Communication Studies Courses (COMM)

This is a list of all communication studies courses. For more information, see Communication Studies.

**COMM:1000 First-Year Seminar** 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

**COMM:1112 Interpersonal Communication** 3 s.h.
Introduction to face-to-face communication in social and personal relationships; maximizing communicative effectiveness in relationships with knowledge about how communication functions; analysis of one's own and others' communication practices and experiences.

**COMM:1117 Theory and Practice of Argument** 4 s.h.
Public arguments as practiced in law, politics, science, and other public arenas; improvement of skills in researching, constructing, organizing, and presenting arguments on disputed subjects; analyzing and refuting arguments of others; developing a better understanding of how scholars apply tools of formal and informal logic in a variety of disciplines to improve quality of academic argument. GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning.

**COMM:1130 The Art of Persuading Others** 3 s.h.
Basic theoretical concepts of effective public communication; employ knowledge of concepts in analyzing texts; definition and influence of rhetorical situation, different elements of persuasion (message logic, appeal to feelings, character of speaker), ability of speakers to invent arguments; issues of judgment, public discourse, identity, and agency.

**COMM:1168 Media, Music, and Culture** 3 s.h.
What makes popular music important for people; music's power to change culture; production, distribution, reception of popular music in cultural and historical contexts.

**COMM:1170 Communication Theory in Everyday Life** 3 s.h.
General overview of everyday life communication, theories and research techniques used to understand it; sheer depth and complexity of processes in communication that occur in everyday lives and which appear to be trivial; how to observe conversations and identify what is really happening in them; ways in which scholars explain everyday communication and how it works; applications of theoretical thinking to explain processes of everyday communication. GE: Social Sciences.

**COMM:1174 Media and Society** 3 s.h.
Processes and effects of mass communication; how mass media operate in the United States; how mass communication scholars develop knowledge. GE: Social Sciences, Values and Culture.

**COMM:1301 Core Concepts in Communication Studies** 3 s.h.
Introduction to communication topics; face-to-face interaction, public speaking, globally distributed film, music, and television; ways of thinking, vocabulary, and overview of concepts used in other communication studies courses. Prerequisites: COMM:1305.

**COMM:1305 Understanding Communication: Social Scientific Approaches** 3 s.h.
Social scientific methods used to generate knowledge about communication processes; basic tools necessary to conduct and evaluate communication research; epistemological perspectives, research procedures, and data analysis; readings and hands-on activities.

**COMM:1306 Understanding Communication: Humanistic Approaches** 3 s.h.
Humanistic methods and theories used to generate knowledge about communication processes; basic tools necessary to conduct and evaluate communication research in humanities subdisciplines; epistemological perspectives, research procedures, and critical practices; readings and hands-on activities.

**COMM:1809 Social Marketing Campaigns** 3 s.h.
Introduction to theory, development, and practice of social marketing campaigns; public service announcements, political action to change smoking laws, community-led initiatives to increase availability of local foods; communication-centric format including research in public health, nursing, marketing, and other fields; group work to identify issues of local concern and develop a theoretically justified and practically realistic social marketing campaign with potential to positively impact communities.

**COMM:1814 Elements of Debate** 3 s.h.
Debates that occur everyday in a wide variety of situations and settings; how to recognize when a debate is occurring and different procedures by which people conduct debates; emphasis on development of personal advocacy skills and how one goes about teaching those same skills to others by example and practice; examination of role of debate in achieving collective economic and political purposes in contemporary societies.

**COMM:1816 Business and Professional Communication** 3 s.h.
Introduction to business and professional communication at individual and corporate levels; individual-level topics cover organizational communication, business vocabulary, speaking and writing, professionalism and interviewing; corporate-level topics focus on marketing, advertising, public relations, corporate communications, crisis communication management, business and communication plans, proposals; guest speakers from for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

**COMM:1818 Communication Skills for Leadership** 3 s.h.
Practice and understanding of essential communication skills for leadership; skills-based curriculum promoting application of knowledge; topics include relationship skills, collaboration skills, presentation skills, and writing skills; emphasis on leadership throughout each section of the course.

