

## **Inquiry and Communication: Language Matters (ARTS 130 SEM 004)**

**St. Jerome's University**

**Syllabus**

**Fall 2022**

Class Times and Location: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30pm-7:50pm, SJ1 3027

Instructor: Dr. Elena Afros

Office Hours (online): Monday and Friday, 1pm-2pm. Please email the instructor.

Email: eafros@uwaterloo.ca

### **Course and Section Description (Undergraduate Calendar)**

ARTS 130 provides an introduction to diverse intellectual modes of inquiry in the social sciences and humanities with an emphasis on the development of communication skills. In a small seminar setting, students will explore a variety of topics based on instructor expertise in order to build social awareness, ethical engagement, and communication competencies in comprehension, contextualization, and conceptualization. Students will be expected to engage with the work of others, articulate positions, situate writing and speaking within contexts, practice writing and speaking for situations beyond the classroom, engage in basic forms of research, and workshop, revise, and edit writing.

The section "Language Matters" engages students in the exploration of the power of language. It highlights the dual (cognitive and social) nature of language and enhances students' social

awareness, ethical judgment, and communication competencies. It motivates students to reflect upon their discursive practices and helps them identify the ways to advance their academic skills.

### **Course Objectives (Instructor Handbook)**

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand their own diverse experiences, strengths, and goals as communicators.
2. Examine their views and perspectives, and through the practice of interpersonal communication, develop a deeper awareness of their role in the communication process.
3. Look critically at context, audience, and genre and use that information to be more persuasive in communications.
4. Collaborate with classmates and provide, incorporate, and reflect on feedback.
5. Use communication to consider their own ideas and the ideas of others.
6. Identify and work with different technologies that will help them with effective communication.

### **Readings and Schedule**

For readings, please see LEARN.

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### **Course Requirements and Assessment**

To receive credit in this course students must complete four major writing assignments (10%+20%+25%+10%) and a portfolio (25%); 10% of the final mark are reserved for class

participation. Writing assignments include multiple drafts. Only the final copy of the writing assignment is graded. Students are given formative feedback on their drafts by their peers and/or instructor, but the drafts are not graded. However, failure to submit drafts on time will result in a reduction of the writing assignment grade by 50%. Failure to include drafts, outlines, or annotated readings into the portfolio will result in a reduction of the portfolio completeness grade. Students are expected to attend classes regularly (six missed classes will result in “0” for Participation), actively participate in class discussions and group work, and submit their assignments on time. Late assignments are not accepted (unless accompanied by the doctor’s note). Assignments must be typed and double-spaced as required by APA (see LEARN). All assignments must be submitted into the LEARN Dropbox (see LEARN for more details).

**Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:**

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See

[http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom\\_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

**Important Information**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Petitions and Grievances](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy

on [Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

**Note for students with disabilities:** [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory \(PDF\)](#).

## **Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo**

[Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour](#) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.

## **Writing and Communication Centre**

The Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and Communication specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

Please note that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you.