**Course:**        DMED 540 English for Digital Media I
**Term:**          Fall 2021
**Instructor(s):**  Elisabeta Aida Osian Ph.D
**Email:**        Elisabeta_Osian@thecdm.ca

**Course Description**

In this course, you will get accustomed to the current language practices in different fields approached from a digital media perspective. The classes are designed on the main principles of lexical banks; therefore, the main objective is to restructure and enhance your vocabulary skills in authentic contexts. At the beginning of the semester, each of you will be asked to adopt a field of interest from a curated selection: i.e. Psychology, Education, Business, etc. The materials and vocabulary items will cover these particular topics, filtered through the jargon of Digital Media. We will zoom in on the new digital trends in Education, Museography, Medical Science, and other contemporary areas of study. This course's main objective is to offer you the opportunity to identify/clarify/use specialized language **in context** and apply critical thinking when operating with the terminology mentioned above. The course will cover three stages as follows:

**A. Science in the Digital Age;**

**B. Humanities in the Digital Age;**

**C. Arts in the Digital Age.**

*Covid-19 amendments and curriculum changes

Considering the current situation, the format of the present course has been carefully amended to suit an e-learning environment, and provide students with a variety of activities designed to enhance self-study and research techniques. We aim to create an engaging pre-MDM community where students can follow and measure their progress through regular feedback. Courses will be delivered on Zoom, written assignments will be completed in Google docs/Google drive and shared with the teacher and the IAs (when necessary), our communication will be mostly on Zoom, email, Google drive, canva.com for some presentations, and our WhatsApp group. You will receive the materials for the course each week before the start of the online class.

**Course Objectives**
Throughout this course, you will:
- Acquire a wide range of vocabulary related to media, digital and otherwise;
- Practise using lexical items by generating contexts on your own, through weekly journal entries;
- Develop a specific communicative set of skills necessary for the job market in an English speaking country;
- Have a better understanding of your abilities to operate with terminology in various fields;

- Correctly use new lexical items related to contemporary digital media environments by applying the language during class and out of class activities;
- Improve your self-study, research and bibliography collecting skills, and your abilities to state reasons and objectives for a structural study.

**Students' goals**:

Note: This part will be completed in class during our first week. You will discuss your personal goals and needs related to this course, and articulate five additional goals you would like to achieve throughout the semester.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

**Course Format**

The course will run for 13 weeks with 2.15-hour weekly synchronous* modules. *This is not a lecture-based course or a technical course; it is a functional language course; therefore, the materials and activities planned for the class are communicative and involve active learning. You will be assigned various authentic reading and listening materials throughout the semester, but the focus will be the operating English language, not on the conceptual elements discussed therein.*

*\*Synchronous e-learning means* that the instructor and the students in the course engage with the course content and each other simultaneously, but from different locations, through online platforms.
*\*\*Asynchronous e-learning* includes various forms of digital and online learning. The courses are not being delivered in person, and in real-time, and the schedule is more flexible. Students receive tasks and activities to complete independently, and the instructor offers feedback and error-correction (for language instruction).

**Course pre-requisites**

A minimum of intermediate English proficiency is required to take this course. (i.e. IELTS academic overall - 6.5). You should also have an intermediate ability to operate with Digital Media terms.

**Tips for a successful completion of the course**

- The motivation, participation and attendance grade (MPA - 20%) should be taken seriously throughout the semester.
- We will be designing structural word maps each class, so using these maps outside the classroom in informal conversations will help you solidify the understanding and the correct usage of the new terms;

• As far as assignments are concerned, they need to be handed in due time. You will have the possibility to extend **one** assignment **per semester,** and extensions will only be granted for medical and emergency reasons for which you will have to provide written proof.

Note!

