

COMMUNICATION

Communication envelops our lives. It shapes our ideas and values, gives rise to our politics, consumption and socialization, and helps to define our identities and realities. Its power and potential is inestimable. From briefest of text messages to grandest of public declarations, we indeed live *within* communication and invite you to join us in appreciating its increasing importance in contemporary society. From Twitter and reality television to family relationships and workplace dynamics, communication is about understanding ourselves, our media, our relationships, our culture and how these things connect.

Programs

The Department of Communication offers two majors and minors: Communication and Public Relations.

- Communication Major (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/communication/communication-major>)
- Communication Minor (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/communication/communication-minor>)
- Public Relations Major (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/communication/public-relations-major>)
- Public Relations Minor (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/communication/public-relations-minor>)

Double Major and Minor Configurations

- **Public Relations Major with Communication Minor:** Students must complete all Public Relations major requirements, plus four additional Communication courses. CO 0200 must be completed. CO 0399 does not count toward the four additional Communication courses. **45 credits total.**
- **Communication Major with Public Relations Minor:** Students must complete all Communication major requirements, plus five additional courses. CO 0102, CO 0201, and CO 0324 are required if not taken as part of the Communication major. CO 0399 cannot be repeated. **45 credits total.**
- **Public Relations and Communication Double Major:** Students must complete all Public Relations major requirements, plus eight additional Communication courses, including CO 0100 and CO 0200. CO 0399 cannot be repeated. **57 credits total.**

Independent Study and Internship Policies

The Department of Communication offers credit for independent study, CO 0397, to highly self-motivated communication and public relations majors in their junior or senior year of studies. Interested students must discuss and document their independent study proposals with a member of the communication faculty before registering for credit. As an elective course recommended only for the most motivated students, CO 0397 does not satisfy any requirements in the communication or public relations majors (or minors), but counts towards graduation.

The Department of Communication also sponsors an active internship program for qualified (2.8 overall GPA) junior and senior majors. Students may earn no more than six internship credits. One three-credit internship course, CO 0399, can be used in fulfillment of the final elective requirement in the Communication or Public Relations majors.

Communication and public relations majors interested in applying for an internship complete the departmental internship application form before registering for CO 0399.

Courses

CO 0100 Human Communication Theories 3 Credits

This course introduces major theoretical perspectives that inform communication scholarship. This foundational course for the major emphasizes understanding human communication as a symbolic process that creates, maintains, and alters personal, social, and cultural identities. Students critique research literature in the communication field in this course, which is a prerequisite for the 200- and 300-level communication courses. This course counts in the social and behavioral sciences core curriculum for non-majors.

CO 0101 Argument and Advocacy 3 Credits

This introduction to public speaking and the advocacy process includes topic identification; methods of organization, research, selection, and arrangement of support materials; audience analysis and adaptation; patterns and fallacies of reasoning; uses of evidence; logical proof; and refutation. Students practice and critique informative and persuasive presentations in this course, which is a skill required in all 200- and 300-level communication courses.

CO 0102 Introduction to Public Relations 3 Credits

This course introduces public relations as a field of study and as a practice. Through building critical thinking and considering ethical behaviors, this course will not only introduce you to the various types of public relations but will also help you to become a critical consumer of the public relations efforts taking place in the world around you while developing your own public relations tools and strategies.

CO 0130 Mass Media and Society 3 Credits

Attributes: GDCO Graphic Design: Communication

This media literacy course offers theoretical and practical tools to critically analyze media texts, as well as understand different ways in which audiences interact with them. Students will inquire into how the pervasive mediation of human experience through mass communication channels affects almost every aspect of socialization processes and people's symbolic environment. The interplay between structural constraints conveyed in media's messages and humans' capacity to exercise interpretive agency is addressed through lectures, audiovisual examples, hands-on activities, and a variety of assignments aimed at discerning the elements that intervene in the construction and reception of media texts, beyond their apparent components. This course counts in the social and behavioral sciences core curriculum for non-majors.

CO 0200 Interpersonal Communication Theories 3 Credits

Prerequisite: CO 0100.

