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 approval of the department.

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 (interethicnic, 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 540. Organizational 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 552. 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 554. 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 557. 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 567. 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 health-related 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.