

Department of Communication Studies

Why study communication studies?

The Communication Studies undergraduate major equips students with a diversity of skill sets by investigating communication in various cultural contexts, including relational, organizational, intercultural, political, and more.

In an increasingly globalized world, competent communication is crucial for career advancement, interpersonal relationships, and public democratic participation. Here's what we know: humans rely on communication, and the creation and translation of symbols, language, and messages are integral to daily interactions. In other words, communication connects us.

The major expands on fundamental public speaking principles from the introductory course through emphasizing theories, methods, performances that apply to everyday communication practices.

Undergraduate Programs

In our complex, mediated, global, and pluralistic world, we are awash in messages. Others seek to influence our ideas and our actions, and we seek to influence theirs. Studying human communication in its many forms and contexts enables students to be engaged civic participants, reflective audience analysts, effective communicators at work and in relationships, and reflective consumers of messages. Examining communication through historical and contemporary lenses demonstrates its power to move individuals, to enable the development of groups ranging from families to nations, and to inspire events. The communication studies curriculum prepares students to engage with the world they enter as thoughtful, critical communicators and as agents of community building in a global world.

Graduate Programs

The Department of Communication Studies offers a Graduate Certificate, Master of Arts, and Doctorate of Philosophy. Non-degree seeking students who have completed an undergraduate degree may apply to take graduate-level courses in COMS.

Graduate Certificate Program

The 4-course, 12-hour Professional Workplace Communication certificate is intended to increase communication competencies for effective decision-making, team-building, problem-solving, and crisis-resolution practices with various professional stakeholders.

Lawrence campus M.A. Program

The M.A. program is designed as a 30-hour, 2-year degree program in either Relationships & Social Interaction or Rhetoric & Political Communication. Students will complete a thesis or non-thesis plan of study. The primary mission of the Master of Arts in COMS is to introduce graduate students to the process of conducting original research in human communication. The majority of our MA students go on to pursue a PhD in communication or a related field. Others use the MA as preparation for careers in business, legal consulting, politics, social work, or other related areas of employment.

Ph.D. Program

The doctoral program in COMS is designed to be an intensive, 4-year program with content in experimental, qualitative, quantitative, and rhetorical methods. Students may specialize in either Relationships & Social Interaction or Rhetoric & Political Communication. The primary mission of the Doctor of Philosophy in COMS is to train students in the process of conducting original research in human communication. With few exceptions, KU PhD graduates pursue careers doing research and teaching in higher education.

Courses

COMS 104. Introduction to Communication Studies. 3 Credits. H
Survey of the major areas of the Communication Studies field. Provides an overview of communication theory and research methods, and introduces key topics, approaches, and applications in core areas such as rhetoric, organizational communication, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication, and communication technology.

COMS 130. Speaker-Audience Communication. 3 Credits. U
Study of rhetorical theory and its application to the preparation, presentation, and criticism of oral discourse in audience situations. Special consideration of listening behavior and of the ethical conduct of speech in a free society. This course fulfills the College argument and reason requirement.

COMS 131. Speaker-Audience Communication, Honors. 3 Credits. U
The study of rhetorical theory and its application to the preparation, presentation, and criticism of oral discourse in audience situations. Special consideration of listening behavior and of the ethical conduct of speech in a free society. This course fulfills the College argument and reason requirement. This is an honors section of COMS 130 open only to students in the Honors Program.

COMS 132. Speaker-Audience Communication for the Professional Schools. 3 Credits. H
This course focuses on the study of oral communication: the application, preparation, presentation and criticism of messages appropriate in the business or organizational setting. Special consideration is given to speaker confidence, working in teams, listening behaviors and application of communication theories to the audience and rhetorical situation. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the professional schools.

COMS 133. Speaker-Audience Communication for the Professional Schools, Honors. 3 Credits. H
This course focuses on the study of oral communication the application, preparation, presentation and criticism of messages appropriate in the business or organizational setting. Special consideration is given to speaker confidence, working in teams, listening behaviors and application of communication theories to the audience and rhetorical situation. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the professional schools who are members of the University Honors Program.