**COMM:1819 Organizational Leadership** 2-3 s.h.
Introduction to nature of leadership, styles of leadership that are most effective, and ways in which obstacles may be overcome in groups or organizations; different approaches to qualities of leadership, role of visions and motivation, interpersonal and decision-making skills, meeting preparation and evaluation, and related communication skills.
COMM:1830 Solving Public Problems: Dialogue and Deliberation for Democracy 3 s.h.
Communication at the heart of public problems and solutions; critical 21st-century skills (writing for a general audience, facilitating dialogue); valuable community service experiences as an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of dialogue and deliberation; focus on a complex local issue, such as affordable housing, flood planning, or excessive drinking; partnering with local organizations to research a local problem, plan community-based solutions, and study the art of facilitating public discussions; topics include issue analysis, deliberative inquiry, convening meetings, and community organizing.

COMM:1840 Television Studio Production 3 s.h.
Basics of digital television studio production on industry-quality technology; studio lighting, high-definition camera operation, audio recording and editing, digital switcher operation, nonlinear editing, and more; introduction to questions surrounding the impact of studio production on artistic expression, audiences, and society.

COMM:1845 Short-Form Media Production 3 s.h.
Basics of short-form media creation including public service announcements, commercials, promotional videos, and more; entire production process from creation to production to post-production; assumes basic knowledge of studio and field production techniques, nonlinear editing.

COMM:1898 Introduction to Latina/o/x Communication and Culture 3 s.h.
Introduction to fundamentals of communication by and about Latina/o/x in the U.S.; Latina/o/x as one of the fastest growing demographics; how Latina/o/x history, politics, and culture remain little understood despite a longstanding and growing presence in Iowa and across the nation; historical orientation; Latina/o/x social movement and protest (e.g., Chicana/o/x movements, Young Lords Organization), institutional discourses (e.g., congressional, presidential, legal discourses), and Latina/o/x in popular culture (film, television, music, sports). GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as LAS:1898, LATS:1898.

COMM:2010 Communication and Organizational Culture 3 s.h.
Introduction to nature, construction, and deconstruction of organizational culture from a communication perspective; examination of different approaches for understanding and analyzing organizational culture, including the lens of symbolic performance, narrative reproduction, textual reproduction, management, power and politics, technology, and globalization; prepares students to be change agents in organizations as they learn how to conduct an organizational cultural audit and how to create and implement successful change.

COMM:2011 Group Communication 3 s.h.
Study of relevant theory, research, and application to increase understanding of communication in small groups; critical thinking and communication skills; individual roles in groups, creativity, leadership, decision making, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

COMM:2040 Communication and Conflict 3 s.h.
Conflict and its management as critical issues that pervade people’s personal and professional lives; complexities of conflict; forces that make conflict challenging; skills for thinking about and managing conflict more effectively; central features that define conflict; behaviors, attributions, and emotions that are manifest during conflict; formal models of conflict management and their corresponding recommendations for handling conflict.

COMM:2041 Gender, Communication, and Culture 3 s.h.
Social construction of gender and gendered identities across a range of communicative settings in contemporary U.S. society, including relationships, schools, organizations, media, and social movements; how communication creates, reproduces, sustains, and sometimes challenges and changes the meaning of gender and, with that, cultural structures and practices. Same as GWS:2041.

COMM:2042 Intercultural Communication 3 s.h.
Culture defined as a system of taken-for-granted assumptions about the world that influence how people think and act; cultural differences that produce challenges and opportunities for understanding and communication; those differences from several theoretical perspectives; opportunities to examine culture and cultural differences in practical, experience-driven ways. Same as IS:2042, SSW:2042.

COMM:2044 Political Communication 3 s.h.
Relationship between media, cultural politics, and the American political system; focus on advertising, campaigns, and new media outlets; ways politicians, the press, and intermediaries create and disseminate messages into mainstream culture; how people generate their own discourses of political identity and dissent, creating a robust democratic practice that is both empowering and central to the contemporary political landscape.

COMM:2045 Gender, Sexuality, and Space 3 s.h.
Introduction to feminist and queer theories of social space; material and symbolic construction of gender and sexuality; communicating gender and sexuality in different social spaces and scales in historical and contemporary contexts.

COMM:2048 Transforming Media: From Telegraph to Internet 3 s.h.
How U.S. electronic media have shaped, and been shaped by, social and cultural transformations since the mid-19th century; examination of public responses to communication revolutions; exploration of questions about media power and influence in specific historical contexts including the emergence and expansion of telegraph, telephone, broadcasting, cable, and internet; readings, discussions, and assignments investigate role of communication media in the rise of the United States as a global power and consumer culture.

