Communication Studies

Chair
• Timothy J. Havens

Undergraduate major: communication studies (B.A.)
Undergraduate minor: communication studies
Graduate degrees: M.A. in communication studies; Ph.D. in communication studies
Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/commstudies/people
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/commstudies/

The Department of Communication Studies focuses on the study of human communication as a social practice. Scholarship and teaching in the department center on the role that human communication processes play in the construction, maintenance, reinforcement, and reformation of various aspects of social, professional, and institutional life.

The department provides a liberal-arts-based undergraduate education that prepares students to meet the complex communication challenges of the 21st century. It provides top-ranked doctoral education and is a national and international leader in research and knowledge dissemination.

The department has three areas of specialization. The rhetoric and public advocacy specialization focuses on how citizens use public argumentation and other rhetorical processes to bring about cultural, social, and political changes. The media studies specialization focuses on modern media in their cultural, economic, historical, political, and social contexts to understand how society and social relations shape and are shaped by media practices. The interpersonal communication and relationships specialization focuses on how the communicative practices of relating in everyday life construct, shape, sustain, and change who people are as individuals, as well as the quality of their lives.

The Department of Communication Studies encourages exploration of the practical, political, social, and aesthetic dimensions of symbolic exchange and awareness of the relationships among these dimensions. The department has produced many influential scholars and artists and has been a hub for the intersection of programs and projects of the University and other institutions.

Forensics/Debate
Students in the forensics/debate program have the opportunity to participate in on-campus debates, in developmental programs designed to improve speech activities in the state, and as members of competitive intercollegiate debate teams. Forensics scholarships are available. Students interested in debate should enroll in COMM:2813 Practicum in Debate or COMM:1814 Elements of Debate.

Related Certificate: Event Planning

The Departments of Communication Studies, Health and Human Physiology, and Marketing, and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication collaborate to offer the undergraduate Certificate in Event Planning. Students who earn the certificate will know and be able to demonstrate the basic principles of organizing a successful event. They will gain a robust understanding of the diverse field of event planning and careers in the event planning industry. For information about the certificate, see Event Planning in the Catalog.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Major
• Major in Communication Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Minor
• Minor in Communication Studies

Graduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Master of Arts in Communication Studies
• Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies

Facilities

The Samuel L. Becker Communication Studies Building is designed to meet the department’s research and technological needs.

Courses

Courses numbered below 5000 are intended primarily for undergraduates; those numbered 5000 and above are for graduate students. Graduate students may take courses numbered 3000-4999 for credit, with their committee’s approval.

Not all courses are offered each semester.

Registration in COMM:1000 First-Year Seminar is open to first- and second-semester students regardless of grade-point average.

Communication Studies Courses

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.

COMM:1305 Studying Communication: Methods and Critiques 4 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. Requirements: 30 s.h. of credit.

COMM:1809 Social Marketing Campaigns 3 s.h.
Introduction to theory, development, and practice of social marketing campaigns; public 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:1898 Introduction to Latina/o Communication and Culture 3 s.h.
Introduction to fundamentals of communication by and about Latina/o in the U.S.; Latina/o as one of the fastest growing demographics; how Latina/o history, politics, and culture remain little understood despite a longstanding and growing presence in Iowa and across the nation; historical orientation; Latina/o social movement and protest (e.g., Chicana/o movements and the Young Lords Organization), institutional discourses (e.g., congressional, presidential, and legal discourses), and Latina/o in popular culture (film, TV, music, sports). Same as LAS:1898.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2010</td>
<td>Communication and Organizational Culture</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2011</td>
<td>Group Communication</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2040</td>
<td>Communication and Conflict</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2041</td>
<td>Gender, Communication, and Culture</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2042</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2044</td>
<td>Political Communication</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2045</td>
<td>Gender, Sexuality, and Space</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2048</td>
<td>Transforming Media: From Telegraph to Internet</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Communication media as global phenomena in which U.S. corporate and government interests play a major part; from electronic telegraph to broadcasting and cable, an investigation of historical contexts in which these media emerged; tracing ways in which they have been shaped by political, economic, and social relations of power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2051</td>
<td>Politics of Popular Culture</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2052</td>
<td>Latin American Media</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2053</td>
<td>Secrets, Confidences, and Lies: Privacy Management in Interpersonal Relations</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2054</td>
<td>Movements, Protest, Resistance</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2057</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer-Mediated Communication</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2058</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Past Public Controversy: The Sixties</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Role of rhetoric in public controversy in particular historical time periods; focus on various perspectives, diverse voices, and multiple arguments informing particular movements/issues. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Requirements: communication studies majors must register for COMM:2058 to receive credit in the communication studies major. Same as RHET:2410.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2064</td>
<td>Media, Advertising, and Society</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM:2065</td>
<td>Television Criticism</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMM:2069 Black TV Drama: The Wire 3 s.h.
Social and political impact of television dramas featuring people of African descent in the West; HBO’s The Wire series—a social commentary, commercial, and aesthetic force—has pioneered new ways of thinking about the relationship between media and society at large while revolutionizing ways in which black urban life is portrayed in today’s world; focus on complex intersections between urban poverty, education, and political system, crime, mediation in Western society. Same as AFAM:2070.

