Courses

COMM 1003. Basic Course in the Arts: Film Lecture. 3 Hours.
Introduction to film as entertainment and art. How to look at film through a study of composition, lighting, editing, sound and acting. Lectures and viewing time.

COMM 1003H. Honors Basic Course in the Arts: Film Lecture. 3 Hours.
This course is equivalent to COMM 1003.

COMM 1023. Communication in a Diverse World. 3 Hours.
Introductory course that focuses on the skills and understandings associated with competent communication in a diverse society within interpersonal, group, organizational and intercultural communication contexts.

COMM 1023H. Honors Communication in a Diverse World. 3 Hours.
Introductory course that focuses on the skills and understandings associated with competent communication in a diverse society within interpersonal, group, organizational and intercultural communication contexts. Prerequisite: Honors standing.
This course is equivalent to COMM 1023.

COMM 1233. Media, Community and Citizenship. 3 Hours.
Examines theory and research on how messages are processed, meanings constructed, communities formed and maintained through interaction with the media. Focus is on critical citizenship and media literacy in the context of the cognitive, social, cultural, political, and economic consequences of increasingly networked media systems.

COMM 1233H. Honors Media, Community and Citizenship. 3 Hours.
Examines theory and research on how messages are processed, meanings constructed, communities formed and maintained through interaction with the media. Focus is on critical citizenship and media literacy in the context of the cognitive, social, cultural, political, and economic consequences of increasingly networked media systems. Prerequisite: Honors standing.
This course is equivalent to COMM 1233.

COMM 1313. Public Speaking (ACTS Equivalency = SPCH 1003). 3 Hours.
Application of the communication techniques needed to organize and deliver oral messages in a public setting. Emphasis given to theory and practice of message strategies and preparation, audience analysis, presentational skills including multimedia support, speech criticism, and the listening process.

COMM 1313H. Honors Public Speaking. 3 Hours.
Application of the communication techniques needed to organize and deliver oral messages in a public setting. Emphasis given to theory and practice of message strategies and preparation, audience analysis, presentational skills including multimedia support, speech criticism, and the listening process. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 2303. Advanced Public Speaking. 3 Hours.
Continuing study of the invention and adaptation or oral discourse to the needs of listeners. Consideration of the problems of communication in platform presentation. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 2323. Interpersonal Communication. 3 Hours.
Personal and interpersonal factors affecting communication in everyday life. Emphasis upon ways in which interpersonal perception, physical environment, semantic choices, and nonverbal cues affect communication primarily in the context of work, family, and other personal experiences.

COMM 2333. Introduction to Communication Research. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the basic assumptions underlying communication inquiry; resources for and methods of data collection in communication research; and techniques for organization, interpretation, reporting, and evaluation of communication research.

COMM 2343. Introduction to Small-Group Communication. 3 Hours.
An introduction to procedures used in exchanging information, solving problems, determining policies, and resolving differences in committees and other small groups. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 2613. Nonverbal Communication. 3 Hours.
Creates an understanding of the functions of nonverbal cues operating in human communication processes and develops familiarity with recent research in the field of nonverbal communication. Prerequisite: COMM 1023.

COMM 2813. Introduction to Electronic Media. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the industries centered around electronic media, including radio, broadcast and cable television, telephony, computer information systems, and digital media. Emphasis on the historical development, organizational patterns, and cultural functions of the media.

COMM 298V. Topics in Communication. 1-3 Hour.
Topics in communication not represented in other lower division courses. Prerequisite: Completion of at least 3 hours of COMM coursework. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

COMM 3143. Language and Expressive Culture. 3 Hours.
This course explores the complex interrelationship of language, culture, and social identity. Verbal art and expressive culture are examined from a variety of anthropological perspectives. Topics include ethnographies of speaking, discourse analysis, cultural performances, and the performative aspects of oral expression.
This course is cross-listed with ANTH 3143, ENGL 3143.

COMM 3173. Introduction to Linguistics. 3 Hours.
Introduction to language study with stress upon modern linguistic theory and analysis. Data drawn from various languages reveal linguistic universals as well as phonological, syntactic, and semantic systems of individual languages. Related topics: language history, dialectology, language and its relation to culture and society, and the history of linguistic scholarship. Prerequisite: Junior standing.
This course is cross-listed with ANTH 3173, ENGL 3173, WLLC 3173.

COMM 3263. African Americans in Film. 3 Hours.
A survey of the history of images of African Americans in film, especially as these images are examined in the context of stereotypical renditions and/or realistic representations of African American experiences. Issues of African American history, culture, and socio-political context will be addressed in the analyses of these films. Prerequisite: ENGL 1023, COMM 1003, and junior or senior standing.
This course is cross-listed with AAST 3263, ENGL 3263, JOUR 3263.