COMM:2051 Politics of Popular Culture 3 s.h.
How culture is political and how politics is cultural; overview of theories of culture and critical-cultural approaches to study of popular culture, past and present; specific topics of analysis vary, may include television, celebrity culture, music, film, games, and sports.
COMM:2052 Latin American Media 3 s.h.
Development of media institutions, texts, and audiences across a number of Latin American countries; focus on broadcast media (radio and television) and situates them within larger historical context of 20th- and 21st-century Latin America; readings, discussions, and assignments with particular attention to influence of U.S. corporate and state interests on Latin American media; debates over cultural dependency, globalization, and hybridity in region. Same as LAS:2052.

COMM:2053 Secrets, Confidences, and Lies: Privacy Management in Interpersonal Relationships 3 s.h.
How individuals manage private information with regard to their interpersonal relationships; multiple theories of privacy management; how aspects of information, individual, and target of disclosure all contribute to decisions to reveal or conceal private information to friends and family.

COMM:2054 Movements, Protest, Resistance 3 s.h.
Historical and contemporary study of social movements from a symbolic perspective (e.g., speeches, protests, propaganda, media events); social movements as interpersonal and group communication; relationships between media and social change: efficacy of individual and larger-scale forms of resistance.

COMM:2057 Introduction to Computer-Mediated Communication 3 s.h.
Theoretical and practical introduction to concepts and research in computer-mediated communication; emphasis on study of social effects of communication and information technology; factors that distinguish mediated from face-to-face interaction, theories of mediated communication, self-presentation online; internet-based relationships, online supportive communication, online communities; how the internet influences communication and how to use computer-mediated communication for self-presentation.

COMM:2060 Public Relations, Publicity Stunts, and Pranks 3 s.h.
General overview of public relations and strategic communication methods; history of deception in communication practices; development of critical thinking strategies used to critique advertising and other forms of persuasion; use of humor in mounting public relations campaigns, publicity stunts, and pranks.

COMM:2064 Media, Advertising, and Society 3 s.h.
Introduction to the critical study of advertising in the United States; advertising contextualized as an industry and as a key part of media and culture; advertising as an institution and as a series of symbols, ideas, and fantasies; how advertising works, role and function of advertising in culture and society.

COMM:2065 Television Criticism 3 s.h.
Introduction to scholarly study of television as a social institution; nature of television form and content; role of industry in creation, selection, and presentation of television programs; production conventions and textual conventions in defining the medium; application of genre and narrative theory, semiotics, political economy of media industries, and audience reception study.

COMM:2069 Black Television Culture 3 s.h.
Social and political impact of television dramas featuring people of African descent in the West; examination of production, reception, representation, and industry as it relates to the African American images that are granted tenure on television screens. Same as AFAM:2070.

COMM:2070 Social Media and Society 3 s.h.
Introduction to theoretical and critical issues raised by social media for communication; particular emphasis on cultural and political phenomena; topics include various understandings of social media, forms of digital communication, individual and collective identity formations via social media, online communities, and global cultural exchange; recent examples of the "viral" phenomenon and internet-born activism.

COMM:2075 Gender, Sexuality, and Media 3 s.h.
Mediated representations of gender and sexuality (television, film, and internet) to understand how these complex and complicated codes influence meaning of sex, sexuality, and gender; contemporary and historical examples used to engage texts that illuminate cultural conceptions of femininity, masculinity, heterosexuality, and homosexuality; cases that confuse and trouble the stability of these categories. Same as GWSS:2075.

COMM:2076 Race, Ethnicity, and Media 3 s.h.
Introduction to debates about media portrayals of race and ethnicity; focus primarily on entertainment media; use of general analytic perspectives (stereotype analysis, aesthetic analysis, history) applied to real-world examples; address one or more racial/ethnic groups in the United States. Same as AFAM:2076.

COMM:2077 Writing and Producing Television 3 s.h.
Introduction to basics of scripting and producing a conventional, three-camera television series; hands-on experience with production equipment and workshopping television scripts; students create one or more episodes of an original television series.

COMM:2079 Digital Media and Religion 3 s.h.
Influences of digital media on religion and spirituality today. Same as RELS:2930.

COMM:2080 Public Life in the U.S.: Religion and Media 3 s.h.
Examination of how the U.S. came into being through specific communication practices, how religion has helped and hindered that process; religious roots of the idea of the U.S., intertwined histories of print media and religion, role of religion and secularism in public discourse; U.S. pride as a nation in which diversity thrives in public discourse; communicative acts that created and sustained this country and also mark sites of discord, conflict, and confusion from the very beginnings of the U.S. to today; how religion has been a source of national identity and national division. Same as RELS:2080.