COMS 177. First Year Seminar: _____. 3 Credits. U
A limited-enrollment, seminar course for freshmen, addressing current issues in Communication Studies. Course is designed to meet the critical thinking learning outcome of the KU Core. First-Year Seminar topics are coordinated and approved by the office of Academic Programs and Experiential Learning. Prerequisite: Open to Freshmen only (less than 30 hours).

COMS 207. Introduction to Political Communication. 3 Credits. S
This class addresses the different ways in which the three main players in political communication processes (leaders, the media and citizens) affect the political behavior, attitudes or cognitions of individuals; or have

outcomes that influence public policy at different levels. The contents of the course are organized into three areas: Foundations of political communication, central questions and theories in political communication, and political campaigning and advertising. Prerequisite: Concurrent or prior enrollment in COMS 130.

COMS 210. Introduction to Organizational and Professional Communication. 3 Credits. S

Introduces foundational concepts in organizational communication, focusing on topics such as superior-subordinate relationships, information- and feedback-seeking, relationships with stakeholders, and dealing with organizational change. The course emphasizes individual communication practices and responsibilities that contribute to organizational outcomes and personal success in organizations. Prerequisite: Concurrent or prior enrollment in COMS 130.

COMS 230. Fundamentals of Debate. 3 Credits. U

Introduction to the principles of debating. Emphasis on debating techniques, analysis of the question, methods of using evidence, refutation, and brief making. This course fulfills the College argument and reason requirement.

COMS 231. Practicum in Forensics. 1 Credits. U

For students selected by faculty supervisor for work on university debate squad. Students to enroll at time of their selection. Recurring enrollments permitted.

COMS 232. Introduction to Rhetoric. 3 Credits. HR H

Historical survey of theories of communication and persuasion, the people who produced them, and the philosophical assumptions upon which they rest. Beginning with the Greeks, especially Plato and Aristotle, and ending with selections from Kenneth Burke and other contemporary figures, the course focuses on changing concepts of rhetoric throughout a time span of some 2000 years. Prerequisite: Concurrent or prior enrollment in COMS 130.

COMS 238. Cases in Persuasion. 3 Credits. H

An exploration of basic principles that explain the effect and effectiveness of the arts of persuasion currently practiced in American society. Class discussions of incidents leading to the discovery of principles and theories that explain them. Continuing emphasis on issues concerning the ethical character of persuasion in contemporary life. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 244. Introduction to Interpersonal Communication Theory. 3 Credits. SI S

Examines basic theoretical perspectives and research on verbal and nonverbal communication elements affecting communication between individuals in a variety of contexts. Topics include communication competence, developmental aspects of interpersonal communication, and interpersonal influence. Prerequisite: Concurrent or prior enrollment in COMS 130.

COMS 246. Introduction to Intercultural Communication. 3 Credits. S

This course attempts to provide an understanding of communication as it affects culture and as it is affected by culture. Special emphasis will be placed on the principle of similarity and differences as it relates to the roles of verbal and non-verbal symbols, codes, and cues, stereotypes, prejudices and value and thought patterning systems between and among cultures. Prerequisite: Concurrent or prior enrollment in COMS 130.

COMS 310. Advanced Organizational and Professional Communication. 3 Credits. SC S

This course provides a foundation for the study of communication in organizational contexts. It introduces students to various organization theories including classical, human relations, systems, and cultural

approaches and examines the role of communication in each. Information flow, communication climate, communication networks, work relationships and managerial communication are discussed as well as organizational symbolism, conflict resolution, rituals and ethics. The course is designed to heighten students' awareness of the role of communication in the organizing process and to develop their abilities to diagnose and prevent communication-related problems. Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 320. Communication on the Internet. 3 Credits. S

This course introduces social and communication issues in the context of online interaction. Surveys a range of social internet technologies (e.g., newsgroups, chat, MUDs, etc.). Focus is on the interpersonal topics, including the establishment and maintenance of individual and cultural identities, personal relationships, the emergence of online communities, power and conflict in online groups, language use in online contexts, and how online groups are used to enhance or alter civic and global cultures.

