

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media, and Film**

**Communication and Culture CMCL 509, S01**  
**Research in Peer Mentoring and Higher Learning**

**Winter 2015**

**Wed., Jan. 14 – Wed. April 15 (excluding Feb. 18)**

**W 17:00-19:45**

**Instructor:** Shane Halasz  
**Office:** SS 301  
**Office Phone:** N/A  
**E-Mail:** [sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sdhalasz@ucalgary.ca)  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**Office Hours:** TR 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

### **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 D2L 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 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.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

All readings will be posted on D2L throughout the semester.

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

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

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

### **Reflections Weight: 30% (6 at 5% each)**

**Due Dates: Wednesday, January 28; February 11; March 4, 18; April 1, 15**

**Length: 3-4 pages**

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

### **Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Weight: 20%**

**Due Date: Wednesday, March 4**

**Length: 5-7 pages**

Description: Students will submit a 5- to 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: Wednesday, March 18**

**Length: 750-1000 words**

Description: Students will submit a 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 17**

**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 Date: Friday, April 17**

**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.

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO**

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

**Submission of Assignments:** Please submit all assignments via the appropriate Drop Box on D2L.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

### **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.

### **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 14 days after the start of the course.

### **Writing Skills Statement**

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, 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. Sources used in 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 & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale**

Work in this course will be graded using percentage grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Department grade scale equivalents</b>	<b>Letter grade % equivalent for calculations</b>
<b>4.00</b>	Outstanding	<b>A+</b>	96 - 100%	98.0%
<b>4.00</b>	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	<b>A</b>	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
<b>3.70</b>		<b>A -</b>	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
<b>3.30</b>		<b>B+</b>	80 - 84.99%	82.5%

<b>3.00</b>	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	<b>B</b>	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
<b>2.70</b>		<b>B-</b>	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
<b>2.30</b>		<b>C+</b>	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
<b>2.00</b>	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	<b>C</b>	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
<b>1.70</b>		<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>		<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	00 - 49.99%	0%

### 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. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

### Academic Misconduct

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

### Research 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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

This course will require students to conduct primary research, which may include interviews, focus groups or anonymous surveys with participants who might include faculty, TAs, former mentees, etc. The Faculty Research Ethics Committee has granted course-based ethics approval for this class.

### Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:picarts@ucalgary.ca">picarts@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html">http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	<b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

### Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be posted on D2L by the beginning of term.