COMM 3273. African Americans in Documentary Film. 3 Hours.
Exploration of the African-American image and experience in the context of time, historical record and varying production viewpoints from diverse documentarians. African-American history, culture and socio-political context are addressed in the analyses of these documentary films from the perspectives of mainstream media, independent filmmakers and minority documentarians Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing.
This course is cross-listed with JOUR 3273, AAST 3273.

COMM 3333. Communication Criticism. 3 Hours.
Basic elements and theoretical perspectives on criticism of public communication. Extensive practice in written analysis of events in public address, film, television, and other mass media. Prerequisite: COMM 1233.

COMM 3343. Contemporary Communication Theory. 3 Hours.
Study of the nature of the communication process as it is reflected in the individual, in interpersonal settings, in one-to-many situations, and in the mass media. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 and COMM 2333 or permission of instructor.
COMM 3353. Argumentation: Reason in Communication. 3 Hours.
Concepts characterizing rational discourse, with a concern for examining validity and fallacy. Consider traditional and contemporary models for analyzing argument, including an examination of the philosophy of argument and a practical inquiry into the uses of argument in contemporary rhetorical discourse. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 3373. Leadership Communication. 3 Hours.
An analysis of leadership as a discursive process, focusing on how leadership emerges and is enacted on a daily basis through communication-related behaviors. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 or permission of instructor.

COMM 3383. Persuasion. 3 Hours.
Introduction to theories of persuasion with emphasis on application and effect. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 3423. Science Fiction Film. 3 Hours.
This class concentrates on how science fiction in various communication media influences and is, in turn, influenced by broad features of cultural life. The class considers the impact of science fiction on science fact, the military, space travel, religion, race, gender, social class, education, politics, technology, and fashion styles. Prerequisite: COMM 1003 and COMM 1233.

COMM 3433. Family Communication. 3 Hours.
Study of the nature, functions, and management of communication patterns in the family. Focus is on understanding routine interpersonal interactions, conflict patterns, authority structures, and decision-making processes within the context of the contemporary family. Prerequisite: COMM 2323.

COMM 3443. Introduction to Rhetorical Theory. 3 Hours.
Interpretive-critical study of rhetoric in public contexts. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 3503. Popular Communication and Culture. 3 Hours.
This course is an introduction to basic theories and topics of Popular Communication and Culture studies. The course will emphasize understanding popular media communication forms. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 and COMM 1233.

COMM 3673. Mediated Communication. 3 Hours.
Focuses on media messages and their social/cultural effects. Includes a critical examination of media institutions and the ways they vie for audiences. Other topics include the ways people construct meaning from messages, media's influence on attitudes, media's role in cultural life, and audiences as critical consumers of media. Prerequisite: COMM 1233.

COMM 3703. Organizational Communication. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the theory, processes, and management of communication in organizations, with opportunities for simulated application. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 and COMM 1313.

COMM 3763. Health Communication. 3 Hours.
Examines communication within health care organizations and teams. Issues may include patient-provider communication, communication among health care professionals, negative consequences of poor communication in health care delivery, and the use of technology in health-related information dissemination and campaigns. Prerequisite: COMM 1023.

COMM 3803. Survey of Social Media. 3 Hours.
Surveys research on social media, focusing on the potential cognitive, social, cultural, political, and/or economic consequences of social media and on strategies for engaging with and through social media to promote personal, social and civic goals. Pre- or Corequisite: COMM 1233.

COMM 3883. Rhetoric of Social Movements. 3 Hours.
Study of the functions of rhetoric as it appears in the context of social movements such as American independence, women's equality, civil rights, populism, and new conservatism. Prerequisite: COMM 1313.

COMM 3923H. Honors Colloquium. 3 Hours.
Treats a special topic or issue, offered as part of the honors program. Prerequisite: Honors candidacy (not restricted to candidacy in communication). May be repeated for degree credit.

COMM 3983. Special Topics. 3 Hours.
Communication topics which are not usually presented in depth in regular courses. Prerequisite: At least 3 hours of COMM coursework. May be repeated for degree credit.

COMM 3983H. Honors Special Topics. 3 Hours.
Communication topics which are not usually presented in depth in regular courses. Prerequisite: At least 3 hours of COMM coursework and honors standing. May be repeated for degree credit. This course is equivalent to COMM 3983.