COMS 322. Audience Centered Public Speaking in the Workplace. 3 Credits. S

In this course, students develop and present their ideas by applying communication theories to organizational audiences in various presentation situations. Specifically, this course focuses on presentation development, preparation, presentation and critique of messages appropriate in the business or organization setting. Special attention is given to speaking with confidence, presenting and working effectively in teams, reflecting and improving on presentations skills, and listening and speaking ethically in an increasingly diverse work world. Prerequisite: Not intended for Communication Studies Majors. Does not count toward Communication Studies Major or Minor requirements. Must have completed at least 15 credit hours at KU to enroll.

COMS 330. Effective Business Communication. 3 Credits. S

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's written, spoken and electronically mediated business communication skills to prepare to enter a career field. Focus is placed on job search preparation including the development of cover letters, resumes, online applications, and interviewing skills. Students are also engaged with business communication by expanding their current writing skills to meet the needs of a business, exposure to common business writing situations, and developing professional presentations. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 331. Persuasive Speaking. 3 Credits. H

Guided experiences in the preparation and presentation of discourse intended to influence outcomes of human interactions in various speaker-audience situations, including television. Special emphasis on speech styles in influencing thought, attitudes, and behavior. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 335. Mass Media and Politics. 3 Credits. H

The primary goal of this course is to critically examine the role of mass media in U.S. politics. Students learn how information makes it into news coverage, as well as how media content affects individuals, political campaigns, and governing decisions. The course covers media effects theories, news bias and polarization, political entertainment, and other topics. Although the primary focus of the course is politics, students interested in public relations and strategic communication also benefit from learning about U.S. journalism. By the end of the semester, students will be able to critically evaluate political and media systems in the U.S. (Same as POLS 521.) Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 342. Problem-Solving in Teams and Groups. 3 Credits. S

This course introduces basic concepts important to leading and/or participating in problem-solving work teams. Problem identification and analysis and leadership are emphasized and practiced. Teamwork variables are discussed and promoted. Lecture, demonstrations,

exercises in class are structure for students to analyze groups outside of class. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 345. Propaganda and Persuasion. 3 Credits.

This course is an examination of the history and theory of propaganda and mass persuasion. In this course students will develop a more precise understanding of the term "propaganda" and of the techniques of mass persuasion. Emphasis is placed on developing the critical skills necessary to analyze and evaluate propaganda artifacts and campaigns in varied historical and contemporary contexts, including: politics, war, social movements, advertising, entertainment, commemoration, and popular culture. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 350. Communication in a Diverse World. 3 Credits. S

In a diverse world, communication plays a central role in both creating and sustaining cultural norms, values, and beliefs. However, diversity is not universally valued, and difference leads to unequal institutions, systems, and policies, including discrimination, oppression, and ethnocentrism. In this course, students will reflect on current cultural diversity topics and critically interrogate communication's role in structuring identities and difference across socio-cultural contexts.

COMS 355. Introduction to Rhetoric and Social Influence. 3 Credits. HL H

This course examines in detail the texts of speeches and essays on controversial issues in order to illustrate the varied forms of rhetorical action and the diverse modes of analysis and evaluation that can be applied to them. Examples are drawn from the rhetorical literature of contemporary U.S. speakers and prose writers. Formerly known as COMS 235. Not open to students with credit in COMS 235. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 356. Introduction to Behavioral Research Methods in Communication. 3 Credits. S

An introduction to the nature of theory and theory building in the study of human communication. Research methods include experimentation, survey, content analysis, and field description. An introduction to statistics and statistical tests is included as well. Prerequisite: MATH 101 and admission to the Communication Studies major or consent of instructor.

COMS 357. Introduction to Rhetoric and Social Influence, Honors. 3 Credits. H

This course examines in detail the texts of speeches and essays on controversial issues in order to illustrate the varied forms of rhetorical action and the diverse modes of analysis and evaluation that can be applied to them. Examples are drawn from the rhetorical literature of contemporary U.S. speakers and prose writers. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230. Open only to students admitted to the University Honors Program, or by consent of the instructor.

COMS 405. Speech Writing. 3 Credits. H

Emphasis is on actual practice in preparing speech manuscripts for oneself and others. Model speeches are examined to better understand language, evidence, and stylistic choices available to speech writers. The ethical dimensions of writing for others in corporate and political positions are stressed. Students are required to prepare a variety of speeches and analyses of others' speeches. Prerequisite: COMS 130, COMS 150, or COMS 230.