An examination of one-to-one relationships from a variety of theoretical perspectives, this course focuses on the centrality of communication in building familial bonds, friendships, and work teams. Students examine factors influencing interpersonal communication such as language, perception, nonverbal behavior, power, status, and gender roles.

CO 0201 Persuasion 3 Credits

Prerequisite: CO 0100 or CO 0102.

This course develops students' understanding of the major theoretical approaches to the study of persuasion as a particular type of social influence, giving specific attention to the processes of interpersonal influence and the media's role in changing social attitudes. Students construct communication campaigns to apply persuasion concepts and skills.

CO 0202 Small Group Communication**3 Credits****Prerequisite:** CO 0100 or CO 0102.

This course examines the basic characteristics and consequences of small-group communication processes in various contexts including family, education, and work groups. The course stresses interaction analysis and teambuilding. Because the course involves examining small groups in process, students do a substantial amount of group work.

CO 0220 Introduction to Organizational Communication**3 Credits****Attributes:** BUEL Business Elective**Prerequisite:** CO 0100 or CO 0102.

Taking a historical and communication-centered approach to understanding how business and professional organizations function, this course addresses the analysis of upward, downward, and lateral communication; communication channels and networks; power and critical theory; organizations as cultures; internal and external public communication; and leadership. The course uses a case study approach.

CO 0231 Media Institutions**3 Credits****Attributes:** ENDE Digital Journalism Elective**Prerequisite:** CO 0130.

The course concentrates on the economic, political, and legal environment of U.S. mass media. Issues include examination of individual media industries, the economic structure of U.S. media markets, media law and regulation, media watchdogs, advocacy organizations, and media users' forms of collective action. The course's content is approached through an institutional analysis perspective, intended to facilitate students' understanding of institutions as dynamic points of confluence for organizations, norms, and individual agents. As part of the course's requirements, students conduct a research project exploring recent developments and/or decision-making processes within one of the major media institutions covered during the semester.

CO 0233 Information Technologies: Economics, Law, and Policy**3 Credits****Attributes:** ENDE Digital Journalism Elective**Prerequisite:** CO 0130.

An in-depth exploration of current issues and trends that shape the institutional environment of information industries and new media, both domestically and globally. By digesting and analyzing a diversity of scholarly sources, news reports, and materials generated by multiple stakeholders, students will gain a critical perspective on major economic, legal, and policy questions that affect the production, access to, circulation, and processing of digital content, such as broadband penetration, regulation of intellectual property, crowdsourcing, privacy, surveillance, net neutrality, emerging revenue models for information goods, and regulation and governance of the Internet.

CO 0236 Gender, Sexuality, and Media**3 Credits****Attributes:** UDIV U.S. Diversity, WSGF Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Focused**Prerequisite:** CO 0130.

This course enables students to examine the relationship between the representation of women and the development of personal and social identity. Students explore issues of gender and reception, cultivating consumerism, body image, and developing relevant new images through theoretical readings as well as the analysis of various media, including television, film, magazines, and advertisements. The course also covers the experiences of women in a variety of media professions.

CO 0237 Sports, Media, and Culture**3 Credits****Attributes:** UDIV U.S. Diversity**Prerequisite:** CO 0130.

Sports have long played a vital yet complex role in culture and this course examines the intersection of sports, the mass media, and society. Drawing upon Durkheimian theory, we will appraise and debate the ways in which sports are functional or problematic in their impact on and relationship to players, fans, journalists, co-cultural groups, and nations. Students will read both scholarly and journalistic reflections, view popular and documentary films, and analyze fan experiences, mediated presentations, and critical social issues. In short, we will go beyond the box score to understand the importance - and deconstruct the hype - that accompanies modern sports.

CO 0238 Communication and Popular Culture**3 Credits****Attributes:** ASCO American Studies: Communication**Prerequisite:** CO 0130.

This course takes the cultural artifacts that engulf us, from fashion to television and from music to comic books, and removes these practices and texts from simply being "entertainment" or "diversion" and asks what these things mean, how they constitute power, and how they shape and reflect the lived experiences of consumers. This course takes very seriously those things that are typically discarded as lacking substance and instead suggests that the meanings and impact of popular culture have dramatic consequences for political, social, and cultural life in the United States.