COMM 3991H. Honors Course in Communication Research. 1 Hour.
The Honors Course in Communication is the student's first step toward developing an honors thesis project. The course is designed to facilitate the exploration of potential thesis topics, selection of a viable study for the thesis, and the conceptualization of that study. Prerequisite: Honors candidacy.

COMM 4113. Legal Communication. 3 Hours.
Examines communication processes in the legal environment and focuses on communication skills and behaviors among judges, attorneys, litigants, and jurors. Particular attention will be given to verbal strategies and nonverbal messages related to interviews, negotiation, mediation, and litigation and to the rhetorical functions of legal pleadings and judicial opinions. Prerequisite: COMM 1313 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4133. Media and the Family. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to examine our culture's images, definitions, and ideas regarding family and domestic life. This examination involves a critical analysis of media messages regarding families, as well as an in-depth exploration of media's roles in daily domestic life. Prerequisite: COMM 1233 and COMM 2813.

COMM 4143. American Film Survey. 3 Hours.
A survey of major American film genres, major directors and films that have influenced the development of motion pictures. Prerequisite: COMM 1003 or permission of instructor.
This course is cross-listed with ENGL 4143.

COMM 4283. Communication in Contemporary Society. 3 Hours.
An examination of research and theory on the process and effects of communication in modern society. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 and COMM 1233 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4313. Language and Society of Japan. 3 Hours.
The primary objective of this course is to investigate the way the Japanese language reflects the beliefs and customs of the Japanese people as a social group. For comparison purposes, this course makes reference to studies in American language and culture. Proficiency in Japanese not required. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

COMM 4323. Communication and Conflict. 3 Hours.
Study of the processes, effects, and management of communicative conflict, including a consideration of conflict styles, power, goals, tactics, assessment, self-intervention and third-party intervention. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 or COMM 1313 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4333. Communication and Gender. 3 Hours.
Study of the nature, construction, functions, and effects of gender and gender-role stereotypes related to verbal and nonverbal communication, small-group and organizational interaction, and mass mediated images in contemporary culture. Prerequisite: COMM 2323 or permission of instructor.
COMM 4343. Intercultural Communication. 3 Hours.
Study of intercultural communication skills, intercultural issues and their impact at home and abroad, and cross-cultural comparisons of communication phenomena from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Prerequisite: COMM 1023 or COMM 1233.

COMM 4353. American Public Address. 3 Hours.
Historical and critical study of the leading American speakers, their speeches, the issues with which they were identified. Lectures, discussion, reports, and critical papers. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

COMM 4363. Gender, Race and Power. 3 Hours.
Examines how communication shapes gender, race, sexuality, and power. Rather than focusing exclusively on interpersonal communication, this course looks at theories of power that shape institutional macro communication. This course is cross-listed with GNST 4363.

COMM 4373. Political Communication. 3 Hours.
Study of the nature and function of the communication process as it operates in the political environment. This course is cross-listed with PLSC 4373.

COMM 4383. Rhetoric of the Modern American Presidency. 3 Hours.
A study of the increasing reliance of contemporary presidents on public persuasion through rhetorical discourse.

COMM 4393. Freedom of Speech: Cases & Issues. 3 Hours.
Study of philosophy, cases, and issues relevant to the first amendment right to the free expression, with focus on issues relevant to internal security, obscenity, pornography, slander, and the regulation of communication. Prerequisite: COMM 1313 and COMM 2333.

COMM 4613. Rhetoric of American Women. 3 Hours.
Examines the social and cultural assumptions that have limited the role of women in public communication. Focus is on the rhetorical biographies of selected women and their arguments on important social and political issues. Prerequisite: At least 6 hours of communication courses.

COMM 4623. Relational Communication. 3 Hours.
Review of the major theories and concepts in a relational approach to interpersonal communication. Provides exposure to a sampling of the research findings in relational communication. Prerequisite: COMM 2323 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4633. History and Development of International Film I. 3 Hours.
A critical survey of international film as a distinctive art form and as a medium of expression and communication with attention given to films and cinema from its origins to 1975. Prerequisite: COMM 1003.

COMM 4643. Environmental Communication. 3 Hours.
Explores how communication is used by individuals, corporations, and governments to shape public debates about environmental issues. Topics include rhetorical strategies, the public's right to information and input, dispute resolution techniques, advocacy campaigns, and green marketing. Prerequisite: COMM 1233 and COMM 1313 and COMM 2333 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4683. Documentary Film. 3 Hours.
A study and analysis of the documentary film as a discrete film form and as an important contribution to the international cinematic scene. Prerequisite: Advanced standing. Prerequisite: COMM 1003.

