SYGN503  **Tools for Success: Integrating into the Mines Community**

This is a 1-credit hour course that provides international graduate students a means for efficient navigation of the unique academic setting at CSM. The course activities are designed to help students understand and meet expectations, develop effective professional relationships within the campus community, strengthen communication skills, and practice collaborative engagement. It offers a welcoming space for students to network with each other, explore questions regarding the cultural and academic transitions they are making, access available resources, and share strategies for success in their particular degree programs.

Two to three weeks will be devoted to each of the following four syllabus topics.
I.  Academic perspectives and styles of teaching/learning used at CSM
   -- concise, transparent, linear structure (in technical writing and oral presentations)
   -- independence, initiative, and critical thinking
   -- academic honesty and avoiding plagiarism
II. Professional collaboration
   -- managing student/advisor (and other important) relationships
   -- using word choice, body language, and tone to convey an intended message
   -- bridging cultural and gender differences
   -- networking, dealing with confrontation, and preparing deliverables
III. Constructive interaction with the academic community
   -- teamwork and group discussion
   -- giving and accepting feedback
   -- strengthening communication tools (e.g., emails, face-to-face meetings)
IV.  Time management and strategies for success
   -- negotiating transitions
   -- organizational skills and working/thinking/learning styles
   -- community resources and finding support