CO 0239 Consumer Culture**3 Credits****Attributes:** UDIV U.S. Diversity**Prerequisite:** CO 0130.

This course explores how social meanings are constructed through commodities and material society, how consumer goods and practices create categories of social difference. In particular, the course focuses on the intersections of consumer practices and gender/sexuality, race and class, articulating the relationship between communication and consumption practices and social/cultural identities. Theoretical approaches include Marxism, Postmodernism, and other economic and social critiques, and explore research methods to empirically investigate questions of culture. Students reflect on questions of social justice in relation to an increasingly materialistic society as they seek to become citizens prepared to "consume with a conscience."

CO 0240 Intercultural Communication**3 Credits****Attributes:** UDIV U.S. Diversity**Prerequisite:** CO 0100 or CO 0102 or IL 0050.

This course deals with challenges to communication between people of different cultural backgrounds, emphasizing the ways communication practices reveal cultural values and the role of communication in creating and sustaining cultural identities. Students discuss how differences in value orientation, perception, thought patterns, and nonverbal behavior cause misunderstanding, tension, and conflict in business, education, and healthcare settings. Registration preference is given to Communication and International Studies majors.

CO 0241 Communication and Culture: East and West**3 Credits****Attributes:** WDIV World Diversity**Prerequisite:** CO 0100 or CO 0102 or IL 0050.

This course examines the dynamics of culture and communication focusing on the East-West dyad. It helps students gain a better understanding of why and how cultural issues influence our communication. The course explores the East-West cultural similarities and differences in values, communication processes, cognition, and relationships. It will enhance students' intercultural awareness and sensitivity in our increasingly globalized society.

