Communication (COMM)

Courses

COMM 416. Conflict and Communication. 3 or 4 hours.
Students learn to manage and resolve conflict in business, governmental, and community settings. Practical analysis of interpersonal and group conflict cases. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 423. Discourse and Rhetoric. 3 or 4 hours.
Exploration of interconnections between language and social practices with attention to multiple components of discursive situations: senders, receivers, context, code, media, and content. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 425. Digital Advocacy. 3 hours.
Social media, social movements and advocacy efforts in the digital era. Topics covered include hashtag activism, global movements, digital activism, online mobilization around social injustice. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 430. Media, Information and Society. 3 or 4 hours.
Dissemination of information via mass media involving social functions and significant questions about facts, truth, knowledge and values. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 433. Mobile Media and the City. 3 hours.
Relationship between contemporary technologies - new media, urban screens, mobile and wireless technologies, ubiquitous computing - and cities. Foundational theory on mobile media and communication. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 434. Global Communication Systems. 3 or 4 hours.
Structure and flow of international communication. Media organization systems. International impact of new media and information technology. Impact of U.S. media reporting on foreign affairs. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 435. Data, Privacy and Ethics in the Digital Age. 3 hours.
Datafication and privacy. Topics include commodification of personal information through various devices and platforms; the quantified self; legal, ethical, and contextual approaches to privacy; politics of algorithms. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 440. Technology, Social Justice, and Sustainable Futures. 3 hours.
Complex interplay between technology, humans and the environment. Anthropocene and climate change. Sustainable design. Electronic waste. Environmental racism. Futurology and Afrofuturism. Technological diffusion and planned obsolescence. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 301; or consent of the instructor.

COMM 458. Minorities and Communication. 3 or 4 hours.
Description and analysis of the processes through which ethnic and racial perceptions shape public discourse. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 460. Visual Communication. 3 or 4 hours.
Exploration of processes through which meaning is derived from visible signs, and the role of media images in the cultural context. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 465. Video Games and Society. 3 hours.
Games and their complex socio-cultural impact on society. Explores what games say about the nature of identity, community, presence, learning, and communication. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 467. Public Opinion and Political Communication. 3 or 4 hours.
Nature of public opinion and political communication systems. Patterns of opinion distribution and its measurement. Forces shaping public opinion and its impact on public policy. Course Information: Same as POLS 467. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): POLS 200 or the equivalent or consent of the instructor.

COMM 474. Internship. 1-8 hours.
Students work in an approved professional setting. Individual projects developed through conferences with a faculty member and a field supervisor. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. No more than 3 credit hours of COMM 474 may be applied toward the major. May not be counted toward the minimum Master of Arts degree requirements. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department.

COMM 489. Human Augmentics. 3 or 4 hours.
Study of technologies for augmentation of human capabilities; human limitations; implants and wearable technologies; implants; brain-computer interfaces; exoskeletons; sensors; and networks. Includes project work. Course Information: Same as CS 486. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Extensive computer use required. Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or above; or consent of the instructor; or Senior majoring in Communications or Psychology.

COMM 490. Seminar in Culture and Communication. 3 hours.
Analysis of contrastive cultural paradigms (interethnic, gender, class) to develop student's awareness of own socialization and cultural orientation. Course Information: This course may be offered as a blended-online and classroom course. Use of computer and internet access is required. A high-speed connection, while not required, is strongly suggested. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 491. Seminar in Media and Communication. 3 hours.
Analysis of contemporary or historical issues in mediated communication. Course Information: This course may be offered as a blended-online and classroom course. Use of computer and internet access is required. A high-speed connection, while not required, is strongly suggested. Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 494. Special Topics in Communication. 3 or 4 hours.
Contemporary trends in the field of communication. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated up to 2 time(s). Prerequisite(s): COMM 301.

COMM 498. Independent Study. 1-4 hours.
Individual investigation of special problems (student-initiated or related to faculty research). May be used for special projects, such as interdisciplinary seminars. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. No more than 3 credit hours of COMM 498 may be applied toward the major. Credit earned may not be applied toward the minimum Master of Arts in Communication degree requirements. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department and Junior or Senior standing.

COMM 500. Introduction to Communication Research. 4 hours.
History of the field, research traditions, communication viewed as social science; forming research questions, reviewing and critiquing literature, formulating hypotheses and rationale, conceptually defining variables. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor or graduate standing in communication.
COMM 501. Operationalizing Communication Research. 4 hours.
Levels of measurement; operational definitions; sampling qualitative
and quantitative designs; coding and analysis of data; statistics; pilot
testing and instrument/design revision; writing research reports. Course
Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 500.

