding and conducting social interactions
- Recognise and define frameworks for understanding intercultural communication
- Recognise and define key frameworks for the analysis of the social and ethical dimensions of communication and media

Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society
- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change
- Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures

COURSE CONTENT

Date	Topic
Week 1	What is Communication Studies?
Week 2	Communication and culture
Week 3	The sociopsychological tradition 1: Communication & identity
Week 4	The sociopsychological tradition 2: Communication & interaction – self and other
Week 5	The sociopsychological tradition 3: Communication in relationships – the group as context of interaction
Week 6	The sociopsychological tradition 4: Media, self and society – communication & control
Week 7	Mid-term review & Exam
Week 8	The sociocultural tradition 1: Communication & identity – the self as significant symbol
Week 9	The sociocultural tradition 2: Communication & interaction – shared identities & ethics
Week 10	The sociocultural tradition 3: Communication in relationships – the politics of difference
Week 11	The sociocultural tradition 4: Media, & culture – media bias, monopolies of knowledge & media framing
Week 12	The semiotic tradition: structures of meaning-making & the politics of signification
Week 13	The critical tradition: communication, power & social justice
Week 14	Final exam period
Week 15	Final exam period

EVALUATION PROFILE

Assessment	% of Final Grade
5 min. in-class writing assignments (8 in total, top 5 count @ 4% each)	20%
Theory templates (5 @ 6% each)	30%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Participation & Professionalism	10%
Total	100%

5-minute in-class writing assignments

Throughout the semester, you will write 8 brief in-class assignments. The aim is to engage in you in processing information or making connections immediately to help contextualise and solidify your learning in class. For each assignment, you will choose one from among a set of three questions and write on it for 5 minutes. These questions will ask you to make a concrete connection – preferably through a concrete example – between the theories we’re discussing in class and your own experience, our local context in BC and/or the lower mainland, phenomena of contemporary relevance, or current world events. In the spirit of making communication theory practical, the goal of this assignment is both to familiarise you with applying theoretical frameworks in the development of deeper understanding, as well as to solidify your understanding of the theories themselves.

Theory templates

This assignment asks you to develop ten brief digests of some of the communication theories we will cover in class. These digests will include a summary of the theory and a glossary of key terms (1 page), presentation of an analysis of a concrete example that shows how the theory works to produce an understanding of something (1 page), a discussion of some of the limitations of blindspots of the theory (1/2 page) and a bibliography of sources you used to learn more about the theory (minimum of 3 sources beyond the course textbook). A key focus of your presentation of the theory – both in the summary, the analysis, and the limitations, is to consider the ethical and political questions around communication that will frame our discussions in class. How does the theory contribute to our understanding of or action on key social issues such as sustainability and environmental justice, support for democratic institutions or social structures, equality and social justice, truth and reconciliation with Canada’s First Nations, addressing the social, psychological and economic concerns produced in capitalist societies, and addressing imbalances and concentrations in wealth, power and privilege.

You will submit 2 templates 5 times over the course of the semester. Each template should be built around a particular communication theory. You are encouraged to focus on theories that we discuss in class, though if you wish to investigate a theory from the text that is not part of the curriculum you are welcome to do so.

Mid-term and final exams

The mid-term and final examinations for this course are identical in format, consisting of a number of short answer questions of different point-values (1, 2 and 3) in three sections. Questions ask you to represent your knowledge and understanding of particular aspects of the theories we cover in class (defining concepts, comparing and contrasting theoretical perspectives, addressing potentials and problems in the application of particular theories, and so on). Review questions will be posted one week in advance of the tests and students are encouraged to consult these in the production of their study materials.

Participation & professionalism

It is expected that you maintain regular attendance in class and that you take steps to ensure, as best you can, that you arrive prior to the start of classes to minimize disruption. If you must miss class for one reason or another, you should email your instructor in as timely a fashion as possible to notify them of your absence. Failure to do so in the context of an absence will result in a deduction (.5%) from your participation and professionalism grade.

While in class, it is requested that you give your attention to your instructor and classmates, participate in group exercises and discussion, and refrain from talk or activities that are disruptive to the course, including through the use of electronic devices (see under “Electronic Devices” below). Noticeable disruptiveness through either talk or use of electronic devices will also result in a deduction (.5% per incident) from your participation and professionalism grade.

It is also expected that your contributions to class be sensitive to a diverse student body, and that, in the spirit of the ethical, self-aware communication practices that we promote in this course and in the School of Communication, you speak and conduct yourself respectfully towards others in the classroom. Offensive talk or talk aimed at silencing, shaming, or otherwise disrespecting others will not be tolerated.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete “I” are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the time and on the date provided by the instructor. Late assignments will be accepted with a 1 point deduction from the total grade value of the assignment. Late assignments will not receive written feedback.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or Moodle; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <http://www.capilanou.ca/services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy S2017-05 for more information: <http://www.capilanou.ca/about/governance/policies/Policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the

original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including [B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy](#) and [B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure](#).

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.