- CO 0242 Alcohol, Addiction and Culture** 3 Credits
Attributes: HSSS Health Studies: Social Science
Prerequisite: CO 0100 or CO 0102.
 From the time we are young children through our adult lives we are exposed to countless alcohol advertisements and engage in myriad alcohol-focused conversations with family, friends and coworkers. This course draws on perspectives from the personal to the institutional to critically examine the conversations on alcohol consumption, promotion, education and recovery from a health communication perspective. Through service learning opportunities with local high school seniors, students in the course reflects on the ways in which we talk about alcohol use, abuse, and alcoholism, and how that "talk" cultivates harmful and helpful perceptions and behaviors.
- CO 0245 Identities, Discourse, and Social Change** 3 Credits
Attributes: BSFC Black Studies Focus Course, BSSS Black Studies: Social and Behavioral Sciences, PJST Peace and Justice Studies, UDIV U.S. Diversity, WSGC Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Component
Prerequisite: CO 0100.
 Grounded in the premise that identities are inseparable from communication, this course focuses on the negotiation of, and the discursive practices pertaining to, social identities by exploring the intersections of ethnicity-race, gender, sexuality, social class, ability and age. Given that individual-group differences matter, this course addresses social issues and concerns by concentrating on how structures of power and privilege shape understandings of salient social identities within the United States. Additionally, this course will raise questions about the role of communication research in fostering social change.
- CO 0246 Family Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: UDIV U.S. Diversity, WSGF Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Focused
Prerequisite: CO 0100 or CO 0102.
 In this course students come to understand how families are constituted through symbolic processes and interaction; explore the verbal and non-verbal communication behaviors that are developed and preferred in different kinds of families; learn various theories for understanding family interactions at the individual, dyadic, group, and systems levels; analyze family communication patterns using established theories and methods; connect family dynamics to social trends and processes including the roles of the mass media and popular culture; and explore ways culture, class, gender, and sexuality affect and are affected by family structures, roles, and communication patterns.
- CO 0248 Health Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: HSSS Health Studies: Social Science
Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.
 This course surveys the multidimensional processes used to create, maintain, and transform complex scientific information into everyday healthcare practices. A major emphasis is on the processes and complexities of communicating health information in a variety of settings (in hospitals, families, insurance companies, policy organizations, etc.) and through different channels (face-to-face, in medical records, through the mass media, etc.). We will study the verbal and non-verbal communication behaviors of providers, patients, families, insurers, and others in healthcare contexts, as well as health-related messages in the mass media, in order to understand effective and problematic communication about illness and health.
- CO 0309 Research Projects in Communication: Capstone** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0100 or CO 0102, CO 0101, CO 0130, CO 0200 or CO 0220, senior standing, and at least one intermediate or advanced course in student's area of concentrated study.
 This course allows students to demonstrate their expertise as communication scholars through discussion and evaluation of contemporary research in communication. The course examines qualitative and quantitative methodologies in understanding the research design process. As members of research teams, students design and conduct research projects related to their areas of concentrated study. This is the required major capstone course.
- CO 0321 Communication Processes in Organizations: Negotiation** 3 Credits
Attributes: EVAP Environmental Studies: Applied Professional Skills
Prerequisites: CO 0220; junior or senior standing.
 This course reviews and explores, through simulation and experiential learning, negotiation as a communication process in and among organizations. It focuses on core concepts and approaches to negotiation, and exercises the negotiative process in a contemporary context. In this course, which is open to majors and minors in communication and other disciplines related to the study of humans and their organizations in the work world, participants carry out individual and team work, and contribute on time and proportionately to team preparations and class simulations.
- CO 0322 Leadership Communication** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0220; junior or senior standing.
 This course examines the processes and complexities of being a leader in today's dynamic organizational environment. The course explores the leadership styles, traits, and communication skills required of effective leaders. In addition, theories of leadership and the impact of culture and ethics, both historically and currently, will be studied. This course uses a combination of lecture, discussion, individual and group learning opportunities, including interviews of professional and community leaders, as well as a written and oral research projects to aid in students' assimilation of the material.
- CO 0323 Gender and Organizing** 3 Credits
Attributes: WSGF Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Focused
Prerequisites: CO 0220; junior or senior standing.
 Gender is central to how we organize our lives. The way we communicate about gender can enhance or undermine all of our relationships. The purpose of this seminar is to augment, or even change, our understanding of the relationship between gender, communication, and organizations. Specifically, the goal for this course is to use a combination of scholarly essays and journal articles as well as popular news media to examine critically topics such as femininity, masculinity, and sexuality within the following contexts: education, sports, politics/government, leadership, the military, and other professions and organizations.
- CO 0324 Crisis Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: HASM Humanitarian Action Minor Skills/Method Course
Prerequisites: CO 0200 or CO 0220; junior or senior standing.
 This course discusses key concepts, principles, and best practices of crisis communication. Intersections with other areas of the communication field will also be addressed, including public relations and organizational and risk communication. Students will understand the role strategic communication, power, stakeholders, and organizational culture play during a crisis. This course analyzes case studies of previous crises and will ask students to provide their own plans and critical assessments of recent crises.

CO 0325 Organizational Communication and Advertising 3 Credits**Prerequisites:** CO 0220; junior or senior standing.

This course will highlight how organizations market, promote, and advertise their brands. The importance of advertising for organizations, consumers, and the U.S. economy will also be a central focus of this class. Furthermore, the critical roles of research, audience analysis, persuasion, and effective communication in altering consumers' perceptions will be explored from both theoretical and applied perspectives. The value of deconstructing ads from a consumer, brand manager, and advertiser's viewpoint will be stressed and explored. In addition, the historical and contemporary ethical implications of advertising, especially in health care and for children, will be closely examined.

CO 0326 Palliative Care Communication in the United States and Ireland 3 Credits**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior standing.

This is an interdisciplinary, intercultural course that applies a bifocal (communication and healthcare) lens to the study of palliative care. The course is intended to explore this relatively new area of health care delivery (quality of life vs. cure) and the critical role communication plays in accomplishing the interdependent goals of providers, patients, and families in the United States and Ireland. Since palliative care should be for all chronically- and/or terminally-ill patients across the life cycle, students will critically examine, from both health care and communication perspectives, the differences in palliative care delivery in the United States and Ireland. Open to students with majors or minors in Communication, Health Studies, Nursing, Public Health, or Public Relations, as well as Health Professions students.

CO 0329 Contemporary Topics in Organizational Communication 3 Credits**Prerequisites:** CO 0220; junior or senior standing.