COMM 4733. Reel Women. 3 Hours.
An examination of films made for, about, and/or by women with the aim of better understanding and centralizing issues pertinent to women's daily lives. Prerequisite: COMM 1003. This course is cross-listed with GNST 4733.

COMM 4743. Representational Issues in Film. 3 Hours.
An examination of the varying ways that race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, (dis)ability, and age are represented in and by film - both historically and culturally. Prerequisite: COMM 1003. This course is cross-listed with GNST 4743.

COMM 4763. Health Communication Campaigns. 3 Hours.
Canvasses the theoretical frameworks used in the conceptualization of communication campaigns focused on health information dissemination and the purposes these campaigns serve. Students participate in a service learning project by defining campaign goals; identifying, segmenting, and assessing target audiences; and designing messages for multi-mediated health campaigns. Prerequisite: COMM 1023.

COMM 4773. Treatment of Native Americans in Film. 3 Hours.
This course compares the treatment of Native Americans in film with how representatives of this group identify themselves. Particular attention is paid to how motion pictures focusing on Native Americans produced by indigenous filmmakers compare to treatments of this people produced by Hollywood and others.

COMM 4803. Seminar in Social Media. 3 Hours.
This class encourages in depth examination of contemporary theory and research on the potential effects of social media on cognitive, social, cultural, political, affective, and economic structures. Focus is on critical thinking and contextualization of social media. Pre- or Corequisite: COMM 1233.

COMM 4823. Children and Media. 3 Hours.
An in-depth examination of children's use of media and the effects of media content on child and adolescent development. Topics may include violence and sex in media, commercialism, and new media. Prerequisite: COMM 3673.

COMM 4843. Computer-Mediated Communication. 3 Hours.
Provides an in-depth consideration of the nature of computer-mediated communication by examining its use and effects in interpersonal, work, educational, and societal contexts.

COMM 4853. Telecommunication Policy. 3 Hours.
Research and discussion of social, ethical, education, cultural, and technological aspects of telecommunications with attention given to changing programming patterns, world systems of broadcasting, data transmission, emerging technology, international politics, and regulatory policies. Prerequisite: COMM 2813 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4863. Seminar in Media. 3 Hours.
Research/discussion of contemporary issues in media. Emphasis on the economic and social impact of advertising, news, censorship, programs directed toward children, portrayals of women and minorities, future trends in media technologies, and analysis of the changing media landscape. Prerequisite: COMM 1233 or permission of instructor.

COMM 4883. Television and American Culture. 3 Hours.
Historical and critical study of how television shapes American culture and is shaped by it. Attention will be given to the study of television history, programs and audiences; particularly how race and gender shape content and reception of programming. Prerequisite: COMM 1233 and COMM 2813.

COMM 490V. Special Problems. 1-6 Hour.
Credit arranged. Prerequisite: COMM 2333 and at least 9 hours of COMM coursework. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

COMM 4913. Internship in Communication. 3 Hours.
Internship in applied communication within public and private organizations. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of 18 hours in communication courses. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.
COMM 5353. Rhetorical Criticism. 3 Hours.
A seminar in rhetorical criticism. A study of the development of standards of rhetorical appraisal from the foundations of the art of speaking to the modern period; examination of contemporary approaches to rhetorical appraisal and practice in critical analysis of contemporary address.

COMM 5363. Seminar in Small Group Communication. 3 Hours.
A consideration of recent developments in small group research which relate to problem solving tasks, leadership and other kinds of human interaction through speech communication. Emphasis given to the interpersonal speech transaction and to the emergence of participant roles. Prerequisite: COMM 2343.

COMM 5373. Content Analysis. 3 Hours.
Techniques for observing and analyzing the overt communication behavior of selected communicators. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

COMM 5383. Seminar in Political Communication. 3 Hours.
Research seminar focusing on selected topics such as candidate imagery, diffusion of political information, or political symbolism. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. This course is cross-listed with PLSC 5383.

COMM 5403. Organizational Communication Theory. 3 Hours.
A seminar on the historical development of theory and research into communication processes occurring within an organizational setting. Lecture, discussion, oral and written reports. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

COMM 5413. Organizational Communication Research. 3 Hours.
A seminar on conducting applied research within an organizational setting. Prerequisite: COMM 5403 and graduate standing.

COMM 5423. Seminar in Mass Media Cognition. 3 Hours.
Seminar exploring how people learn from written, aural and visual mass media messages. Topics to include attention, memory, comprehension, emotional response, arousal, unconscious processing, picture perception and person perception. Seminar will be concerned with most popular media (e.g., television, radio, newspaper, and film), and with several content genres (e.g., entertainment, news, advertising).

