

## Special Topics: Scholars Go Public EDST 565F 82

January –April 2018

Academic Storytelling for Impact

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In this course, participants will learn to share compelling stories grounded in their scholarly work. Some of the stories will be part of knowledge mobilization efforts—they are aimed at changing practice or policy. Other stories might seek to expand public conversations and pique curiosity. What will bring participants in this course together, regardless of whether they are in STEM, social sciences, applied sciences or humanities fields, is an interest in being scholars that engage and expand conversation beyond the academic tradition of scholarly publishing.

The course will be of particular interest to: 1) students supported through UBC's Public Scholar Initiative; 2) graduate students across UBC and other institutions; 3) independent researchers, 4) scholar-practitioners, 5) scholar-clinicians, and 6) faculty in diverse fields.

I am using the term academic storytelling instead of knowledge mobilization or translation to signal that I welcome students from broad fields of study. Participants will learn KM and KT models but also approaches to expanding conversations that do not aim to change policy or practice but pique curiosity.

### Course Aims

- 1) Develop confidence to be engaging academic storytellers. *Students can choose to focus on media engagement through legacy (newspapers, radio, television) or social media (e.g. Facebook), or they can opt to create a story for a practitioner/clinician audience.*
- 2) Understand and address some of the ethical issues in academic storytelling. *This course will also cover how research might be taken up in unintended ways and how to mitigate problematic coverage of research.*
- 3) Produce a piece of work that embodies academic storytelling and distribute it widely. *The class will be set up as a laboratory that encourages experimentation, workshopping of ideas, and revising based on feedback. During the course, social media will be used to share what we are learning and what products are in the process of production. There will be a public exhibit of students' work. Throughout the course, students will be given one-on-one assistance by the instructor and mentors to develop a communication plan based on the type of research they are doing and the audiences they hope to reach.*