This is an upper-level, undergraduate seminar for students in the Organizational Communication emphasis of the major. The course provides an opportunity to examine in depth particular theories of organizational communication, or to conduct research about communication in particular types of organizations. Emphasis is on contemporary theoretical and/or methodological approaches to the close analysis of interpersonal, group, and intercultural communication in organizational settings, or strategic communication practices of organizations with their external audiences/publics. Topics may include: Organizational Communication in the Global Economy; Communication in Healthcare Organizations; Gender and Communication in Organizations; and Communication in Organizational Crisis. Students may take this course up to two times with different topics.

CO 0330 Misinformation in Digital Media 3 Credits**Prerequisites:** CO 0130; junior or senior standing.

This course critically examines the causes for, and the consequences of, the proliferation of false and misleading information in online spaces. While the ubiquity of false information online is often talked about as if it is random or inevitable, this class will detail the specific mechanisms by which false information is produced, spread, and consumed. More importantly, it will contextualize the practice within larger social, culture, and geopolitical environments and connect it to the larger history of misinformation and media technologies. Finally, the course will prepare students to combat false and misleading information encountered in their own media diets.

CO 0331 American Media / American History 3 Credits**Attributes:** ENDE Digital Journalism Elective**Prerequisites:** CO 0130; junior or senior standing.

This course examines the role of communication media in history, as well as the history of the media industries. From the earliest media of symbolic interaction to the newest technologies, the course examines why different media come into being, how they function in various societies, and their impact. Students come to understand how media have been influential in maintaining social order and as agents of change. The course pays attention to a variety of national media and international perspectives, with special emphasis on the evolution of American broadcasting.

CO 0332 Children as Media Consumers 3 Credits**Prerequisites:** CO 0130; junior or senior standing.

This course aims to provide a forum for advanced Communication students to explore the patterns of children's media consumption, focusing primarily on children's use of the so-called "screen media" (television, videogames, and the Internet), and to investigate the multi-faceted consequences – both positive and negative, social and individual – of children's media consumption. Students will draw upon contemporary theories of communication to assess the content of children's media and its "effects" on children as a particular segment of the audience. Students will develop an informed understanding of children as media consumers, advocating for the production of "quality" content in children's media.

CO 0333 News Media and Democracy 3 Credits**Attributes:** ENDE Digital Journalism Elective**Prerequisites:** CO 0130; junior or senior standing.

The news media play an essential role in changing America and the world – by bridging theory with practice, this course aims to equip students to become critical news consumers with a skilled understanding of how that works and politically literate about the big issues of our time. Through classic scholarly reflections as well as contemporary punditry, we will tackle the news media "critically" across three dimensions: learning about its indispensable function in mediating politics and democracy throughout history and today; studying and practicing the craft of opining writing and social advocacy; and evaluating and critiquing the performance of the press in these matters.

CO 0334 Comparative Media Systems 3 Credits**Attributes:** ENDE Digital Journalism Elective**Prerequisites:** CO 0130; junior or senior standing.

This course provides a comparative overview of the economic and regulatory structure of media industries worldwide. By exploring the ways in which different institutional frameworks, structural factors, and audiences' agency affect mass communication within and across regional borders, this course offers a comprehensive picture of common and interdependent processes underlying the individual development of media industries in each region. Students learn about emerging market and research trends concerning international media. Issues related to free flow of messages, social responsibility, universal access, intellectual commons, participatory communication, developmental communication, and cultural diversity in the global exchange of media messages through discussion of current, real-life cases, as well as through design and execution of an original research project.

