

## **Carthage College—Fall Term 2021**

### **CDM 4010: Senior Seminar for Communication Majors**

Instructor: Dr. Jon Bruning      Office: Lentz 416      Phone: 847-830-7557  
Office Hours: By appointment - M/W 9-5 via Google Meet + all class times in person (TR 12:30-2:10).

#### **Catalog Description**

This is a capstone course designed to provide students majoring in communication the opportunity to integrate and utilize the knowledge and skills they have acquired during their course of study. The course culminates in the completion and public presentation of a senior project or thesis. Prerequisite: Skills Assessment/Senior standing.

#### **The Goals of this Course**

To complete this course successfully, you need to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to integrate concepts, skills and methodologies of Communication Studies, especially those that you have acquired in your progression through the Carthage curriculum and the Communication major.
2. Design and complete a substantive senior thesis or project that demonstrates high scholarly standards, intellectual sophistication, and communicative competence, on a topic of cultural or social significance that is of interest to you.
3. Present and defend your thesis or project effectively to a public audience that includes Carthage students, professors and the community.

#### **What We Do in This Course and What Will Be Expected of You**

The course is designed to provide a coherent capstone experience for graduating seniors majoring in Communication. It provides feedback on professional job search materials, and culminates in the design, production, and public presentation of a significant thesis or project chosen in consultation with the instructor. The work in this course will be independent - we will only meet as a class at the beginning of the term, and then we'll have individual, project focused meetings throughout the term. All students must participate in the collaborative approach to scholarship, including meeting deadlines, attending scheduled meetings, and responding to feedback, in order to successfully pass the course.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Cover Letter/Resume – 25 points
  2. Thesis/Project Proposal - 2 pages + meeting – 25 points
  3. Annotated Bibliography – 6-8 preliminary sources – 25 points
  4. Senior Thesis – Topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.  
Drafts (+1 meeting required) 2 x 25 points each: 50 Points  
Final: 100 Points
  5. Presentation (required) - format to be determined - 25 points
- Total: 250 points

## **Course Grading**

Your grade in the class will be based on your percentage of the total points available (250). Completion of both drafts, the thesis, and the presentation, are required in order to pass the class. Anyone not completing these will fail, and will not earn a Communication major. All late work will be given a 10% penalty for each day it is late.

## **Thesis Specifications:**

A. Methods: The thesis should employ criticism, and only criticism, as a method of inquiry. No surveys or interviews can be employed without IRB approval.

B. Sources: The number of sources is less important than their diversity and quality. However, it is unlikely that a well-constructed and well-documented thesis could be based on fewer than 15-20 sources. Variety should be reflected in diverse sources such as academic and popular periodicals, websites, and books.

C. Format: The thesis should be double-spaced and printed in 12-point font (common), with one-inch margins. Consistent font and format should be used throughout the document. For citation of sources, you may use footnotes or parenthetical citation. Do not use endnotes. The thesis should be error free (spelling, punctuation, format) at the completion of the final draft.

D. Style: Choose either MLA or APA style, get a style guide, and follow it to the letter. If you do this early, you can save yourself time at the end in reformatting.

Consult the style guide on such matters as citation within the text, length of quotes that should be set apart, and formatting for the bibliography.

E. Length: Minimum text length for the body of the thesis is 20 pages. (Max. 40)

**Presentation:**

A public presentation of your thesis or project is required for fulfillment of the major. All CDM students must publicly present a thesis or project in order to pass Senior Seminar and receive a degree. Due to the pandemic, the traditional presentation may be modified - in past terms some combination of recorded presentations connected to a social media post was used to fulfill this requirement. A firm decision on the presentation format will be made by midterm.

**Collaborative Work and Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism, multiple submissions, or cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Penalties for violating the Honor Code may include failing the assignment or exam, failing the course, or expulsion from Carthage. If you have any questions whatsoever about the appropriate boundaries between collaborative work and academic dishonesty, or about the standards of adequate documentation when you use the language or ideas of others, please ask.

**Students With Disabilities**

If you have a disability or special need that affects your learning, please see me during the first week of class to discuss support and appropriate accommodations. You also need to provide documentation to Diane Schowalter in the Advising Center, Extension 5802 or email at [dschowalter1@carthage.edu](mailto:dschowalter1@carthage.edu)

**Health & Counseling**

The Health and Counseling Center (HCC) supports students by addressing physical, mental, and emotional well-being. All services are free and confidential and are available to currently enrolled, full-time undergraduate students. Health services include the assessment and treatment of minor illness and injury.

Diagnostic testing, complimentary over-the-counter medications, and referrals to off-campus providers are all available. Our licensed counselors help students with

challenges that can be resolved with short-term, solution-focused counseling. Some topics discussed during counseling include depression and anxiety, traumatic experiences, gender and sexuality, relationship concerns, stress management, and academic challenges. More details - including info about appointments - can be found at [carthage.edu/health-counseling](http://carthage.edu/health-counseling).

Uwill is a free teletherapy platform for Carthage students. Uwill connects students with licensed therapists from all 50 states. Support is available in a variety of formats -- video, chat, messaging, or phone. Counselors are available nights, weekends, and during holidays. Access is quick and easy: [app.uwill.com](http://app.uwill.com). Students receive free, immediate access to teletherapy through Uwill. It's private, secure & confidential.

#### HCC Hours and Location

TARC 2240 / 262-551-5710

M-F 8:30-4:00

Health Services (in-person): Call to schedule a same-day appointment; walk-ins accepted

Counseling Services (in-person): Call to schedule an appointment; walk-ins accepted M-F 11:30-1:00

\*Services, hours, and walk-in availability are subject to change

#### Additional Info

--Nurse Practitioner: Wednesdays 2pm-4pm (appointment required; NP services are provided by a third party and billed to student's insurance)

--HCC is a Title IX confidential resource for students.

Uwill: Free, immediate access to a therapist for Carthage students

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

Crisis Text Line: text HOME to 741741

Crisis Text Line for Students of Color: text STEVE to 741741

Trevor Lifeline (LGBTQ+): 1-866-488-7386

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522

## **Communication Senior Seminar - Schedule - Fall 2021**

### **September**

T7 - Intro to the class - syllabus, schedule, cover letters/resumes

R9 - Thesis Basics - **\*\*Cover Letters/Resumes Due\*\*** - before class

- Discuss topic selection, research methods, proposal format

T14 -- Research - Discuss sources, citation, annotated bib, writing center

R16 - **\*\*Proposal Due\*\*** - 5 PM - no meeting

T21 - Individual Meeting #1 - return/discuss Proposal

W22 - Individual Meeting #1 - return/discuss Proposal

R23 - Individual Meeting #1 - return/discuss Proposal

T30 - **\*\*Annotated Bibliography Due\*\*** - 5 PM

### **October**

R14 - **\*\*First Draft Due\*\*** - 5 PM - minimum 5 pages

T19 - Individual Meeting #2 - Discuss First Draft/Progress Report

W20 - Individual Meeting #2 - Discuss First Draft/Progress Report

R21 - Individual Meeting #2 - Discuss First Draft/Progress Report

### **November**

R11 - **\*\*Second Draft Due\*\*** - 5 PM - minimum 10 pages

T16 - Individual Meeting #3 (optional)

R18 - Individual Meeting #3 (optional)

W 24 - Su28 - Thanksgiving Break

T30 - Meet - Discuss presentations (in depth)

### **December**

M6 - Last day to submit drafts for feedback

T7/W8/R9 - Thesis Presentations

M13 -- **\*\*Final Thesis Due\*\*** 5 PM - - - - - Finals - 12/15-12/17 - No Final Exam