COMS 410. Micro-Level Organizational Communication. 3 Credits. S

An examination of dyadic level communication in organizations, with emphasis on contexts of superior-subordinate and peer communication. The course also addresses contexts of organizational entry and exit, perception and judgment, information seeking, feedback, and organizational attachment. This course also explores social identities

(gender, race, social class, sexuality, ability, and age) and the way they are relevant to communication in contemporary workplaces. Prerequisite: COMS 310.

COMS 415. Communication, Leadership, and Conflict Management. 3 Credits. S

This course introduces students to theories of conflict management from a variety of academic perspectives and the role leadership plays in managing conflict across multiple contexts. Students will learn how to successfully assess and command situations and effectively resolve interpersonal, organizational, and systemic conflict while doing the work of leadership. (Same as LDST 420.)

COMS 420. Communication, Technology and Globalization. 3 Credits. H

Examines the social, cultural, and economic challenges and opportunities advanced communication technologies and globalization pose to processes such as democratic deliberation, urban governance, and environmental sustainability. Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 425. Communication and the American Presidency. 3 Credits. H

Examination of the ways in which American presidents communicate with the American people and how such communication influences the public. Emphasis is on a number of approaches to better understanding presidential communication, including rhetorical, historical, and content analysis. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 440. Communication and Gender. 3 Credits. S

Focuses attention on the relationship between communication and gender, including both physical and psychological dimensions. Topics include: sex role orientations and stereotypes; perceived and actual differences in verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors; the influence of gender on communication in a variety of contexts. (Same as WGSS 440.) Prerequisite: COMS 130, or COMS 230.

COMS 441. Health Communication. 3 Credits. H

This course is a survey of the many disciplines found in the field of health communication, including persuasion that targets health-related behavior, negotiation of treatment with health care providers, emotional support of patients, news media coverage of medical research, and health campaign principles. Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 447. Intercultural Communication: The Afro-American. 3 Credits. H/W

An examination of the barriers to effective communication between black Americans and non-black Americans. (Same as AAAS 420.) Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 450. Ethical Issues in Political Communication. 3 Credits. H

Application of ethical standards to the evaluation of political communication. Examination of value questions related to advocacy in modern society (propaganda, demagoguery, credibility). Analysis of First Amendment rights and other issues pertaining to censorship and freedom of speech (defamation, dissent, incitement, public morals, privacy). Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 454. Rhetoric of Popular Culture. 3 Credits. H

A study of the social and cultural importance of popular culture. Emphasis is on using rhetorical analysis and a number of important theoretical perspectives to help examine popular culture's often unnoticed influence. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 460. Undergraduate Seminar in: _____. 1-3 Credits. S

Course organized any given semester to study particular subject matter or to take advantage of special competence by an individual faculty member.

Topics change as needs and resources develop. Class discussion, readings, and individual projects. (Distribution credit given for two or three hour enrollments only.)

COMS 496. Capstone in: _____. 3 Credits. S

In the capstone course students synthesize and apply knowledge and skills gained through the major. Capstone coursework requires students to integrate practices and theories learned in their areas of concentration. Topics within each concentration change as needs and resources develop. Prerequisite: Senior standing, COMS 130 or COMS 131, and completion of COMS 355 and COMS 356.

COMS 498. Honors Thesis. 2-6 Credits. H

(Six hours maximum credit, which may be distributed through two semesters.) Study should include readings directed toward original research, i.e., an intensive investigation of a specific problem in this field. Prerequisite: Consent of the Department Honors Committee.

COMS 499. Directed Study in Communication Studies. 1-3 Credits. H

(A maximum of six hours of credit may be counted, with not more than four in a single area of study.) Investigation of a special topic or project selected by the student with advice, approval, and supervision of an instructor. Such study may take the form of directed reading, or special research, individual reports and conferences. (Distribution credit given for two-three hours only.) Prerequisite: At least seven hours of credit in the department and consent of instructor.

