

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

434.42 Practicum III (3 credit hours) – Project Research, Planning and Proposal

434.43 Practicum IV (3 credit hours) – Project Execution

Fall 2011 & Winter 2012

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Class times: TBA.

Office Hours: As posted or by appointment.

SYLLABUS

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

434.42 Practicum III (3 credit hours) – Project Research, Planning and Proposal

Students develop a major media and communications project. Students propose the form, content, resources, and schedule of projects for this course. A project may be in the form of any type of public media such as radio, television, print, photography and film, and new media. Students enrolled in the 4-year program are encouraged to consider a major research paper or presentation on some aspect of communications and media.

Alternatively, work in a “communications and media” capacity in an area of the institution (for instance, Publications or Athletics), as well as work on the Pamphleteer, the official student paper of Providence University College, will be considered for this course.

434.43 Practicum IV (3 credit hours) – Project Execution

A continuation of Practicum I (434.42) in which the student completes, submits and presents the proposed project. (Pre-requisite: 434.42 – COM with a grade of B- or better)

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through participation in meetings, classroom discussion and completion of the course requirements:

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to integrate theory and practise in the field of communications and media;
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to translate communication theory and practise into a concrete and coherent media product;
3. The student will demonstrate the contribution of media and communication theory and practise to a contemporary issue;
4. The student will demonstrate an awareness of the ethical dimensions of public communication.

C. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student will prepare and present a project according to the following guidelines:

1. Each student must choose an issue and have it approved by the professor.
2. Each student will develop a proposal outlining their topic and rationalizing their choice of media. The proposal should be a minimum of 1 page, typed, and include a general bibliography of sources relevant to the issue which they have chosen. The proposal is due by the beginning of October (exact date to be determined at the first meeting with the professor) and is subject to the professor's approval. **This paper must follow the other instructions in the section below entitled "Written Assignment Format Policy."**
3. The final project must be built around at least three different media components.
4. The project must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the issue under discussion. If you are unsure how to integrate research into a media presentation, please consult with the professor.
5. All practicum students will meet regularly to report on their projects, and to discuss any problems or challenges that they might be facing.
6. If the student is working in some fashion for the institution, a 1 page minimum, typewritten, proposal must be submitted, with a note from the supervisor of the work. Note that the above requirements regarding different media components do not apply in this case. **This paper must follow the other instructions in the section below entitled "Written Assignment Format Policy."**

D. GRADING SUMMARY

Fall Semester:

Seminar Attendance:	40%
Proposal:	30%
Progress on the Project:	30%

Winter Semester:

Seminar Attendance:	20%
Final Project	80%

Excellent	A+	4.0	91-100	Satisfactory	C+	2.5	67-69
	A		85-90	Adequate	C	2.0	63-66
	A-		80-84		C-		60-62
Very Good	B+	3.5	77-79	Marginal	D+	1.0	57-59
Good	B	3.0	73-76		D		53-56
	B-		70-72		D-		50-52
				Failure	F	0.0	<50

E. COURSE POLICIES

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence College can be found online in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/) and the College Academic Calendar (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/).

1. Class Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 5 classes **for any reason** will result in a failing grade in the course.
2. Late Assignment Policy: Assignments are due immediately at the beginning of class on the date on which they are due. Assignments not remitted at that time will be accepted by hand or in my mailbox with a 10% penalty only until 4:30pm on the day that the assignment is due. Any assignments turned in after 4:30pm of the due day will be accepted but will receive a grade of 0. As there will be no extensions granted for any assignments, please note their due dates.

3. Written Assignment Format Policy: All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font (12-point only), with 1-inch margins on all four sides of the page, and include proper pagination. In addition, the text must be left-justified. The paper must follow Turabian style. Written assignments may be double-sided. The text should also be free of errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling. The paper should be stapled together at the top left corner, without any type of plastic or paper binding. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a loss of marks. Papers without a proper bibliography or any proper citations will receive a mark of 0, unless otherwise exempted by the professor.**

4. Plagiarism: Students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in all its various forms, and will be held accountable for doing so by the policy on Academic Conduct in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/). One particularly problematic breach of academic integrity is plagiarism, which is stealing from the ideas and writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. For an elaboration of the nature, types, and prevention of plagiarism, see the Providence College document entitled "Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing," in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore.

5. Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom: **Student use of information and communication technologies for purposes other than class note-taking is not allowed in the classroom, as students are expected to give their total attention to class activities.** Use of cell-phones or iPods is never appropriate in the classroom, and use of laptop computers to play games, chat with others, browse the internet, or engage material not related to the class is always distracting to classmates and disrespectful to the instructor. Unlike some other post-secondary institutions, Providence has not yet found it necessary to ban laptops from the classroom, or prevent wireless internet access in classrooms. Only judicious use of them will keep it that way.

This is a Communications and Media class. As such, the exploration of new communication technologies is encouraged. However, unauthorized use of laptops and other information and communication technologies in this class will not be tolerated.