

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

**Note:** The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

<b>Course Code and Number:</b> CMNS 499		<b>Number of Credits:</b> 3 <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a>													
<b>Course Full Title:</b> Special Topics in Journalism Practice <b>Course Short Title:</b> Sp Topics in Journalism Pract															
<b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Humanities		<b>Department (or program if no department):</b> Communications													
<b>Calendar Description:</b> <p>Offers students the chance to explore elements of journalistic practice or particular types of beat reporting. Topics might include data journalism, broadcast journalism, photojournalism, reporting diversity, political reporting, or advocacy journalism.</p> <p>Note: This course will be offered under different letter designations (e.g. C-Z) representing different topics. This course may be repeated for credit provided the letter designation differs.</p>															
<b>Prerequisites (or NONE):</b>		60 university-level credits including CMNS 201 and CMNS 251.													
<b>Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>															
<b>Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>															
<b>Antirequisite Courses</b> <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: <b>NA</b> Cross-listed with: <b>None</b> Equivalent course(s): <b>None</b> <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		<b>Course Details</b> Special Topics course: <b>Yes</b> <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: <b>No</b> <i>(See <a href="#">policy 207</a> for more information.)</i> Grading System: <b>Letter grades</b> Delivery Mode: <b>May be offered in multiple delivery modes</b> Expected frequency: <b>Every other year</b> Maximum enrolment (for information only): <b>25</b>													
<b>Typical Structure of Instructional Hours</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tutorials/workshops</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total hours</b></td> <td><b>45</b></td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	25	Tutorials/workshops	20							<b>Total hours</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)</b> PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	25														
Tutorials/workshops	20														
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>45</b>														
<b>Scheduled Laboratory Hours</b> Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<b>Transfer Credit</b> <i>(See <a href="#">bctransferguide.ca</a>.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: <b>No</b> Submit outline for (re)articulation: <b>Yes</b> <i>(If yes, fill in <a href="#">transfer credit form</a>.)</i>													
<b>Department approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> February 4, 2022													
<b>Faculty Council approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> January 13, 2023													
<b>Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> March 24, 2023													

**Learning Outcomes** *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Engage in research and critical thinking specific to a topic.
2. Analyze a specific topic in relation to the field of journalism.
3. Discuss culturally responsive practices in reporting in and about diverse communities, including Indigenous communities.
4. Analyze target audiences.
5. Disseminate complex information effectively to allow diverse audiences to make informed decisions.
6. Apply ethical practices in the collection and presentation of journalistic reports.
7. Develop journalistic content specific to the topic, context, and audience.
8. Use professional communication skills including writing, design, and presentation in the production of journalistic pieces.

**Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting** *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	100%	%	%
	%	%	%

**Details:**

- Social media data assignment: 10%
- Spreadsheet assignment #1: 10%
- Spreadsheet assignment #2: 10%
- Telling a story with data #1: 25%
- Telling a story with data #2: 35%
- Final presentation: 10%

**NOTE:** The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

**Typical Instructional Methods** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

**Texts and Resource Materials** *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Younging, G.	Elements of Indigenous Style	2013 2018
2. Textbook	Vallance-Jones, F. & McKie, D.	The Data Journalist: Getting the Story	2016
3. Textbook	Houston, B.	Data for Journalists: A Practical Guide to Computer-Assisted Reporting	2018
4.			
5.			

**Required Additional Supplies and Materials** *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

**Course Content and Topics**

- What is data journalism and how has become a trending term in contemporary journalistic practice?
- How do you do data journalism?
- Data journalism resources
- Data journalism examples and best practices
- How to use data to write a more compelling, well-reported story
- From public records to tax records
- From data to lead
- Spreadsheets: sorting, means, and medians
- Principles of data visualisation
- Choosing the best graphic form