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:2087 Copyright Controversies 3 s.h.
How digital technologies have dramatically changed media and popular culture landscapes; advent of relatively cheap editing programs that allow anyone to collage media on their home computers and enable people to become cultural producers; technologies that allow more people to break law in the eyes of copyright industries; historical look at collage practices from pre-digital era to present; ethical and legal questions surrounding use and reuse of copyrighted materials; notion of free speech in a media age.

COMM:2088 Media and Democracy 3 s.h.
Exploration of relationship between democracy and mass communication; why controversies regarding mass communication are also controversies about democracy; logical relationship between democracy and mass media; roots and history of ideas of democracy, contemporary obstacles to realization of these ideas, and varied issues of present; latest developments in world of politics and media.

COMM:2089 Nonverbal Communication 3 s.h.
Introduction to theoretical study of nonverbal communication; focus on major principles and research trends; examination of role of nonverbal communication in communication as a whole; perception and interpretation of nonverbal communication (i.e., posture, eye movements, tone of voice); nonverbal behaviors (i.e., facial expression, eye movement) as used to persuade, impress, or deceive someone.

COMM:2090 Topics in Communication Studies 3 s.h.
Topics vary.

COMM:2091 Organizational Communication 3 s.h.
Explores nature and function of communication in organizations; theories of organizational communication and scholarly research related to communicating effectively in organizational settings; course will strengthen critical thinking and research skills, deepen understanding of topics related to organizing, and improve ability to communicate successfully as members and leaders of organizations.

COMM:2248 The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers 3 s.h.
Invention of writing as one of the most momentous events in the history of human civilizations; how the use of written sign systems, notations, maps, graphs, encryptions, and most recently, computer programs have consequences that reach deeply into all aspects of people’s lives; how writing fascinates and delights, fosters reflexive thinking and facilitates development of complex societies, and gives rise to institutions of social power and control; students explore the invention of writing and its consequences in broad international and interdisciplinary context. Same as ANTH:2248, ASIA:2248, CL:2248, CLSA:2048, HIST:2148, IS:2248, LING:2248, WLLC:2248.

COMM:22800 Introduction to Latin American Studies 3 s.h.
Cultures of Latin American countries with emphasis on cultural history and cultural production; interdisciplinary survey. Same as IS:2700, LAS:2700, PORT:2700, SPAN:2700.

COMM:22802 Workshop in Debate and Forensics 3 s.h.
Public argument on questions of value and policy; opportunities for demonstration and practice in discussion and debate. Requirements: concurrent enrollment in the National Summer Institute in Forensics.
COMM:2813 Practicum in Debate 1 s.h.
Practice of skills in research, reasoning, argument
development, and argumentative performance in debate
undertaken by members of the A. Craig Baird Debate Forum
in preparation for and participation in intercollegiate debate
competition. Requirements: participation in A. Craig Baird
Debate Forum.