COMS 503. Post-Soviet Communication. 3 Credits. H

This course is designed to acquaint students with the shifting manner of public discourse in Post-Soviet Russia and help them to explore in some depth cross-cultural communication between America and Russia. In addition to contemporary and historical background on Russian communicative practices, students examine discourse in business development, mass media, marketing, and advertising. All readings in English. (Same as SLAV 503).

COMS 530. Internship in Communication Studies. 1-3 Credits. S

Students do communication-centered fieldwork in an organization related to their career goals. Criteria for the organizations and work assignments suitable for internship credit are in an information brochure available at the COMS Department office and website. The internship plan is developed with field supervisor and internship faculty adviser. Reports and meetings are required. Graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor, admission to COMS major.

COMS 535. American Public Address, Puritans to 1900. 3 Credits. H

A history of American public address from the Puritans to about 1900. Using the tools of rhetorical criticism, students describe, analyze, and evaluate select rhetoric from the period. Graduate students are assigned extra reading and a research paper. Prerequisite: COMS 355.

COMS 536. American Public Address, 1900-Present. 3 Credits. H

A history of American public address from 1900 to the present. Using the tools of rhetorical criticism, students describe, analyze, and evaluate select rhetoric from the period. Graduate students are assigned extra reading and a research paper. Prerequisite: COMS 355.

COMS 537. Communication in Conflict Resolution. 3 Credits. S

An examination of conflict situations and the manner in which communication can serve as a vehicle for their intensification or resolution. The focus is on the theory of games as it applies to conflict within interpersonal situations; implications will be drawn for larger social systems. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 538. Persuasion Theory and Research. 3 Credits. S

This course focuses on the social scientific study of persuasion. Traditional theories of attitude change and persuasion research are studied along with techniques of measuring attitudes. Attention is also given to the attitude-behavior relationship and the production of compliance-gaining messages. Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 539. Argumentation. 3 Credits. S

Analysis of the theory and techniques of argumentation in historical and contemporary writings, with special emphasis on the works of Aristotle, John Stuart Mill, Richard Whately, and Stephen Toulmin. Application of argumentation theory to political and legal discourse. Opportunity for student performances in the preparation and criticism of argument. Prerequisite: Four hours in the department.

COMS 543. Rhetoric of Sports in America. 3 Credits.

An examination of the way in which communication about sport in America functions to influence social relations in society. Students apply the tools of rhetorical criticism to study communication about sport in public address, mass media, and social media. The intent is to develop an understanding of communication theories and apply them to the world of sports. The course examines the relationship between sport and race, gender, class, violence, and community. It explores the ways that we talk about sports and the rhetorical and sociological implications of those conversations. Graduate students are assigned extra reading and a research paper. Prerequisite: COMS 130, COMS 230, COMS 355, or by instructor permission.

COMS 544. Advanced Interpersonal Communication: Theories and Research. 3 Credits. S

Intensive exploration of contemporary theories and research in the field of interpersonal communication; emphasis on an array of theoretical models and research exemplars; comparative analysis of major theoretical and research paradigms. Prerequisite: COMS 244 or instructor consent.

COMS 545. Rhetoric of War in America. 3 Credits.

An examination of the rhetoric of war throughout American history including in depth analysis of public address surrounding America's involvement in wars from the War of 1812 through the War on Terror. We will apply the tools of Rhetorical Criticism to an analysis of public communication about war with a focus on justifications for war, war movies, the rhetoric of war protest movements, media coverage of warfare and public debates about issues of war and peace. Graduate students are assigned extra reading and a research paper. Prerequisite: COMS 130, COMS 230, COMS 355, or by instructor permission.

COMS 547. Communication and Culture. 3 Credits. S

A study of the systematic relationship between communication and culture. Emphasis is on culture as a variable in communicative situations: cultural aspects of attitude and cognition, language interchange, cultural differences in extra-verbal behavior, interaction between oral traditions and mass media. Prerequisite: COMS 130, COMS 230, or an introduction course in anthropology.

COMS 548. Advanced Interviewing Skills and Strategies. 3 Credits. S

Comprehensive study of communication processes in dyadic, face-to-face situations commonly encountered in organizations and professional environments. Intensive analysis of simulated and real-life interviews. Prerequisite: COMS 130 and COMS 330.