**Each week, you will receive an assignment covering the topic discussed. You will complete graded and ungraded assignments as well as a formative and optional assignments per session with your reflections/ideas about the topic. The formative assignments are optional, which means you don't have to complete them, but I advise you to finish and send them in because they are designed to re-structure and strengthen the knowledge you have received throughout the week. All assignments are linked with the previous and future topics, contributing to a good flow in learning.**

| Stages | Week | Focus | Assignment | Due |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Stage 1** <br><br> **Science in the Digital Age;** | 1 | Medical discoveries | Reading/ listening task <br><br><br> Instructions for final stage assignment | Week 2 <br><br><br> Week 12 - final assignment delivery |

| Stages | Week | Focus | Assignment | Due |
|--------|------|-------|------------|-----|
| | 2 | Science Journalism in the Digital Age | Formative and optional<br><br>Reading/listening task | Week 3 |
| | 3 | Business and Finance in the Digital Age | Formative and optional<br><br>Writing task | Week 4 |
| | 4 | Teaching science in the Digital Age | Formative and optional<br><br>Group presentations | Week 5 |

| Stages | Week | Focus | Assignment | Due |
|--------|------|-------|------------|-----|
| **Stage 2 Humanities in the Digital Age** | 5 | Literature and narratives | Formative and optional<br><br>Storytelling activity | Week 6 |
| | 6 | Oral History in the Digital Age | Formative and optional<br><br>Group project | Week 7 |
| | 7 | Humanistic Social Sciences | Formative and optional<br><br>Written assignment | Week 8 |

| Stages | Week | Focus | Assignment | Due |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | Teaching Humanities in the Digital Age - education tools and trends | Formative and optional<br><br>Individual presentations | Week 9 |
| Stage 3<br>Arts in the Digital Age | 9 | Music and musicians | Formative and optional<br><br>Reading and Listening tasks | Week 10 |
| | 10 | Graphic arts and art galleries | Formative and optional<br><br>Digital art gallery group task | Week 11 |

| Stages | Week | Focus | Assignment | Due |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 11 | Performing arts | Formative and optional<br><br>Reading and Listening tasks<br><br>**Quiz** | Week 12 |
| | 12 | Film and photography | Formative and optional assignment | Week 12 |
| | 13 | Composition week (to cover extra materials) | Final assignment and feedback<br>Conclusion<br><br>Mandatory | N/A<br><br><br><br>Week 12 |

**Evaluation**

Improving your **vocabulary** in any field can be a very demanding task. To a greater extent, in the area of Digital Media, the lexical banks cover arguably almost every field of study, all of which are undoubtedly affected by the new media and technologies. This is why this course aims to briefly touch on as many domains as possible and create a balance between lexical banks deriving from multiple areas and the ones that stemmed from the new digital trends. The following methods of evaluation have been incorporated to offer a wide range of assessment:

**Motivation, participation and attendance (MPA)  20%**

Throughout the semester, you will be graded according to your willingness to participate to discussions, peer-reviews, error-correction, and attitude towards your instructor and peers. You should limit your device time to in-class activity requirements  (during synchronous teaching sessions) and be present and active at all times (for both synchronous and asynchronous activities).

**Quiz (Q-1) 30%**

You will have one quiz per semester. It will follow the main concepts of the course and will be administered in the final weeks of the semester (synchronously, online). **No extensions will be granted for this task**. **Quizzes are mandatory.**

**Final Assignment (FA - 1) 50%**

The final assignment will require both individual and group work and will be graded according to: task achievement, effective command of language, fluency, accuracy, coherence, cohesion, and critical thinking.

*\*The rest of the assignments are formative, and they will not receive a grade per se. They will, however, be accounted for on the base of completion.*

**Total 100%**

**Grading System**

| | |
|---|---|
| A+ | 95-100 |
| A | 90-94 |
| A- | 85-89 |
| B+ | 80-84 |
| B | 75-79 |
| B- | 70-74 |
| C+ | 65-69 |
| C | 60-64 |
| F | 0-59 |

**Policies**

The student and academic policies of the Masters of Digital Media Program and of Simon Fraser University apply within this course. Relevant SFU policies can be found at:

• Graduate General Regulations

http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/for_students/grad_regulation.html

• Academic Honesty and Student Conduct Policies

http://www.sfu.ca/policies/Students/index.html

• Teaching and Instruction Policies

http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm

• University Policies (complete site)

http://www.sfu.ca/policies