COMM:2821 Oral Interpretation 3 s.h.
Weekly performances to develop and define communication
skills for professional careers in teaching and business; poetry,
prose, monologue, storytelling, duo interpretation, reader’s
theatre, and demonstration speeches. Same as EDTL:2821.

COMM:2828 Experiential Learning in Communication
Studies 1-3 s.h.
Structured course work while student completes a semester-
long professional work experience (paid or unpaid, part-
or full-time, on- or off- campus); professionalization and
application of classroom learning to real-world contexts;
requires professional supervision and evaluation by a manager
in the organization. Requirements: g.p.a. of at least 2.00,
communication studies major, and minimum of 12 s.h. of
communication studies course work.

COMM:2896 Workshop in Teaching Communication and
Forensics arr.
Methods, materials, progression, evaluation in teaching
and supervising students in courses in subjects and class activities;
opportunities for observation, demonstration, practice in
teaching theater, discussion and debate, individual speech,
dramatic and forensic events. Requirements: 6 s.h. of
intermediate-level course work.

COMM:2897 Independent Study arr.
Creative or research project under faculty supervision.

COMM:2898 Honors Workshop 1 s.h.
Preparation for honors thesis prospectus; coordination of
student's individual thesis work, introduction to issues
in research design, methods. Requirements: g.p.a. of at
least 3.33, honors standing, completion of Foundations of
Communication requirement, and 6 s.h. of intermediate-level
course work.

COMM:2899 Honors Thesis 3 s.h.
Individual research, writing, or creative production under
faculty supervision. Requirements: g.p.a. of at least 3.33,
honors standing, completion of Foundations of Communication
requirement, and 6 s.h. of intermediate-level course work.

COMM:3100 LGBTQ/Queer Studies 3 s.h.
Overview of queer theory and queer studies; development of
critical thinking skills in relation to cultural constructions of
gender, sexuality, race, and other identity categories.
Requirements: communication studies majors must complete:
(4 of (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117
or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174), COMM:1301,
COMM:1305); and (2 of COMM:2010, COMM:2011,
COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044,
COMM:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053,
COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064,
COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076,
COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085,
COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089,
COMM:2090, COMM:2091) prior to enrolling in this course.
Same as GWSS:3100.

COMM:3360 Religion Beyond Reason: Emotion and
Communication 3 s.h.
How we communicate emotion by using and defying
language; a collaborative effort to think about religion beyond
the boundaries of rationality where it extends into emotion,
passion, and social energy. Requirements: communication
studies majors must complete: (4 of (COMM:1112 or
COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168
or COMM:1174), COMM:1301, COMM:1305); and (2 of
COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2040, COMM:2041,
COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2048, COMM:2051,
COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057,
COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069,
COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079,
COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087,
COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091) prior to
enrolling in this course. Same as RELS:3360.

COMM:3600 Issues in Rhetoric and Culture: Crafting
Electronic Identities 3 s.h.
Rhetorical theory and criticism as culturally embedded
practices; rhetorical production of selves and social difference;
relationships between rhetoric and literature, philosophy,
popular texts. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or (RHET:1060
and RHET:1040). Requirements: communication studies
majors must complete: (4 of (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170),
COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174),
COMM:1301, COMM:1305) and (2 of COMM:2010, COMM:2011,
COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044,
COMM:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053,
COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064,
COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076,
COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085,
COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089,
COMM:2090, COMM:2091) prior to enrolling in this course.
Same as RHET:3600.

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:1301, COMM:1305) and (2 of
the following are required: COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2040,
COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2048,
COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054,
COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065,
COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077,
COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086,
COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090,
COMM:2091).
COMM:4120 Communication and Relationships 3 s.h.

COMM:4135 Media, Culture, and Relationships 3 s.h.
Intersections of interpersonal communication and media; often studied as separate phenomena, approached as integrated systems, and integration as a central issue of our times; application of theories of interpersonal communication, media, and culture to a project that identifies a communication problem involving interpersonal and media issues, and proposes a solution to a potential client or audience; students draw on skills central to communication studies major (critical thinking, identifying and solving problems, effective oral and written communication). 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).