COMS 551. The Rhetoric of Black Americans. 3 Credits. H

A study of the rhetoric of Black Americans, from their earliest protest efforts to the contemporary scene, with the focus on the methods and themes employed to alter their status in American society. (Same as AAAS 534.) Prerequisite: COMS 130. Skills in basic composition essential.

COMS 552. The Rhetoric of Women's Rights. 3 Credits. H

An analysis of the themes and rhetorical strategies of the women's rights movement in America. The course will view the struggle for women's rights from a historical perspective and will conclude with contemporary issues concerning the role of women in society. (Same as WGSS 552.) Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 555. Family Communication. 3 Credits. S

An examination of trends and theory related to the scientific study of the family, with a focus on issues related to family interaction, functioning, relationships, and communication. Research and theories from communication, sociological, and psychological perspectives are employed to examine topics such as family violence, mental health problems, marital satisfaction, divorce, courtship, and the impact of the family on its children (and vice versa). Prerequisite: COMS 130 or COMS 230.

COMS 557. East Asian Communication. 3 Credits. S

Explores the major communication theories and research in the East Asian cultural contexts by focusing on the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean cultures. Examines, from a broader perspective, certain cultural values (e.g. harmony, hierarchy, conservatism, and modernism) upheld in East Asian cultures and their influences on people's communicative behaviors in an age of globalization. Students explore issues of history, identity, verbal and non-verbal symbols, stereotypes, prejudice, values and thought patterning systems in the East Asian cultural context from a communicative perspective. This course is designed as a bridge course and meets with a graduate level section of the same title. Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 560. Seminar in: _____. 3 Credits. S

Course organized any given semester to study particular subject matter or to take advantage of special competence by an individual faculty member. Topics change as needs and resources develop. Class discussion, readings, and individual projects. (May be repeated for credit if content varies).

COMS 590. Nonverbal Communication. 3 Credits. S

Examination of non-linguistic behavior in human communication, including proxemics (spacing), kinesics (movement and expression), and paralinguistics (voice quality). Includes phylogenetic and developmental perspectives, methods of analysis, applications to interpersonal problems. (Same as PSYC 590.) Prerequisite: COMS 356 or PSYC 210 or PSYC 211.

COMS 607. Political Campaigns. 3 Credits. H

This course will examine the communication involved in political campaigns. Students will be exposed to theories and ideas related to campaigns and will apply this knowledge to current political activity. Although the primary focus of the course is politics, students interested in public relations and strategic communication also benefit from learning and practicing media relations strategies. The mediated nature of modern political communication, as well as the communication strategies of campaigns and journalists, will be examined in a semester-long simulated campaign. By the end of the semester, students will become more informed users and consumers of political campaign messages. (Same as POLS 520.) Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 620. Communication and New Technology. 3 Credits. S

This course explores the impact of new communication technology on individuals and groups in various contexts. Topics include: The development of computer-mediated communication, social and psychological impacts of new communication technology, the evolution of telework and advances in interactive telecommunications.

COMS 639. Legal Communication. 3 Credits. S

An analysis of how communication principles and theories operate within the context of the legal system. Topics covered will include the lawyer/client interview, depositions and pre-trial discovery, settlement negotiation, jury selection, opening and closing statements, and witness testimony. Prerequisite: COMS 130.

COMS 656. Mass Media: Social Science Applications. 3 Credits. S

This course introduces students to the major theories of and prominent research in mass communication. The aim is to stimulate critical thinking about the content and effects of mass communication, develop critical consumption skills, and enhance awareness of public policy issues relating to the media. Students are required to read a variety of chapters and articles on mass communication, promoting independent investigation into specific areas of interest. This course is a bridge course and meets with a graduate level section of the same title. Prerequisite: COMS 356.

COMS 667. Interpersonal Communication in Multinational Organizations. 3 Credits.

A study of interpersonal communication in management and professional development in intercultural situations. Focus on preparation of the global manager or professional in the organizational environment. Special attention to the problems and challenges of intercultural interactions in the context of multinational organizations.

COMS 741. Special Topics in Communication Studies: _____. 2-3 Credits.

Examination of special topics in Communication Studies. Prerequisite: Instructor consent.

