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## Course Outline

University Studies  
Winter 2021

### **LIBST 1304A, Communities and Societies**

*3 credits, 3 hours lecture*

This interdisciplinary course will focus on Vancouver, British Columbia's "Downtown Eastside" (DTES) neighborhood. Known colloquially as "North America's poorest postal code," the DTES is notorious for its open-air drug market, street-level homelessness, and hyper-visible police presence. Equally as noteworthy, however, is the DTES remarkable tradition of community resilience and resistance. Throughout the term, students will be encouraged to suspend their assumptions about so-called "social disorder" while critically interrogating the power relations that produce concentrated, localized suffering. Additionally, course content will invite students to: a) recognize the connections between historic and contemporary inequalities at the intersections of class, sex, sexual orientation, race, and culture; and b) explore the salience of grass-roots activism when negotiating, contesting, and (re)defining "responsible citizenship."

*Prerequisites: An open mind and a willingness to be uncomfortable*

#### **Instructor**

Kory Cheshire  
S211F  
780-792-8413  
Kory.Cheshire@keyano.ca

#### **Office Hours**

I will be available for individual discussions by appointment. Please don't hesitate to contact me via email should you wish to schedule a phone or Zoom session.

#### **Hours of Instruction**

The course will be taught remotely this semester however, there are required lectures that will take place over Zoom (the meeting link will be posted on the Moodle course page).

Required Zoom lectures – **Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00pm-2:20pm**

#### **Required Resources**

- N/A

#### **Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Critically analyze social issues through an interdisciplinary lens

- Understand how disparate beliefs, values, and theories produce tangible consequences for residents of urban neighborhoods
- Articulate how discourses pertaining to the “rights and responsibilities” of citizenship are hierarchically produced and imbued with power relations
- Challenge “common-sense” assumptions about social issues via self-reflexivity and peer-reviewed evidence
- Facilitate informed, sustained, and effective civic engagement through creative mechanisms

## Evaluation of Student Performance

Assignments	% of Grade
Attendance	10%
Weekly Discussions	10%
Article Presentation	20%
Midterm Paper	25%
Final Project	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Attendance (10%) – throughout the semester**

While we will not be meeting in-person, attending the synchronous Zoom lectures is critical.

### **Weekly Discussions (10%) – throughout the semester**

Each week there will be a discussion board. Your initial post is due Friday at 11:59pm. You will need to respond to two peers before Sunday at 11:59pm. Prompts for the discussions will be posted in the discussion forum.

### **Midterm Paper (25%) – Week 8**

Students will be provided with three different prompts and will select one prompt to respond to. Students are to write a 5-6 page (double spaced) response to their chosen prompt with supporting evidence from course materials and outside resources.

### **Article Presentation (20%) – Week 12**

Students will select and critically review an academic article of their choosing and present their findings to their peers. Students will then facilitate a discussion by formulating three questions directed towards their peers. Presentations will take place during class.

### **Final Project (35%) – Finals Week**

The purpose of this project is to enhance cultural literacy. Students will select one of the social issues discussed throughout the course, develop and present an intervention

directed towards their selected social issue. Possible formats include, a PowerPoint, YouTube video, Podcast etc.

## Grading Scale

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale Percent		Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
<b>Minimum Pass</b>	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

*A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.*

## Late Work Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval of the instructor. If you have something come up that will affect your ability to turn work in on time, you must contact me before the due date (or as soon after as possible, in extreme circumstances), and I will respond to each situation on a case-by-case basis.

## Communication

Please approach your instructor after class or email with any course related questions or concerns. I will reply to course-related questions via email within 24-48 hours. I will generally have assignments graded within 5 days.

## Moodle

This course will be delivered via Moodle where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Canvas site, you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. Please visit <http://ilearn.keyano.ca>

## Student Expectations

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Students are expected to do the following:

- Attend class to maximize your learning experience, come prepared with required materials.
- Students who miss class are responsible for the materials covered in those classes, including completion of any assignments.
- Demonstrate clarity of ideas, application of knowledge, and appropriate and relevant contributions in class discussion
- Prepare assignments, delivered on time, that meet all the criteria
- Recognize and respect the ideas and skills of colleagues and experienced professionals
- Participate actively in class activities
- Be kind and assume the best intentions from your colleagues in class
- Identify and engage other professionals, networks, organizations, and other resources related to the issues discussed in the class

## Proposed Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	Jan. 6-10	Introduction	N/A
2	Jan. 11-17	Geography and History of Downtown Eastside  V6A Documentary	<a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)
3	Jan. 18-24	Socialization and Intersectionality  Demographics	<a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)
4	Jan. 25-31	News Article Analysis  Media Portrayal of the Downtown Eastside	<a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)
5	Feb. 1-7	Overview of Current Issues in the Downtown Eastside	<a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)

6	Feb. 8-14	Poverty & Housing Crisis	<p><a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p> <p><b>Midterm Paper:</b> Topic Selection (Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
7	Feb. 15-21	<i>Reading Week</i>	
8	Feb. 22-28	<p>Substance Use &amp; Abuse</p> <p>Drug Addictions, War on Drugs</p>	<p><a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p> <p><b>Midterm Paper:</b> Final Draft</p>
9	Mar. 1-7	Sex Workers and Prostitution	<p><a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
10	Mar. 8-14	Law Enforcement, Police Presence	<p><a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p> <p><b>Article Presentation:</b> Selecting an Article (Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
11	Mar. 15-21	Culture and Community Among the Downtown Eastside	<p><a href="#">Discussion Board</a> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p>

