

Communication and Visual Arts Courses: Winter 2026 Selected Electives

JOUR 2010 02	No prereqs	Civic Reporting	CRN 21035
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Taught by Jenn Chrumka of the CBC and The Globe and Mail!

Knowing how local governments function and where to find information is a critical skill for journalists so they help keep elected officials accountable to the people they serve. Throughout the term, students will develop story pitches, use social media to communicate their story and produce one major reporting project.

CMNS 3500	Pre-reqs: 45 credits	ST: Banned and Challenged Books	CRN 20517
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Taught by Chris Adam, this topical look at contemporary case studies of banned literature will interest students of education and political science.

In this course, we will explore the complex relationship between language, power, and censorship. Students examine the role of public discourse on challenged and banned books in constructing meaning, controlling knowledge, and sustaining systemic inequalities. Using real-world examples from Canada and around the world, we will investigate how governments, schools, libraries, and communities talk about, and regulate, what can (and cannot) be read — and why.

JOUR3030	Pre-reqs: <u>waived</u>	Newswriting	CRN 21037
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Have you ever wanted to see your name published as a byline in print?

Newswriting is where students learn to chase truth, not spin it. JOUR 3030 Newswriting taught by CBC's Jenn Chrumka gives you the tools, instincts, and confidence to craft compelling stories for today's media landscape. Students will learn what makes information newsworthy, and how to write with clarity and purpose for both print, audio and digital platforms. The course culminates with the opportunity to publish your own article in The Omega, TRU's student newspaper.

CMNS 3700	45 credits	Empathic Design: Know Your Audience
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This course, taught by professional graphic and UX designer and author Peter Zakrzewski, dives into creating platforms that embrace audience habits and needs.
Essential for anyone interested in UX/UI.

CMNS 1150	No pre-reqs	Advertising as Communication
Drawing on decades of experience in commercial art, Peter Zakrzewski guides students through the history and principles of advertising. Whether you're interested in marketing or pushing back at media messaging, this course gives students the tools to create irresistible messages in image and text.		

VISA 1000	No pre-reqs	Art Worlds
Think expansively about the history of art across cultures. <i>Students study the visual elements, media, art history and methods used to create and interpret various forms of visual art. Students learn how to appreciate, analyze, evaluate and contextualize a broad range of art works.</i>		

VISA 1010	No pre-reqs	2D Creative Design: Thinking and Making
Experiment in this intro art class, no experience required! <i>Students are introduced to the elements and principles of two dimensional art and design, which may include collage, graphite, charcoal, brush and ink, and pastel. Students participate in studio and sketchbook work, group critiques, and seminars.</i>		

Complete CVA Course List Winter 2026

Communication	
CMNS	1160 Introduction to Communication
CMNS	1150 Advertising as Communication
CMNS	1200 Intro to Digital Production
CMNS	1500 Digital Photography
CMNS	2150 Collective and Connective Indigenous Voices
CMNS	2160 Mass Communication and the Popular Culture Industry
CMNS	2170 Interpersonal Communication
CMNS	2180 Social Networks, Online Identities and Internet Memes
CMNS	3020 Travel Media
CMNS	3230 Information Design
CMNS	3260 Discursive and Nondiscursive Narrative in Media
CMNS	3500 ST: Language and Power: Banned and Censored Books
CMNS	3530 Digital Imaging and Editing

CMNS	3600 ST: Music Videos
CMNS	4280 Portfolio Capstone
CMNS	3700 Empathic Media Design: Understanding Your Audience
CMNS	4520 Advanced Digital Imaging and Editing

Professional Communication

CMNS	1250 Strategic Writing for Communication
CMNS	1290 Introduction to Professional Writing
CMNS	2300 Critical Thinking and Writing for Science and Technology
CMNS	2290 Technical Communication
CMNS	3240 Advanced Professional Communication
SPEE	2500 Professional Presentation

Film

FILM	2200 Introduction to Film Studies 1938-Present
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Journalism

JOUR	2010 Civic Reporting
JOUR	2060 Introduction to Multimedia Storytelling
JOUR	3030 News Writing
JOUR	4280 Professional Preparation Capstone
JOUR	4580 Alternative Media
JOUR	3980 Professional Internship

Visual Arts

VISA	1010 2D Creative Design: Thinking and Making
VISA	1000 Art Worlds
VISA	1020 2D Art Foundation 2
VISA	1030 3D Foundation (Studio)
VISA	1120 History of Art 2
VISA	1210 Drawing 1 (Studio)
VISA	1220 Drawing 2 (Studio)
VISA	1500 Introduction to Visual Culture
VISA	2220 Drawing 4 (Studio)
VISA	2310 Sculpture 1 (Studio)
VISA	2320 Sculpture 2 (Studio)
VISA	2520 Printmaking: Screen-Printing 2
VISA	2620 Painting 2
VISA	2720 Introduction to Photography 2
VISA	3310 Sculpture/Intermedia (Studio)
VISA	3520 Printmaking: Advanced Screen-Printing (Studio)
VISA	3850 ST: History and Theory

VISA	4910 Graduating Studio
VISA	4990 Graduating Seminar