COMM:2085 Media Industries and Organizations 3 s.h.
Trends in media industries as reflected in changes of ownership, different work conditions, media convergence, and globalization generally; focus on local, network, and cable television; examination of industry structures, business practices, economic fundamentals, and theoretical explanations of media industries in society.

COMM:2086 Global Media Studies 3 s.h.
Key developments in contemporary international communication; impact of deregulation and privatization on ownership and control of global communication infrastructure; spread of American television abroad in terms of production, texts, and reception; cultural concerns surrounding the phenomenon.

COMM:3360 Religion Beyond Reason: Emotion and Communication 3 s.h.

COMM:3600 Issues in Rhetoric and Culture: Crafting Online Persuasion 3 s.h.
COMM:4100 Developing Leadership 3 s.h.
Exploration of communicative dimensions of leadership and work of organizational communication scholars who have studied this topic; builds on leadership in organizational communication, business, and professional communication or other courses that introduce leadership from a communication perspective; readings and discussions of scholarly articles and selections from contemporary books/articles about leadership geared toward popular or professional audiences; team work, hands-on projects with emphasis on use of leadership skills. Prerequisites: (4 of the following are required: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174), COMM:1305, COMM:1306) and (2 of the following are required: COMM:1809, COMM:1814, COMM:1816, COMM:1818, COMM:1819, COMM:1830, COMM:1840, COMM:1845, COMM:1898, COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2045, COMM:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2060, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, AFAM:2070, COMM:2070, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, RELS:2930, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091, CL:2248).

COMM:4131 Globalization and Culture 3 s.h.
How context for everyday experience has increasingly become globally determined (e.g., ever-increasing transnational migration of people, spread of American culture, growth of international corporations and trade, rise of international conflict and transnational activism); range of theoretical and critical readings on globalization; various phenomena and perspectives regarding topic; themes directly relevant to lives of modern youth; how globalization affects opportunities and risks, identities and relationships. Prerequisites: (4 of the following are required: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174), COMM:1301, COMM:1305) and (2 of the following are required: COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2045, COMM:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, AFAM:2070, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, RELS:2930, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2090, COMM:2091, CL:2248). Same as IS:4131.

COMM:4140 Communication and Relationships 3 s.h.

COMM:4145 Argument and Law 3 s.h.

COMM:4146 Corporate Advocacy and Public Relations 3 s.h.

COMM:4147 Family Communication 3 s.h.
COMM:4153 Magic Machines: Technology and Social Change 3 s.h.

COMM:4157 Advanced Topics in Communication Studies 3 s.h.

COMM:4163 The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication 3 s.h.

COMM:4164 Life Happens. Don't Worry About It: The Communication of Social Support 3 s.h.

COMM:4165 Criticism and Public Culture 3 s.h.

COMM:4166 Life-Span Communication 3 s.h.
COMM:4168 Rhetoric of the Body 3 s.h.

COMM:4169 Feminist Rhetorics 3 s.h.

COMM:4170 Theories of Persuasion 3 s.h.

COMM:4172 Television and African American Culture 3 s.h.

COMM:4173 Social Media, Culture, and Politics 3 s.h.

COMM:4174 Communication, Technology, and National Security 3 s.h.

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COMM:4176 Advanced Relational Theory 3 s.h.

COMM:4181 Legal Communication and Culture 3 s.h.

COMM:4183 Networking America: The Cultural History of Broadcasting 3 s.h.

COMM:5200 Introduction to Research and Teaching 2 s.h.
Introduction to communication studies as a field of scholarship; selection of research problems, major lines of research, relationships in the department, bibliographical tools for scholarship in the field; issues, practical tasks, and concerns relevant to effective college or university classroom teaching.

COMM:5205 Proseminar in Communication Studies 1 s.h.
Research presentations in the field given by graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars.

COMM:5230 Introduction to Rhetorical Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction to major theories, principles, and practices of rhetorical theory and rhetorical criticism.

COMM:5241 Theories of Mass Communication 3 s.h.
Major concepts, theories, schools of thought in media studies, mass communication.

COMM:5299 Graduate Independent Study arr.

COMM:6210 Health Communication 3 s.h.
Theories, concepts, research associated with health communication; interpersonal and mass communication approaches. Same as CBH:6210.

COMM:6220 Health Communication Campaigns 3 s.h.
Intervention design and analysis of health campaigns; theory, practice, methods; mass media, community, organization, and interpersonal approaches. Same as CBH:6220.

