

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications and The Arts
Programme:	MA Communication for Social Change
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Professional Research Project
Course Code:	COM 7505
Total Hours:	400
Timetabled Hours:	0
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	400
Credits:	40 UK CATS credits 20 ECTS credits 8 US credits

Course Description:

For students working independently on their Master's professional research project. The dissertation encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. The course is comprised of independent research and writing, overseen by thesis supervisor, resulting in comprehensive, multi-media campaign and 3-4000 word campaign report. Collaborative and supportive dialogue with the supervisor and fellow 'junior research colleagues' will involve advice on the research and writing process, suggestions for resources and research directions, and comments on draft versions of the campaign.

Prerequisites:

MA Communication for Social Change students only

Aims and Objectives:

- For the student to work with the supervisor, as their mentor, through the research, writing and production of an MA level multi-media campaign and report
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field

- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in the work placements or further graduate work

Programme Outcomes:

A1, A3, B1, B3, B4, C2, C4, C5, D2, D4

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Deploy sophisticated analysis using relevant conceptual frameworks, demonstrating critical thinking
- Design and conduct successful and original research, including application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources
- Show excellent writing skills and use of multi-media to produce an effective persuasive campaign
- Demonstrate critical self-reflection through a sustained research project

Indicative Content:

- Multi-media campaign
- production of a 3-4000 word thesis, suitably illustrated, evidencing:
- intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor
- primary research making a valuable contribution to the field
- a coherent argument
- appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
- footnotes and a bibliography complying with the Chicago Manual Style
- satisfactory presentation and scholarly apparatus

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

Autonomous research and research supervision.

The course will require independent research overseen by a thesis supervisor, tutorial

opportunities including working with specialist faculty for more specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback.

Indicative Text(s):

- Hanlon, A. and T.L. Tuten, eds. 2022. *The SAGE Handbook of Digital and Social Media Marketing*. London: Sage.
- Lee, N.R. and P. Kotler. 2023. *Social Marketing: Behaviour Change for Social Good*, 7th edition. London: Sage.
- Lipschultz, J.H. 2022. *Social Media and Political Communication*, 1st Edition. London: Routledge.
- Luttrell, R.M. and L.W.Capizzo. 2021. *Public Relations Campaigns: An Integrated Approach*. Second ed. London: Sage.
- Theaker, A., ed. 2020. *The Public Relations Handbook*, 6th edition. New York: Routledge.
- Wilkins, K., T. Tufte, and R. Obregon. 2014. *The Handbook of Development Communication and Social Change*. John Wiley & Sons.

Journals

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Web Sites

- Association for Progressive Communications, <https://www.apc.org/>
- Communication for Social Change (CFSC) Consortium, <https://www.cfsc.org/>
- The Communication Initiative Network, <https://www.comminet.com/global/>
- Directory of Social Change: <https://www.dsc.org.uk/publications/>
- Frameworks, <https://www.frameworksinstitute.org/>

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	January 2024	
