

COURSES FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Communication Studies Courses

COM500 Introduction to Graduate Studies

Hours 1,3

This course is an introduction to graduate level learning in the discipline of Communication Studies. The primary goal is to provide new graduate students with an orientation to the discipline and the department. This course provides a broad introduction to the various topics and approaches of studying communication, including the metatheoretical principles guiding knowledge production. As such, students will be introduced to theories and concepts of Communication, as well as how these can be applied to understand phenomena across various contexts. Another goal of the course is to prepare students for success in graduate studies by reinforcing skills such as critical reading, writing, information gathering, syntheses, and presentation. The course covers program requirements, degree completion options, and professional development within and outside academia.

COM501 Introduction to Teaching Public Speaking

Hours 1

The primary goal of this course is to facilitate the instruction of COM 123 Public Speaking. Graduate students enrolled in this course will provide lesson plans for their classes and discuss options for improving classroom learning.

COM505 Introduction to Teaching in Communication Studies

Hours 1

The primary goal of this course is to facilitate the instruction of general education courses in Communication Studies. Graduate students enrolled in this course will provide lesson plans for their classes and discuss options for improving classroom learning.

COM510 Comprehensive Examination Preparation

Hours 3

This course is designed for graduate students in their final semester of study who have chosen to complete the comprehensive examination as their capstone experience for the degree.

Prerequisite(s): COM 550, COM 548, OR ADVISOR APPROVED ALTERNATIVE METHODS COURSE

COM513 Communication & Diversity

Hours 3

Study and analysis of issues of diversity as they relate to groups in society and in communication fields. Emphasis is on the media's treatment of various groups in society. Approved as a communication and culture elective.

COM522 Communication and the Law

Hours 3

This course introduces ancient rhetorical origins shared by communication and the practice of law and examines how contemporary communication theory informs the way legal systems work today. Students are given the opportunity to investigate a specific legal practice or phenomenon through the application of communication theory.

COM524 Communication & Forensics Pedagogy

Hours 3

This class explores the relationship between forensics and academia, investigating the placement of competitive forensic activities within specific academic departments, the development of strong, competitive programs through responsible coaching, and the application of forensics experience beyond the competitive environment.

COM525 Gender & Political Communication

Hours 3

Study of the impact of gender on political communication activities. Topics include gender differences in political messages and voter orientation, masculine ideals of leadership, women's roles and advancement in the political sphere, and media representations.

COM536 Independent Study

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Hours 1-3

Individualized research under graduate faculty supervision. Students who want to include this course in their Plans of Study to complete degree requirements must secure official approval from their faculty advisor and the department. No more than three hours of independent study may be applied toward degree requirements for the M.A. in Communication Studies.

Special Topics Course

COM541 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory

Hours 3

A survey of major contributions to rhetorical theory from the 20th century up to the present.

COM545 Classical Rhetorical Theory

Hours 3

A systematic inquiry into the development of Greek and Roman rhetorical theory during the classical period (ca. 480 B.C.E. 400 C.E.).

COM548 Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism

Hours 3

An examination of various methodological perspectives of rhetorical criticism. Specifically, the course aims to familiarize students with both traditional and alternative critical methods and to encourage students to perceive the rhetorical dimensions of all manner of public discourse, ranging from speeches, advertising, film, popular music to discursive forms in new media and the Internet.

COM550 Qualitative Research Methods in Communication

Hours 3

An introduction to qualitative research methods in communication, including data collection and analysis. The goals of the course are to provide exposure to a broad array of qualitative methods, help students learn to use some of these methods, and to help them to understand the role of research in our field. The course is designed to help student actually conduct research, resulting in two conference-worthy papers.

COM551 Instructional Communication: Theories & Practice

Hours 3

This course explores the theories, research, and practice that identify communication skills and competencies in the educational setting.

COM555 Conflict and Negotiation

Hours 3

Negotiation is fundamentally a communicative activity. The main objective of this course is to understand processes of formal conflict management in mixed motive settings. Students will apply negotiation theory and skills to simulated negotiation cases that include buyer-seller transactions, negotiating through an agent or mediator, salary negotiations, deal making, resolution of workplace disputes, multiparty negotiations, international and intercultural negotiations, and ethical decision making and communication in negotiation. The skills and theory introduced in this course will help students manage integrative and distributive aspects of the negotiation process to achieve individual and collective goals.

COM560 Group Leadership

Hours 3

An advanced study of small-group behavior, examining in detail theories of leadership as they relate to problem solving in group situations.

COM561 Human Communication Theory

Hours 3

A detailed review of selected theories of speech communication with a focus on the critical examination of the foundation of social scientific theories.

COM563 Relational Communication

Hours 3

Focused investigation of communication in close personal relationships, with primary emphasis on contemporary concepts and theories of romantic relationships and friendships.

COM565 Intercultural Communication

Hours 3

Survey and analysis of major concepts, theories, and research dealing with communication between people of different cultural backgrounds in multicultural and international settings.

COM567 Seminar in Public Address

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Hours 3

A topical consideration of individual case studies from public discourse, designed to probe problems of the nature of the audience, the ethics of persuasion, and the power of public advocacy in mass society. Topics may vary.

Special Topics Course

COM570 Foundations in Health Communication

Hours 3

This course focuses on the foundations for studying communication occurring in the professional and everyday practices of health and healing, including patient-provider relationships, health education, health care organizations, health and the body, and other political, cultural, and material forces that influence how we make sense of health.

COM571 Organizational Communication

Hours 3

An introductory examination of historical and contemporary issues in organizational communication scholarship from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives.

COM572 Organizational Assessment/Intervention

Hours 3

Examines the theoretical issues inherent in the study of organizational communication, the primary factors requiring assessment and intervention, the impact of on-going changes and new information techniques, current challenges facing the organizational consultant, and the practical application of communication processes for improving organizations.

COM573 Methods of Community Engagement

Hours 3

This course studies the communicative processes and strategies for engaging with community stakeholders through research and experiential learning. Students are placed in an environment to practice application of these methods, to learn firsthand the effects of engagement communication models, and to experience the community building possible through careful communication.

COM575 Technology, Culture, and Human Communication

Hours 3

Study of the complexity of technologically-mediated communication across cultures. This course combines literature and concepts from intercultural communication with human communication and technology and addresses the challenges of interacting with others via technology, working in global virtual teams and organizations, and participating as a citizen and consumer in the technology age.

COM578 Critical Autoethnography

Hours 3

This course examines autoethnography as perspective, method, and content area, concentrating on writing as a method of knowing that privileges lived experience.

COM580 Capstone Seminar

Hours 3

This course gives students opportunities to demonstrate learning by interpreting, synthesizing, and integrating their knowledge from previous coursework in communication studies. This course serves as a culminating experience and should be taken during the last term of students' program of study.

Prerequisite(s): COM 550

COM590 Internship

Hours 1-3

Proposal for supervised field experience in communication studies must be submitted and approved.

COM595 Special Topics

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Hours 3

Topics vary by instructor.

Special Topics Course

COM598 Professional or Creative Project

SP

Hours 3

MA students in Communication Studies who elect the Professional Plan II Option may earn 3 hours credit for completing a research or creative project.

Special Topics Course

COM599 Thesis Research

Hours 1-6

No description available

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