COMM:6319 Criticism and Public Culture 3 s.h.
Fundamentals of criticism; practice of critical reading to engage various cultural texts (i.e., pop culture, national memorials, social movements, visual rhetoric); contemporary theories/debates that inform the art of critique (i.e., feminist theory, queer theory, critical theory).

COMM:6323 Rhetoric, Protest, and Social Movements 3 s.h.
Introductory study of relationships between rhetoric, protest, and social movements; theoretical and methodological debates framing and shaping how we understand protest and social movements rhetorically.

COMM:6335 Proseminar: Contemporary Rhetorical Studies 2-4 s.h.
Problems in contemporary rhetorical studies; may include works of Kenneth Burke, Wayne Booth, deconstructionists, feminist theorists and critics, critics of communication technologies.

COMM:6336 Seminar in Rhetorical Theory 1-4 s.h.
Topics in history and development of rhetorical theory; theory construction and application to critical practice.

COMM:6339 Seminar: Rhetoric and Culture 1-4 s.h.
Cultural theories, their utility in accounting for communication practices.

COMM:6341 Topics in Mass Communication Scholarship 1-3 s.h.
Theory and research on problems in mass communication.

COMM:6342 Critical Television Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction to canonical and contemporary readings in critical television studies; primary questions and theories associated with textual, industrial, ethnographic, and integrated approaches to studying television; how technological, economic, and cultural changes have altered television and how it is studied.
COMM:6345 New Materialisms 3 s.h.
Exploration of new strategies for rupturing persistent dichotomies of subject/object, representation/real, culture/nature, and active humans/passive things offered by theories of the vitality and agency of matter; introduction to origins of and developments in new materialisms; oriented to interdisciplinary inquiry and application to research in the humanities, broadly conceived; particular attention to actor-network theory, feminism, queer theory, infrastructuralism, and materialist theories of media. Same as GWSS:6345.

COMM:6346 The Public Sphere 3 s.h.
Theories, intellectual history, critics, contemporary issues of the public sphere.

COMM:6350 Seminar: Mass Communication 1-4 s.h.
Topics vary.

COMM:6351 Global Media Seminar 3 s.h.
Theories and processes of globalization and the cultural implications of media globalization; local responses to globalizing processes with reference to questions of modernity and national/transnational identity.

COMM:6352 Seminar: Media Theory 3 s.h.
Topics vary.

COMM:6354 Media and Social Change in Latin America 3 s.h.
Cultural history and political economy of Latin American media; focus on U.S. influence and globalizing processes; media theory in Latin context; national and transnational audience formations.

COMM:6355 The Communication of Social Support 3 s.h.
Substantial knowledge base developed by scholars about types, processes, and mechanisms of social support used by humans to comfort one another; in-depth examination of theory and empirical research related to communication of social support; emphasis on types of support, verbal person-centered messages, and various strategies for social support; gender differences and social skills related to comforting; online supportive communication; development of detailed knowledge of this topic, critical assessment of extant research, and synthesis of class readings in written format.

COMM:6357 Computer-Mediated Communication 3 s.h.
In-depth analysis of theory and research related to computer-mediated communication; factors that distinguish mediated from face-to-face interaction, theories of mediated interpersonal communication, self-presentation online, internet-based relationships, and online supportive communication; how the internet influences communication; online supportive communication, problematic internet use, preference for online social interaction, the digital divide, mediated social networks, deception, and interventions on the internet.

COMM:6370 Quantitative Research Methods 3 s.h.
Primary methods for conducting quantitative research on interpersonal and group communication.

COMM:6371 Communication Theory 3 s.h.
Survey of primary theories of interpersonal, cultural, group, and organizational communication.

COMM:6376 Family Communication 3 s.h.
Theory and research on communication among and between family members (parents, children, marital partners, siblings); quantitative and qualitative research.

COMM:6381 Seminar: Topics in Communication Research 3 s.h.
Topics vary.

COMM:6387 Communication, Cognition, and Emotion 3 s.h.
Theoretical and empirical work that integrates communication, cognition, emotion; role of social cognition in communication, theories of emotion, types of emotional experiences; approaches to understanding emotion from perspectives in psychology, social cognition, communication; emotion-related issues such as influence of gender, effects of mood.

COMM:6399 Ph.D. Dissertation arr.

COMM:6400 Current Issues in Rhetoric 3 s.h.
Ethical, social, or cultural issues; rhetoric's role in their contemporary significance; traditional aspects of rhetoric, their pertinence to present concerns. Same as RHET:6400.

COMM:6635 Crossing Borders Seminar 2-3 s.h.