12	Mar. 22-28	Social Activism and the Downtown Eastside	<p><b>Discussion Board</b> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p> <p><b>Article Presentation</b> (Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
13	Mar. 29-Apr. 4	Prevention and Intervention Strategies	<p><b>Discussion Board</b> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
14	Apr. 5-11	Community Coordinated Responses	<p><b>Discussion Board</b> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p> <p><b>Final Project:</b> Outline (Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
15	Apr. 12-18	<p>Course Review</p> <p>Final Project Check-Ins</p>	<p><b>Discussion Board</b> (Initial Post: Wed. 11:59pm; Replies x2: Sun. 11:59pm)</p>
16	Apr. 19-30		<p><b>Final Project</b></p>

**Please Note:**

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

## Performance Requirements

### Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the

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list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

## **Student Attendance**

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

## **Academic Misconduct**

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on [ilearn.keyano.ca](http://ilearn.keyano.ca). Then print the certificate, sign it, scan it, and email it to each of your instructors. Your course work may not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

## **Specialized Supports**

The Student Services department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano College. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented differently this semester by being provided mostly virtually. In-person service can be requested as needed. All Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed

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for in-person appointments—wear a mask, maintain two meters of physical distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay home if you are unwell.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30.

The Library has evening and weekend hours. Please check [keyano.ca/library](https://keyano.ca/library) for current hours.

**Accessibility Services:** provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility services supports and to book a virtual appointment, please contact [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca).

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students, as well as technology training and supports to enhance learning. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes. Schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca)

**Academic Success Coaching:** offers you support and access to resources for your academic success to help you to find the Keys to your Success. The Academic Success Coach will work with you to develop an academic success plan, develop your study and time management skills, and connect you with the right resources here at Keyano. [Academic.success@keyano.ca](mailto:Academic.success@keyano.ca) is the best way to access resources during virtual service delivery.

**Wellness Services:** offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. All individual appointments will continue virtually.

Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in any of the virtual group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual virtual appointments can be made by emailing [wellness.services@keyano.ca](mailto:wellness.services@keyano.ca).

**Library Services:** provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to support you both virtually and in person during the fall semester. For library service supports and inquiries, please email [askthelibrary@keyano.ca](mailto:askthelibrary@keyano.ca).



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Individual support with the Information Librarian will be provided virtually. Appointments can be requested by email or by placing a Book a Librarian request using the online form found [here](#).

Research and Subject Guides are helpful resources when conducting research or addressing your information needs. To view a subject or course specific guide, use the following [Subject Guides link](#)

To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the [Research Help Library page](#).

**Skill Centre:** provides academic support services to students registered in credit programs at Keyano College in the form of tutoring, writing support groups, facilitated study groups, workshops and study space. Tutoring services are **free** to Keyano students. Tutoring is available for Math, Writing, English, and Science subject areas.

While most courses are being offered online, the Skill Center will be offering mostly virtual tutoring services and in-person sessions as requested. Please email [Skill.centre@keyano.ca](mailto:Skill.centre@keyano.ca) to get in contact with our tutoring staff. For the most up to date information on how to book a tutoring session, please view the [Keyano Skill Centre homepage](#).

## E-Learning

Technology and internet will impact your online learning experience. It's important that you are able to watch an online video and other course materials, take online quizzes, and participant in a live class with your instructor and other students.

Keyano College operates in a Windows based environment and having the correct tools for online learning is important. Here's a list of recommended system requirements for Fall 2020.

## Internet Speed

Minimum Internet speeds of 5 Mbps.

Recommended Internet speeds of 25 Mbps (especially if you are sharing your internet at home). Check your internet speed with [Fast.com](#).

## System requirements:

Microsoft Windows	Apple
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<p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b>  A Windows 10 <b>computer/laptop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Minimum 4GB of RAM.</li> <li>· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.</li> <li>· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). <a href="#">Microsoft Office</a> software is free to all Keyano students and employees.</li> <li>· Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended.</li> <li>· System updates must be regularly installed.</li> <li>· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software</li> </ul>	<p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b>  A Macintosh (V10.14 and above) <b>computer/laptop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Minimum 4GB of RAM.</li> <li>· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.</li> <li>· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). <a href="#">Microsoft Office</a> software is free to all Keyano students and employees.</li> <li>· Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended.</li> <li>· System updates must be regularly installed.</li> <li>· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommended Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 8GB of RAM</li> <li>· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommended Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 8GB of RAM</li> <li>· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.</li> </ul>
<p>Chromebooks are <b>not</b> recommended as they are not compatible with testing lockdown browsers.  A Microsoft Surface or iPad or iPad Pro may be possible alternatives in some program areas.</p>	

**Specific department requirements:**

Business and OA programs require Windows 10.  
Other programs may utilize Windows based tools as well.

**Computer Software**

Students will be able to get access to Microsoft Office 365 for Free using Keyano Credentials by [clicking here](#).

**Recording of Lectures and Intellectual Property**

Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or by Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not publish any of the lectures or lecture materials, this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc. on any platform. Thus no student is allowed to publish or sell instructor notes without formal written permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property.

## **ITS Helpdesk**

If you are having issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing [its.helpdesk@keyano.ca](mailto:its.helpdesk@keyano.ca) or calling 780-791-4965.

**Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.**