



COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2026	COURSE NO: CMNS 462	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Advanced Communication Research Practice 1	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 1.5
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University is named after Chief Joe Capilano (1854–1910), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time per week for a 7-week duration, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

60 credits of 100-level or higher coursework and CMNS 261, CMNS 262, and CMNS 360

CO-REQUISITE

CMNS 463

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course supports students in research methodology and design processes in preparation for the completion of a graduating project in CMNS 499. The course will guide students in appropriate research methodology and design, ethical review, and the initial stages of topic definition, literature review and proposal development.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Specific texts, resources and technology may vary depending on the 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:

- Apply and reflect upon various communication research traditions.
- Select a preferred area of interest and situate this interest within the field of communication and media studies.
- Identify and assess ethical implications of knowledge and power in the conduct of research in communication and media studies.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS/ACTIVITIES
1	Introduction-Review. Re-engage with conceptions of Decolonizing Research	
2	Finding and Developing Research Questions. Review Methods (Quant-questionnaires, content analysis)	<i>Ethics application & Faculty presentations</i>
3	Refining questions and curating literature. Review Methods (Interviews, Focus Groups, Case Studies)	
4	Distilling research questions: Review Methods (PAR, discourse analysis, phenomenology)	
5	Analysis and Inquiry. Review of methods (Narrative Inquiry, Autoethnography, Metissage, Indigenous Methodologies)	
6	Ethical protocols in communication research	<i>Ethical protocols assignment</i>
7	Refining and Expanding	<i>Annotated Bibliography</i>

EVALUATION PROFILE

Assignments		%
Initial proposal	Students will submit a written document or video addressing the focus of your proposed research.	5%
In-class assignments	Students will engage in a case study to further their understanding of the variety of methods that could be possible to address their curiosity about a topic.	25%
Ethics protocol assignment	Students will examine the ethical implications of their research. This includes, where applicable, a Research Ethics application and/or a thorough look at the chosen literature and plan of analysis to address any bias or ethical implications.	15%
Supervisor proposal	Students will summarize their proposed area of research in a short document to educate potential supervisors of their proposed plan.	15%

Annotated bibliography	A focused collection of academic literature relating to your topic. To be collected, curated and summarized and a starting point for their inquiry.	25%
Professionalism & Participation	This includes engaging in thoughtful and collegial discussions in class, arriving on time, refraining from using electronic devices unless instructed to do so, and submitting assignments on time in APA format. Students with exceptional circumstances or documentation from Accessibility Services will be accommodated accordingly.	15%
Total		100%

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 beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

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.

Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices.

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 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 Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence 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.