CMN 406
Communication in an Indigenous Context

1.0 Course Description

This course studies the nature and function of communication by, for, and about Indigenous peoples in both historical and contemporary settings. Students will take an expansive view of both text and textual analysis as they explore material culture (rock art, birchbark scrolls, wampum belts), historical documents and narratives (oral histories), policies and legal documents (treaties, statutes), and popular media representations. Indigenous theory will be the guiding framework for the course, but students will also be exposed to a range of other theoretical perspectives. Lab 3 hours

Prerequisite: CMN 200 or CMN 279

2.0 Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- To understand the ways in which communication has impacted Indigenous people on Turtle Island
- To analyze the ways in which Indigenous knowledge and worldview(s) differ from mainstream perceptions and knowledge systems
- To identify appropriate ways of engaging in conversations about Indigenous peoples and issues
- To situate contemporary communications by, for, and about Indigenous people within a larger historical context

3.0 Topics Covered

Students will explore themes relevant to Indigenous communication from the list below:

3.1 Indigenous thought and worldview(s)
3.2 Legal communication
3.3 Historical communication
3.4 Indigenous storytelling
3.5 Visual communication
4.0 Teaching Method

4.1 Lecture
Classes may consist of interactive lectures, guest speakers, and activities. Students will work both individually and in groups.

4.2 Graded Assignments
Evaluation will be based on a minimum of three assignments, which may include an essay, written responses, and professional communication products. Additional assignments may be added at the discretion of the instructor.

5.0 Course Materials

5.1 Textbook
Textbooks and/or readings will be assigned by the instructor and noted on the course syllabus. Some required readings will be available online and can be accessed through the course website.

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.
6.3 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 an 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 Email Communication

Ryerson requires that any official or formal email communication from students be sent from their official Ryerson electronic 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.