CMNS 490
Communications
Directed Studies in Communications

COURSE NAME/NUMBER
CMNS 490

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT
Communications

UCFV CREDITS
4

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
This course will provide students the opportunity to pursue in-depth independent study of a communications issue, theme, or problem. The completed project must display the student’s abilities as an effective writer, knowledge of audience, and thorough familiarity with the selected topic area.

PREREQUISITES:
60 university-level credits completed; at least 12 credits must be from CMNS, of which 9 credits must be 300-level or higher; and written permission of the instructor and the department.

COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces: NA
(b) Cross-listed with: NA
(c) Cannot take: NA

SERVICE COURSE TO: (department/program)
NA

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 75

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course:

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:
Lectures: 5 Hrs
Seminar: Hrs
Laboratory: Hrs
Field experience: Hrs
Student directed learning: 65 Hrs
Other (specify): consultation, interviews, and presentation of project: 5 Hrs

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment:

Expected frequency of course offerings:
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)
☐ Yes ☐ No

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)
☒ Yes ☐ No

TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:
☐ Yes ☐ No

Course designer(s): Raymond Welch

Department Head: Lynn Kirkland Harvey
Date approved: December 2009

Supporting area consultation (Pre-UPAC) Date of meeting: December 18, 2009

Curriculum Committee chair: John Carroll
Date approved: January 15, 2010

Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte
Date approved: January 15, 2010

Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UPAC) approval Date of meeting: February 26, 2010

CMNS 490: Directed Studies in Communications
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LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of a particular issue, problem, or topic in Communications.
2. Manage a project.
3. Produce effective extended print and electronic documents according to audience requirements.

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
1. At least six weeks prior to the beginning of the semester students must, in consultation with a faculty member from Communications and their discipline, develop a detailed project proposal indicating the rationale, readings, scope, objectives, and methods.
2. Faculty will conduct mentoring interviews to establish and guide student toward the achievement of project objective(s).
3. The student will undertake independent learning which may involve field work and may require approval of UFV Research Ethics Committee.
4. Faculty may conduct lectures/seminars on project planning and management, research methods and presentation of findings, including document design and oral briefing strategies.
5. Students will present their project findings to a panel of faculty.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
☐ Examination(s)  ☐ Portfolio assessment  ☐ Interview(s)
☐ Other (specify):
☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s): This is a process course where the students, through ongoing consultation with faculty, design and develop an independent project.

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:] Will vary according to project proposal.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:
Will vary according to project proposal.

STUDENT EVALUATION:
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:] 10% Interview participation and weekly discussion with faculty advisor 20% Short written assignments (periodic progress reports) 15% Presentation of findings (technical briefing to a panel of at least three faculty members, one of which might be from their discipline area 55% Final project

COURSE CONTENT:
[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:] Varies according to project proposed/approved. To be determined in consultation with faculty advisor.