Fall Course - Fall 2018

“We are all related”: Exploring Indigenous-Settler Relations through Augmented Reality Storytelling (COMM 597)

An elective course originally developed for the Faculty of Education and Master of Arts in Communications and Technology (MACT) program

Course Description and Objectives

This COMM 597 special topics course combines emerging digital media and Indigenous storytelling as a means to explore principles and practices of community engagement. Focusing on settler-Indigenous relations, the course covers theoretical, conceptual and practical foundations of effective and respectful relationship-building. It prepares researchers and professionals for inter-cultural communication, using storytelling and digital media production as a means to draw out points of reflection, negotiation and dialogue. The course takes a dynamic, emergent approach to relationship-building that draws on insights from written and oral traditions, Indigenous (Saddle Lake Cree) protocols and OCAP™ principles of data stewardship. It also provides an introduction to Western approaches to partnership development, including mutually-beneficial project agreements, data stewardship, and guidelines for ethical research.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical, conceptual and practical foundations of respectful relationship-building.
- Review contexts of settler colonialism, Indigenous societies and treaty relationships.
- Demonstrate familiarity with diverse perspectives and explore how they inform – explicitly and implicitly – the design and practice of community engagement.
- Differentiate between diverse forms and processes of engagement used by different communities and reflect on how power dynamics shape relationship-building.
- Practice reflective relationship-building and ‘emergent’ approaches to project planning and research.
- Review key debates and ethical considerations in the field of settler-Indigenous relationship-building.
- Analyse and utilize both Western and Indigenous approaches to knowledge and data stewardship.
- Participate in Indigenous protocols of knowledge stewardship, including via field visits to Saddle Lake Cree Nation.
- Assess the value and role of digital media in relationship-building.
- Demonstrate applications of storytelling through emerging digital media, including Augmented Reality and place-based storytelling.
- Design and present an Augmented Reality story through a systematic planning process using collaborative project management.
- Practice written and oral presentation skills.
- Build and participate in a community of practice through ongoing course activities and discussions.
Delivery Format and Resources

This course will be delivered in a blended format:

- online asynchronous course work (readings, video clips, discussion forums etc)
- a series of teleconferences (one hour each)
- two required day-long field trips to Saddle Lake (Sept 10 and Oct 22)

Materials will include a textbook and readings package. Online articles and reference to relevant web sites will be provided. Pre-reading will be required.

For more information contact
(780) 492-1538 or mact@ualberta.ca

Enrollment is limited to 12. Early registration is suggested due to delivery format. Open to online registration via Beartracks. Priority to MACT and MACE students (course based and thesis). Open to all Graduate students starting August 1.