COMM 5433. Marital Communication. 3 Hours.
An exploration of the major theories and lines of research that examine marital communication in contemporary American life.

COMM 5443. Issues of Race and Gender in Interpersonal Communication. 3 Hours.
An exploration of the major theories and lines of research that examine how race and gender influence interpersonal communication in everyday life in America.

COMM 5453. Myth and Communication Criticism. 3 Hours.
Seminar in major theories of mythology, including archetypal and ideological perspectives, and their applications to the criticism of public communicative events. Practice in written critical analysis. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

COMM 5463. Descriptive Linguistics. 3 Hours.
A scientific study of language with primary emphasis on modern linguistic theory and analysis. Topics include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, language acquisition, and historical development of world languages. This course is cross-listed with WLLC 5463, ANTH 5473, ENGL 5463.

COMM 5473. Treatment of Native Americans in Film. 3 Hours.
Compares the treatment of Native Americans in film with how representatives of this group identify themselves. Will also focus on motion pictures relating to Native Americans produced by indigenous filmmakers.

COMM 5503. Communication and Cultural Studies. 3 Hours.
Examinations of the role of communication in modern culture. Emphasis is upon the production and circulation of meanings with society, and special attention is given to the role of popular and mass media in this process. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
COMM 5513. Sustainability and Communication. 3 Hours.
Communication's role in creating and conveying an organization’s environmental sustainability philosophy and initiatives. Discusses internal communication when establishing and communicating sustainability goals and initiatives. Covers communicating sustainability to external groups through websites, sustainability reports, and advocacy initiatives. For profit, nonprofit, governmental, NGOs, and/or advocacy organizations discussed.

COMM 5533. Family Communication. 3 Hours.
An exploration of the major theories and lines of research that examine family communication in contemporary American life.

COMM 559V. Seminar in Film Studies. 1-3 Hour.
Research, discussion; papers on a variety of film genres and areas including the new American film, the science-fiction film, directors, film comedy, the experimental film, criticism, and the film musical. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

This course is cross-listed with ENGL 569V.

COMM 5763. Health Communication. 3 Hours.
Examines the difficulties of effective communication between health care providers and recipients including the following: issues of social support, conveying bad news, cultural issues, and identifying relevant communication skills associated with effective health care provision. Explores medical education models for training in effective patient-provider communication.

COMM 5823. Political Communication. 3 Hours.
Covers contemporary political communication theory and applies them to understand modern political campaigns. Topics covered include the rhetoric of politics, political advertising, the role of the media and public opinion, the impact of new technology, campaign speech genres, political debates, and the role of social identity in presidential campaigns.

COMM 5833. The Rhetoric of the Modern American Presidency. 3 Hours.
Study contemporary presidents' reliance on public persuasion, especially in efforts to bypass Congress and accomplish complicated political goals. Explore the origins of the concept of the “rhetorical presidency,” specifically how it developed and changed the nature of the executive branch of government. Examine major genres of modern presidential rhetoric illustrating that trend.

COMM 5843. Legal Communication. 3 Hours.
Examines communication processes in the legal environment and focuses on communication skills and behaviors among judges, attorneys, litigants, and jurors. Particular attention will be given to verbal strategies and nonverbal messages related to interviews, negotiation, mediation, and litigation and to the rhetorical functions of legal pleadings and judicial opinions.

COMM 5853. American Film Survey. 3 Hours.
A survey of major American film genres, major directors and films that have influenced the development of motion pictures.

COMM 5863. History and Development of International Film I. 3 Hours.
A critical survey of international film as a distinctive art form and as a medium of expression and communication with attention given to films and cinema from its origins to 1975.

COMM 5873. History and Development of International Film II. 3 Hours.
A critical survey of international film as a distinctive art form and as a medium of expression and communication with attention given to films and cinema from 1975 to the present.

COMM 590V. Special Problems. 1-6 Hour.
Credit by arrangement. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

COMM 5913. Internship in Communication. 3 Hours.
Internship in applied communication within public and private organizations. Prerequisite: 15 hours graduate level communication in residence.

COMM 5923. Capstone Course in Communication. 3 Hours.
Students organize and synthesize knowledge developed throughout their graduate coursework into a tangible capstone product which becomes part of their professional portfolio.

COMM 5993. Readings In Cultural Studies. 3 Hours.
Classic and current theoretical approaches to cultural studies. Subject matter changes depending on student interest and faculty expertise.

COMM 600V. Master's Thesis. 1-6 Hour.
Master's Thesis. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.