1.0 Course Description

Powerful texts such as influential news stories, government policies and legal decisions help shape our lives. Using concepts from critical discourse analysis, this course introduces students to the basic analytical vocabulary and tools to understand ways that powerful texts work. Students will learn to identify the linguistic techniques that characterize the important documents that affect our social worlds. They will have opportunities to respond to these texts. **Lecture: 3 hours.**

**Prerequisite:** Only available to Professional Communication and Creative Industries

2.0 Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- To understand the way communication functions in the construction and maintenance of power relations
- To acquire a working knowledge of functional grammar
- To demonstrate an ability to conduct a critical discourse analysis

3.0 Topics Covered

3.1 Critical discourse analysis
   - 3.1.1 Discourse as social practice
   - 3.1.2 Hegemony, ideology and resistance
   - 3.1.3 Register and genre

3.2 Functional grammar
   - 3.2.1 Nominalization, passive and active voice
   - 3.2.2 Humor and irony
   - 3.2.3 Metaphor and euphemism

3.3 Forms of discourse
   - 3.3.1 Institutional
   - 3.3.2 Legal
   - 3.3.3 Advertising
   - 3.3.4 Political
4.0 Teaching Method

4.1 Lectures and workshops
Teaching will be conducted by interactive lectures, case studies, and in-class and online activities.

4.2 Graded assignments
Evaluation will include a short written essay, midterm test, group project (which may include an oral component), and a final exam.

5.0 Course Materials


Additional material (readings/podcasts/websites) will be assigned and available mostly online.

6.0 Course Policies

6.1 Students must adhere to university policies; see http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies. The most relevant policies are the following:
- Policy #46 Policy on Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing ("GPA Policy")
- Policy #60 Academic Integrity
- Policy #61 Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct
- Policy #134 Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals
- Policy #135 Examination Policy
- Policy #145 Course Management Policy
- Policy #150 Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance
- Policy #157 Establishment and Use of Ryerson Student E-Mail Accounts For Official University Communication
- Policy #159 Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

6.2 Print and Digital Copying Guidelines

Ryerson University complies with Canada’s Copyright Act which protects both creators/owners and users of copyrighted materials. Students should familiarize themselves with Ryerson’s Copyright policies and procedures, and contact the Copyright and Scholarly Engagement Librarian at copyrt@ryerson.ca for questions, concerns and clarification of the copyright rules.

6.2 Turnitin.com
By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternative arrangements.

*Please note the following from Policy 145 Course Management Policy:*

**4.3.1.2 Even when an instructor has not indicated that a plagiarism detection service will be used, or when a student has opted out of the plagiarism detection service, if instructor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor is permitted to submit that work in a non-identifying way to any plagiarism detection service.**

**6.4 Electronic Communication**

Ryerson requires that any official or formal electronic communication from students be sent from their official Ryerson e-mail accounts.

**6.5 Video and Audio Recording**

No video or audio recording is permitted in class without the express permission of the instructor.

**7.0 Ryerson’s Learning Management System**

Ryerson University supports Brightspace by D2L as its official Learning Management System. University Policies governing Brightspace have been documented at the [Courses @ Ryerson Privacy and Security website](http://Courses.ryerson.ca/privacysecurity)