COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2026	**COURSE NO: ESD 002**	
INSTRUCTOR:	**COURSE TITLE: Communication and Self Advocacy Skills**	
OFFICE: **LOCAL:** **E-MAIL:** @capilanou.ca	**SECTION NO(S):**	**CREDITS: 3**
OFFICE HOURS: TBD		
COURSE WEBSITE: TBD		

Capilano University respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

COURSE FORMAT
Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a total of 60 contact hours spread out over 30 weeks.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES
None

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
This course will build on foundational social skills with an emphasis on the communication skills needed at work. Through role-play and presentations, students will practice being self-advocates and communicating well with colleagues, supervisors and customers in the workplace. Content will include developing an awareness of group dynamics, understanding context and social cues and increased verbal and non-verbal skills. Emphasis will be on gaining confidence and skill in written and oral communication in an employment context.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES
Instructor will provide course package.

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

- Demonstrate greater awareness of group dynamics and social cues
- Identify the difference between friends and colleagues
- Know when to speak, listen and pause in conversations with coworkers and supervisors
- Develop conflict resolution skills
- Develop active listening skills

- Demonstrate increased confidence in communication at work
- Demonstrate increased self awareness and advocacy skills
- Introduction to customer service skills
- Introduction to oral presentation skills

COURSE CONTENT

Unit	***Topic***
Unit 1	*Course introduction: what are your personal communication strengths?*
Unit 2	*Self assessment of social skills and communication skills*
Unit 3	*The Basics: open vs closed questions, I statements, assertive communication*
Unit 4	*Social skills vs communication skills in the workplace*
Unit 5	*Understanding body language and social cues*
Unit 6	*Knowing when to speak, listen and pause*
Unit 7	*Teamwork and Collaboration*
Unit 8	*Healthy Relationships with friends and colleagues*
Unit 9	*Self-awareness - Don't take it personally!*
Unit 10	*Self-Advocacy skills: advocating with employers*
Unit 11	*Conflict resolution skills*
Unit 12	*Professional communication skills; introduction to customer service skills*
Unit 13	*Final project introduction and preparation – presenting information to a group*
Unit 14	*Final project preparation*
Unit 15	*Final project presentation to class: workplace role plays*

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Assessment Component	***Weight***
Class Participation* & engagement	20%
Weekly classroom activities	20%
Role play 'communication at work' assignments	15%
Weekly check-ins with instructor (emails, accessing office hours)	15%
Final project presentation	30%

***Participation**

Participation is an essential component of learning in this course and is assessed through the following indicators of student engagement:

- Active engagement: Students are expected to contribute to the best of their abilities through assigned interactive activities such as discussions, group problem-solving, and reflection tasks on a regular basis throughout the course.
- Preparedness: Students are expected to arrive with the required materials (e.g., pens, binder, and laptop if needed) and be ready to participate fully in class activities.

- Collaboration: Students are expected to participate respectfully in group work, demonstrating cooperation, shared responsibility, and meaningful contribution to group outcomes.
- Professional conduct: Students are expected to demonstrate respectful communication, appropriate classroom behaviour, and adherence to agreed-upon classroom guidelines.

Participation reflects the quality and consistency of a student's engagement in the learning process and their contribution to a positive and productive classroom environment.

Credit (Pass): 60% minimum achievement

GRADING PROFILE:

Credit/No Credit

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.
*** Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to student success in this course. Students are expected to attend a minimum of 85% of scheduled classes and arrive on time. Attendance will be recorded for each class session. Consistent attendance is important as many course activities involve experiential, collaborative, and interactive learning that cannot be fully replicated outside of class time.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors using the supports available (spell check, instructor's input etc.). Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments if student does not make changes to spelling and grammar suggested by instructor.

Electronic Devices
Human connection and participation are important in this program and none of us can learn without you. Please place your device(s) out of sight and on mute during class time. You may use laptops, phones or tablets in class to consult online readings, take pictures of slides or to take notes with permission. Use of interactive technology is allowed only when it is required for the assignment or as part of the student's accommodation needs. Photos or videos may not be taken in class without the prior permission of all involved. Personal use is only allowed during a break; any other use of these devices and the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade.

Online 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. Important information may be copied to personal advocates.

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 Safe Alert 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.

DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM OPERATIONAL DETAILS

The instructors strive to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment that celebrates the diversity of race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion, age, political background, and physical and learning ability. They value the perspectives of students of all backgrounds and encourage an open dialogue.

In addition, the instructors support a wide range of learning differences in the classroom and do their best to remove barriers to allow students to participate as fully as they can. If you require any accommodations that are not already provided, or have questions regarding this course, please discuss these in private during your instructor's office hours.

Human Rights, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (B.512)

Capilano University's values are diversity, the individuality of learners, open engagement with ideas, respectful engagement with each other, personal accountability of integrity and success, and transparency and an ethic of fairness. These values and the University's mission and vision require an active commitment to human rights, diversity, inclusion and equity. The University is committed to providing a respectful learning and working environment that allows for full and free participation of all members of the University community. This policy is intended to reaffirm the University's dedication to fostering an inclusive environment which is supportive of fair and equitable treatment of all members within its diverse community, no matter their social identity.