COMS 787. Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gerontology and Aging. 3 Credits.

A seminar coordinated by the Gerontology Program. The seminar explores essential areas of gerontology for researchers and practitioners, providing a multidisciplinary (biology, health services, behavioral and social sciences, human services) perspective on aging. The seminar surveys contemporary basic and applied research, service programs, and policy and management issues in gerontology. (Same as ABSC 787, AMS 767, PSYC 787, and SOC 767.)

COMS 810. Organizational Communication: Theory and Research. 3 Credits.

This course examines the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of organizational communication research. Course topics cover variable analytic traditions and systems theory, as well as cultural, critical, and various interpretive approaches to understanding communication in organizational contexts.

COMS 835. Impression Formation and Interpersonal Behavior. 3 Credits.

Intensive investigation of the processes involved in impression formation and of the effects of established impressions upon interpersonal communication. (Same as PSYC 845.) Prerequisite: COMS 535 or PSYC 670.

COMS 844. Seminar in Interpersonal Communication. 3 Credits.

This class will address current theory and research in interpersonal communication. Issues addressed may include verbal or nonverbal communication in families, close relationships, initial interactions, and the like.

COMS 851. Communication Research: Historical and Descriptive. 3 Credits.

An introduction to types of historical and descriptive research in human communication. Library resources and methods of research will be

covered. Emphasis will be placed upon preparing a research prospectus and upon writing the research report.

COMS 852. Communication Research: Behavioral and Social Science. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the process of research in communication studies, including consideration of basic principles in research design, methods of observation and measurement, and the application of appropriate statistical techniques.

COMS 855. Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies. 3 Credits.

Study of strategies for describing communication behavior in particular contexts, emphasizing ethnography and specific observational and interview data gathering and analysis methods. Prerequisite: COMS 755 or equivalent.

COMS 856. Communication Research: Quantitative Analysis. 3 Credits.

An intermediate overview of statistical techniques commonly used in communication research. Content will include a review of univariate statistical tests such as t-test, correlation, chi-square, and other nonparametric techniques of data analysis. Additionally, factorial analysis of variance, multiple regression, and factor analysis will be covered, along with the application of appropriate statistical techniques. Prerequisite: An introductory course in statistics.

COMS 859. Proseminar in Communication Studies. 3 Credits.

An overview and integration of communication studies based upon an examination of selected basic writings in the discipline.

COMS 898. Investigation and Conference (For Master's Candidates). 1-8 Credits.

(Limited to eight hours credit toward the M.A. degree.) Directed research and experimentation for M.A. students in some phase of speech science or the teaching of speech and drama.

COMS 899. Master's Thesis. 1-6 Credits.

Thesis Hours. Graded on a satisfactory progress/limited progress/no progress basis.

COMS 907. Seminar in Political Communication. 3 Credits.

This course will focus on contemporary political communication theory and illustrate how such theories are exemplified in modern political contexts: political arguments and developing consensus, communication strategies in Congressional and bureaucratic decision-making, the rhetorical presidency, the dissemination of political information, political narrative, and political campaigns.

COMS 910. Organizing Identity, Identification, and Stigma. 3 Credits.

Students who take this course will: 1) deepen their knowledge about communicating with diverse populations, 2) enhance their understanding of gender, race, social class, sexuality, ability, and age, and 3) apply and advance their critical thinking, research, analysis, and writing skills. This course explores ideas and implications about identity, identification, and stigma within organized contexts like school, work, and nonprofit organizations. This seminar will focus on theoretical and practical issues relevant to identity and communication in contemporary organizations. Whether we realize it or not, we spend the majority of our lives in organizations like educational institutions and the workforce where we are continually interacting with diverse groups of people. Yet, many identities are stigmatized in organizational settings and those individuals often experience ostracism, stereotyping, and marginalization. The purpose of this course is to explore the power of communication to construct,

reproduce, and transform social identities for ourselves and for others, within organizational contexts and acts of organizing.

COMS 920. Introduction to Teaching Oral Communication. 3 Credits.

This seminar prepares new graduate teaching assistants for their first teaching experience. Students will develop course materials including lectures, discussion prompts, assignments, exams based on pedagogical best practices. Students will apply theoretical concepts related to teaching, learning and assessment, and apply those theories to their own classrooms.