COMM:4142 Advanced Intercultural Communication 3 s.h.
Defining culture as a historically-transmitted, socially-constructed system of meaning enacted in face-to-face interaction and mass media; focus on a specific topic within intercultural communication research and theory (i.e., cultural nature of personal relationships, built environment as culture, intersection of private with public cultural meaning); in-depth follow-up of general approach to intercultural communication covered in lower-level courses. 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091). Same as IS:4142.

COMM:4145 Argument and Law 3 s.h.

COMM:4147 Family Communication 3 s.h.
COMM:4153 Magic Machines: Technology and Social Change 3 s.h.
-how media has altered culture, society, and human consciousness throughout history with focus on last two centuries (or modernity); how communication has been shaped by a variety of media (i.e., gesture, language, writing, printing, calendars, clocks, photography, telegraph, telephone, phonograph, film, radio, television, computers); 21st-century questions concerning technology and how few communicate today without aid of some kind of machine or technique. 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2059, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091). Same as RELS:4153.

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

COMM:4163 The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication 3 s.h.
Review of advanced communication theories and research; focus on dark side of interpersonal communication and close relationships; negative or difficult elements of developing and maintaining relationships; expression of difficult emotions; mundane communication that can function in destructive or maintaining relationships; negative or difficult elements of developing and close 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).

COMM:4164 Life Happens. Don't Worry About It: The Communication of Social Support 3 s.h.
Advanced look at communication of social support as a research tradition in interpersonal communication scholarship; in-depth overview of theories, concepts, types, processes, and mechanisms that constitute different forms of comforting behaviors; emphasis on factors that change people’s abilities, motivations, or perceptions of success during experiences of social support; Internet influences on social support by online support groups, Internet-based intervention programs, how process of communicating comfort is altered by conveying these messages online. 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).

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

COMM:4166 Life-Span Communication 3 s.h.
How communication processes (i.e., social support, language skills, interpersonal relationship management) change across the course of one’s existence; normative and unexpected demographic and health events mapped out across a life span; how our communication processes influence and are influenced by social experiences; underlying premise of life-span perspective that our potential for human growth extends throughout our life course. 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).
COMM:4168 Rhetoric of the Body 3 s.h.
Survey of a range of theories about the body and application to specific case studies; implications of how bodies are endowed with and convey meaning; theories of pollution, pain, ability, and normativity; diverse case studies that are seemingly disparate, but all preoccupy themselves with public conceptions of bodily meaning (i.e., beauty pageants, freak shows, plastic surgery, the wannabe movement, tattoos, the FDR Presidential Memorial, Deaf culture, fat bodies, illness, and torture). 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).

COMM:4169 Feminist Rhetorics 3 s.h.
Exploration of multiple, varied, and complex histories of U.S. feminisms from rhetorical perspectives; focus on primary documents, the letters, speeches, essays, and manifestos that shaped women’s movements and inspire social change from late 18th century to present; social, political, and personal issues that feminists sought to address and transform, communicative and rhetorical methods utilized, and implications of these efforts for women’s lives and broader U.S. American culture. 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).

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.
COMM:4176 Advanced Relational Theory 3 s.h.
Relationships and how they significantly shape our experiences of the world, sense of identity, outlook on life, and way in which we think about experiences and life in general; premise that relationships are more than emotional attachments or bonds; relationships as happy, emotionally satisfying elements of life; demonstrations of a variety of communicative situations that establish, reconstitute, and demonstrate importance of membership of communities 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:2048, COMM:2051, COMM:2052, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2058, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2087, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091).

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 represented 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 Rhetoric and Discourse 3 s.h.
Introduction to major theories, principles, and practices of rhetorical theory, rhetorical criticism, and discourse analysis.

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:6340 Media and Modernity 3 s.h.
Survey of classic and contemporary theoretical texts on cultural, social, political, and human consequences of 19th- and 20th-century media.

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/reality, 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.

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 Cultural History of Radio 3 s.h.
Cultural history, sound aesthetics, political economy, and audience studies of U.S. radio broadcasting; radio as a contested medium of local, regional, and national culture.

COMM:6365 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:6367 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.