



CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Summer 2023	COURSE NO: CMNS 412	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Special Topics in Communication Studies 1	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat), xʷmə ǀ θkʷəyəm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (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

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework, including 6 credits of 300-level or higher CMNS

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course will be offered to provide students with the opportunity to examine in depth some aspect of or specialised area of inquiry within the field of communication and media studies not otherwise covered by the core curriculum of the Capilano University School of Communication.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Specific texts, resources and technology will vary depending on term and instructor. The course may make use of an assigned textbook, instructor prepared courseware or readings made available as Open Educational Resources (OER).

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Write and speak conversantly on key issues, shaping influences, developments, challenges, public opinion and opportunities in the topic;
- Identify, assess, select and apply appropriate methodologies, theoretical approaches, standards of professional practice, and critical frameworks for the creation, development and completion of original written and project-based work in the area of communication studies designated by the special topic;

- Adapt, assess and apply knowledge and skills relevant to the special topic in the completion of research-based and project-based work;
- Advocate for different perspectives and positions on the special topic based on differences in culture, race, gender, sexuality, ability, age and other identity categories;
- Apply principles of strategic communication to the development of project- and research-based work in the special topic, including considerations of audience, messaging, purpose and context.

COURSE CONTENT

As a special topics course, course content will vary from offering to offering.

Date	Topic
Weeks 1-3	Orientation can include mapping of the domain of the special topic in terms of issues, research perspectives, theoretical models, critical interpretations, professional practices, historical development or other introductory matter related to the special topic
Weeks 4-7	Exploration can include focus on specific aspects of the special topic in depth – including a combination of lecture, student-led case study, class discussion, site visits/field trips and expert guest speakers relevant to the special topic
Weeks 8-13	Application can include focusing of and substantive support for student projects (group and/or individual) around a specific aspect of the special topic
Weeks 14-15	Final Exam Period

EVALUATION PROFILE

Assessment	% of Final Grade
Individual written work	20-50%
Individual project-work & presentation	20-50%
Group project & presentation	20-50%
Participation & Professionalism	0-10%
Total	100%

NB: no assignment will be given a value of more than 35% - the percentages above, where they are greater than 35, imply that multiple assignments valued together at the higher total, are possible.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

The assignments and assignment structure for this course will be determined by the instructor offering it and will be in accordance with the learning outcomes listed above. Please refer to the particular course syllabus for a more detailed breakdown.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Written and oral assignments and project work in this course will develop students' knowledge, competencies and/or skills in a specific area of communication studies.

Participation & Professionalism Participation grades are based on the consistency, quality and frequency of students' contributions to class discussion and coursework. Consistency means attending every class, maintaining a positive and respectful demeanour in the classroom, and

actively contributing to class discussions on a regular basis. Quality means demonstrating respect for peers and their contributions; listening attentively during lectures and when others are speaking; and participating in classroom activities with an open mind.

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 on the dates listed on the course syllabus. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor.

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 activities (live small group discussion, e.g.) may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities. However, if you are ill or caring for someone who is ill and/or need to self-isolate, please contact your instructor.

English Usage

Students are encouraged to proofread all work carefully. Instructor may deduct marks for persistent stylistic, grammatical, spelling or syntactical errors.

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 eLearn; 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: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

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 and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information:

<https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/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 (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

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