COMS 930. Seminar in Speech: _____. 1-4 Credits.

Special problems in speech.

COMS 933. Theories of Rhetoric: Neo-Classical. 2-3 Credits.

A study of the development of rhetorical theory from 325 A.D. to the twentieth century. Notable departures from the classical tradition will be examined. Special concentration on the writings of Augustine and the tradition of medieval preaching. Alcuin, Ramus, Bacon, Campbell, Whately, Blair, John Quincy Adams, and the elocutionary movement.

COMS 936. Seminar in Language and Discourse. 3 Credits.

This seminar uses interdisciplinary readings to examine central theoretical questions regarding language and communication. The course moves from considering major theoretical positions to current research in communication on discourse. Methodological issues in the study of language and discourse are also addressed.

COMS 939. Seminar in Argumentation. 2-3 Credits.

Examination of special problems in argumentation, with emphasis on the relationship of systems of argumentation to their philosophic presuppositions. Discussion of the writings of Toulmin, Natanson, Johnstone, Perelman, Dewey. Prerequisite: COMS 539 or equivalent.

COMS 945. Seminar in Social Support. 3 Credits.

This course is a survey of the many disciplines of the fundamental form of communication known as social or emotional support or comforting. Emphases include message-, receiver-, and interactionally-oriented approaches, as well as support contexts, dilemmas, structures, features, and positive effects on physical and mental health.

COMS 946. Seminar in Communication and Intergroup Relations. 3 Credits.

Conceptual and theoretical frameworks for exploring and understanding relations between individuals from different societal groups (e.g., cultural/ethnic, gender, age). Focus on issues of identity, power relations as manifested in interpersonal, mass media, and organizational contexts. The course will include methodological and applied implications for studying different groups, both within the USA and around the world.

COMS 948. Seminar in Organizational Communication. 2-3 Credits.

Analysis of speech communication functions in the organizational structures of business, industry, labor, military, education, government, and professional agencies. Development of conceptual schemes for conducting research and training programs on speech systems which characterize the operation of organized groups.

COMS 951. Seminar in Movement Theory and Genre Criticism. 3 Credits.

This course examines the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of approaches to rhetorical analysis focusing on social movements and rhetorical genres. It will review existing theory on these topics, develop a methodological approach to both forms of critical analysis, and test each methodological approach via case studies. Prerequisite: COMS 755 or consent of instructor.

COMS 952. Seminar in Mythic and Narrative Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism. 3 Credits.

This course examines the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of approaches to rhetorical analysis focusing on narrative rhetoric, with a special emphasis on myth as a type of narrative. It will review existing theory on these topics, consider a number of alternative methodological approaches, and test each methodological approach via case studies.

Prerequisite: COMS 755 or consent of instructor.

COMS 955. Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism. 3 Credits.

A study of contemporary and historical writings on rhetorical criticism. Emphasis is placed upon the development of critical methodology for future research and writing. Prerequisite: COMS 755.

COMS 958. Comparative Theories of Speech Communication. 3 Credits.

A descriptive and comparative analysis of theories of communication applicable to speech behavior. Prerequisite: COMS 859 or equivalent.

COMS 959. Theories of Rhetoric: Contemporary. 3 Credits.

A study of the writings on rhetorical theory in the twentieth century. Principal emphasis will be on the psychological treatment of rhetoric. I.A. Richards and Kenneth Burke, and the relationship in the twentieth century between rhetoric and dialectic, rhetoric and poetic. Prerequisite: COMS 859 or equivalent.

COMS 997. Research in: _____. 1-6 Credits.

Supervised research under the direction of a faculty member on a topic of mutual interest to the faculty and graduate student.

COMS 998. Investigation and Conference (For Doctoral Candidates). 1-8 Credits.

(Limited to eight hours credit towards the Ph.D. degree.) Directed research and experimentation for Ph.D. students in some phase of speech science or the teaching of speech and drama.

COMS 999. Doctoral Dissertation. 1-12 Credits.

Dissertation Hours. Graded on a satisfactory progress/limited progress/no progress basis.