

**Communication and Culture (CMCL) 509 S01
Research in Peer Mentoring and Higher Learning
Winter 2014
Thursdays 18:30-20:30**

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Office Hours: F 11:00-12:00

Course Description

CMCL 509 is an advanced course in peer mentoring focusing on researching peer mentoring programs at higher education institutes. This course also involves students in supporting peers with their learning processes using a facilitative, collaborative approach. Advanced peer mentors will have fewer hours of class time and approximately 50 hours per term allotted to service so that in addition to mentoring students in a host course, advanced mentors can assist new mentors to grow into their roles. Students will conduct their own textual and field research and present findings in a final class symposium at the end of the semester. The term project involves a small self-directed research project.

Additional Information

Registration is by application only. This course includes a 50-hour practicum as a peer mentor. Some class activities are performed outside of class hours in lieu of class time. Most of these activities are scheduled by students according to their availability. If you cannot attend a participation activity scheduled at a specific time outside of class, an appropriate make-up assignment will be designed for you. This course uses Blackboard to post ongoing announcements, grades, and course information.

Objectives of the Course

1. To either add a new part-time peer mentoring role as a mentor to new mentors in the program, OR to take on a significantly different mentoring role than in the previous term.
2. To learn new concepts and philosophies of higher education learning, leadership communication and innovation by completing a research project which contributes to the expansion and strength of peer mentoring programs and courses.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted in class for class use only and not for social networking.

Textbooks and Readings:

All readings will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Assignments and Evaluation

Reflections

Weight: 30% (6 at 5% each):

Due: throughout the semester approximately every two weeks

Length: 3-4 pages

Description: Reflection assignments will help students process and learn from their experience of mentoring. Each assignment should be one to two pages of thoughtful commentary on mentoring experience with students, faculty members, staff meetings in relation to the course material.

Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

Weight: 20%

Due Date: Thursday, February 27

Length: 5-7 pages

Description:

Students will submit a 5-7 page proposal detailing their proposed research project. The proposal must include an annotated bibliography of at least 10 scholarly sources, a list of possible survey or interview questions and a brief schedule of how they will proceed with their research project.

Interview

Weight: 10%

Due Date: Thursday, March 13

Length: 750-1000 words

Description

Students will submit 750-1000 word interview where they outline a faculty member's impressions and assumptions about peer mentors at the University of Calgary.

Final Research Report**Weight 30%****Due Date: Friday, April 11****Length: 20 pages**

Description

Students will submit a 20 page final report outlining their research findings. This report will be a synthesis of secondary research and primary data.

Final portfolio:**Weight: 10%****Due: Friday, April 11****Length: 30-60 pages of various documents (with a 2-3 page self analysis)**

Description

Students submit a 30-60 page portfolio comprising the past 2 semesters of the peer mentoring process. The final portfolio should contain all material produced during the Fall semester in CMCL 507, as well as the present semester of CMCL 509, including all submitted reflection pieces, interview assignment, proposal, annotated bibliography, the final report as well as any other documents deemed appropriate. A required self analysis of 2-3 pages will reflect on the two semesters of peer mentoring.

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site: <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be handed out in class.