COMM 502. Seminar in Media Studies. 4 hours.
In-depth, intensive examination of theories, perspectives, and
approaches to media studies. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM
500; or consent of the instructor.

COMM 503. Seminar in Intercultural Communication. 4 hours.
Introduction to basic theoretical concepts and important issues in
intercultural communication. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM
500; or consent of the instructor.

COMM 504. Communication, Technology, and Society Proseminar. 4
hours.
Introduction to philosophy and history of communication technologies.
The social impact of communication technology.

COMM 505. Organizational Communication. 4 hours.
Classic and current research. Models that examine organizational
communication; assessment of organizational problems and conduct of
problem-solving research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM
306 and COMM 500; or consent of the instructor.

COMM 506. Cross-Cultural Communication. 4 hours.
Analysis of different theoretical approaches to cross-cultural
communication (sociolinguistic, attributional); contrastive analysis of
Western and non-Western cultural systems (interactional etiquette,
discourse rules). Course Information: Same as LING 506.

COMM 508. New Media of Communication. 4 hours.
Theories, history and philosophy of the new media of communication.
Social diffusion and consequences of new media technologies.
Assessment and evaluation of the social impact of new media. Course
Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 504.

COMM 510. Social Networks and Technology. 4 hours.
Foundational theory and methods of social and informational networks.
Emphasis on social influence and social network sciences theories
as they pertain to the field of communication and technology. Course
Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 500; and COMM 501; and COMM
502.

COMM 522. Human-Computer Interaction. 4 hours.
The computer-user interface: media, languages, interaction techniques,
user modeling. Human factors in software development. Theory,
experimental methods, evaluation, tools. Project required. Course
Information: Same as PSCH 522 and CS 522. Prerequisite(s): CS 422; or
consent of the instructor.

COMM 525. Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism. 4 hours.
Contemporary approaches to rhetorical criticism. Each offering focuses
upon the distinctive contributions of specified rhetoricians to the theory
and practice of rhetorical criticism. Course Information: May be repeated
to a maximum of 12 hours. Prerequisite(s): COMM 410.

COMM 534. Mass Communication Theory. 4 hours.
Introduction to major theories of mass communication: their social history
and substantive claims; distinction between mass mediated and other
forms of communication, implications of distinction.

COMM 534. Cognitive Psychology of Language. 3 hours.
Provides students with a survey of methods, theory and research in
language and discourse processing. Course Information: Same as PSCH
554 and LING 554. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or consent of the
instructor.

COMM 567. Topics in Political Communication. 4 hours.
Intensive study of selected aspects; organizational communication in
public institutions, urban political communication patterns, communication
elites. Independent research using a variety of community research
techniques. Course Information: Same as PA 567 and POLS 567.
Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

COMM 570. Seminar in Philosophy of Technology. 4 hours.
Conceptual approaches to technology, with special emphasis on
communication technologies. Emphasis on the application of values,
beliefs, and thoughts related to the interplay of technology and society.
Course Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 504.

COMM 580. Qualitative Methods in Communication. 4 hours.
Qualitative methods course analyzing language and culture patterns.
Course Information: Same as LING 582. Prerequisite(s): COMM 501 or
consent of the instructor.

COMM 585. Digital Ethnography. 4 hours.
Ethnography as a method practiced digitally and within or beyond digital
environments. Theories and practices of digital ethnography. Course
Information: Prerequisite(s): COMM 500 and COMM 501 and COMM
502; and COMM 580.

COMM 591. Health Communication. 4 hours.
Focusing on interpersonal, organizational and public contexts, seminar
participants will review current literature in health communication,
and apply selected communication concepts to healthrelated
situations. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing in
communication, or enrollment in a health professions school or college, or
consent of the instructor.

COMM 594. Advanced Special Topics in Communication. 1-4 hours.
Student may register for more than one section per term. Advanced
topics in communication theory and research. Subject matter varies.
Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more
than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

COMM 596. Independent Research. 1-4 hours.
Department approved research projects not included in thesis research.
Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Students
may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent
of the head of the department.

COMM 598. Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.
Under guidance of an advisor and committee, the student develops and
conducts a research project addressing a communication problem of a
basic or applied nature. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
grading only. May be repeated. Students may register in more than one
section per term. Prerequisite(s): COMM 501.

COMM 599. Dissertation Research. 0-16 hours.
Under guidance of an advisor and committee, the student conducts
research on the topic of the doctoral dissertation. Course Information:
Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may
register for more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of
the instructor.