



# CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

| COURSE OUTLINE   |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>TERM:</b> Summer 2024                                     | <b>COURSE NO:</b> CMNS 430                         |                     |
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>   | <b>COURSE TITLE:</b> Civil Discourse and Democracy |                     |
| <b>OFFICE:</b> <b>LOCAL:</b><br><b>E-MAIL:</b> @capilanou.ca | <b>SECTION NO(S):</b>                              | <b>CREDITS:</b> 3.0 |
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>   |  |                     |
| <b>COURSE WEBSITE:</b>                                       |  |                     |

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Líl'wat7úl (Lil'wat), x̣ṃəθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Ṣḳẉx̣ẉú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-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

## **CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

This course helps student develop the skills necessary to engage in productive, respectful dialogues on political, social, and religious issues to promote a greater understanding and freedom of expression. Students will study democracy in the context of free speech versus hate speech through conducting content and discourse analyses of a selection of debates on local, national, and international issues, with emphasis on topics relating to colonization, climate change, religious freedoms, and gender identity.

## **COURSE NOTE**

CMNS 430 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES**

There is no required textbook for this course. A selection of relevant articles, videos of civil debates and main concepts, and reliable resources are posted on eLearn.

**COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. create coded transcripts to conduct content and discourse analysis of verbal texts, especially debates, to assess values, relevance, assumptions, and rhetorical argumentation;
2. identify the difference between free speech, hate speech and assumptions;
3. develop ethical arguments about the issues in the debates chosen for analysis;
4. research and support arguments through reliable, relevant, and recent sources and researched facts;
5. demonstrate new learning and personal growth, using theoretical approaches and critical frameworks, such as the Dialectic Theory and Dual Process Theory, among others;
6. understand different perspectives and positions based on differences in culture, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, age and other identity categories;
7. apply principles from the course and civil discourse skills in their personal interactions, at work and online to argue and defend ideas respectfully.

**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.
- Apply concepts of sustainable development to address sustainability challenges in a global context.
- Analyze the impact of colonialism and racism on Indigenous peoples.
- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.

**COURSE CONTENT**

| Weeks | Themes   |
|-------|--|
| 1     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course introduction</li> <li>• What is democracy? What is civil discourse?</li> </ul>   |
| 2     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bases of disagreement: differences in values, information, or interpretation.</li> <li>• Free speech vs hate speech.</li> </ul>                       |
| 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual process theory: implicit (automatic/unconscious) vs explicit. (controlled/conscious) processes.</li> <li>• Biases, thoughts, and actions.</li> </ul> |
| 4     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dialectic theory. Examples of constructive disagreement.</li> </ul>   |
| 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing lines of inquiry for an observational study of civil discourse.</li> <li>• Debates analysis.</li> </ul>  |
| 6     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions of observational studies and debates analysis continue.</li> </ul>  |
| 7     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil debate analysis assignment preparations: Discourse and content analysis.</li> </ul>   |

|       |   |
|-------|---|
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group debates assignment preparations.</li> </ul>  |
| 8     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-class sharing of the civil debates the groups choose to study and the agreed codebook to be used by each member on their individual sections of the debate.</li> <li>In-class sharing of the topics and rationale of the group debates assignment.</li> </ul> |
| 9     | In-class sharing continue and content and discourse analysis discussions of debates.  |
| 10    | Class debates preparation on chosen topics.   |
| 11    | Debates on chosen topics.   |
| 12    | Debates on chosen topics.   |
| 13    | Debates on chosen topics.   |
| 14/15 | Final Exam Period: There is no final exam for this course.  |

**EVALUATION PROFILE**

| Assessment                       | % of Final Grade |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Individual Journals 6 X 5%       | 30%              |
| Group Debate                     | 25%              |
| Codebook and Coded Transcripts   | 35%              |
| *Participation & Professionalism | 10%              |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>100%</b>      |

\*The Participation and Professionalism grade includes punctuality, active engagement in class, regular attendance, respectful peer support, accepting and offering constructive peer feedback, and overall professionalism. Students are expected to work calmly and courteously and meet deadlines.

**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. Accommodation can be made to honor community needs and traditional practices.

**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-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 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.