- CO 0335 Globalization, Media, and Culture** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0130 or IL 0050; junior or senior standing.
 Globalization, a complex and transformative process that influences our lives at every level, has produced the increased flow of goods, capital, people, knowledge, images, crime, pollutants, drugs, fashion, viruses, and beliefs across territorial and ideological boundaries of all kinds. This course focuses on the role of communication media (radio, television, film, computers) in the processes of globalization and examines the impact of globalization on cultural representations, cultural identity, and international relations.
- CO 0336 Social Media** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0130; junior or senior standing.
 At the turn of the millennium, social media was still an unknown term; today, it is inescapably altering the landscape of our world and our lives in complex ways. This course examines social media by historicizing what is timeless about it and charting its new frontiers for humankind. Through a mix of scholarly, journalistic, and professional industry readings on social media, we will explore how culture, community, and identity are being reshaped alongside politics, business, and (what was once called) the mass communication industry.
- CO 0337 Visual Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: GDCO Graphic Design: Communication
Prerequisite: CO 0130; junior or senior standing.
 This course provides a broad introduction to the structure, conventions, and effects of visual communication with a theoretical emphasis on media ecology. The first half is devoted to understanding formal properties including examining the basics of vision, techniques for visual persuasion, and the language of cinematography and editing. The second half surveys more controversial issues like digital manipulation and violence and sex in media. Course material and assignments will be drawn from media domains including advertising, photo/video journalism, and video games. Students will read both theoretical contributions to and empirical investigations of the field.
- CO 0338 Media Audiences** 3 Credits
Attributes: UDIV U.S. Diversity, WSGF Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Gender Focused
Prerequisite: CO 0130; junior or senior standing.
 This course has three related aims: to introduce the theoretical and academic study of media audiences, to introduce students to qualitative field research methods, and to prepare students to engage with the current media industry through an examination of applied audience research. Recognizing that the study of media audiences is an important theoretical as well as practical endeavor, we will consider how audiences have been studied historically, in the academy, and within media industries.
- CO 0339 Topics in Media Theory and Criticism** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0130; junior or senior standing.
 This course provides an opportunity to examine in depth particular media theories or to conduct careful media analysis and criticism. The course emphasizes contemporary theoretical and/or methodological approaches to the close analysis of television, radio, newspaper, the Internet, and/or magazine texts so as to understand the ways meaning is constructed and situated within the larger social context. Topics may include mass media and the public sphere; television criticism; sex, lies, and videos; and children and the media. Students may take this course up to two times with different topics.
- CO 0340 Conflict Communication** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0200 or CO 0220; junior or senior standing.
 Conflict is a natural part of human life that has a variety of potential consequences. Although conflict can be disruptive and destructive, it can also be constructive and lead to improved adjustment and better decisions. The course is designed to offer you opportunities to enhance and improve your techniques and skills in managing conflict and moving them in a productive direction. The course examines the dynamics of human conflict across a variety of settings from personal relationships to the workplace, with special attention to the communication processes that escalate, manage, and mediate conflict.
- CO 0341 End of Life Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: HSSS Health Studies: Social Science
Prerequisites: Junior standing.
 This course focuses on the only reality for every human being: death. However, in spite of its certainty, American culture tends to minimize or ignore discussions of death and provides little insight into effective communication strategies for healthcare providers, family members, friends, and lovers. The complexities of this unique communication will be assessed vis-à-vis an applied approach that includes a service-learning opportunity at a 51-bed hospice. In addition, the course will include self-reflection, autoethnography, an exploration of scholarly research in palliative communication, and scholarly interaction between undergraduate students in the classroom and the hospice setting.
- CO 0342 Technoculture and Information Society** 3 Credits
Prerequisites: CO 0130; junior or senior standing.
 This course explores phenomena, trends, and theories related to emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs), as well as relationships among those technologies, socio-economic structures, "old" media institutions, media users, and culture. Through a combination of theoretical and practical explorations that emphasize historical, ethical, and critical thinking, the course introduces students to academic and non-academic perspectives on new media.
- CO 0343 Ethics and Medical Marketing Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: HSSS Health Studies: Social Science
Prerequisites: Junior standing.
 This course will explore the dialectical tensions between the need for safe and effective products/services and the expectations for corporations to generate profits and dividends for their stakeholders. This course will use an applied ethics lens to examine the organizational, marketing, advertising, and corporate communication to clients, consumers, vendors, and investors. The content and ethical implications of marketing communication (from a variety of organizational perspectives: healthcare, economics, cultural, etc.) on expected and unintended outcomes will also be discussed and analyzed.
- CO 0344 Interracial Communication** 3 Credits
Attributes: BSFC Black Studies Focus Course, UDIV U.S. Diversity
Prerequisite: CO 0200; junior or senior standing.
 This course focuses on the ways in which communication theories and research can improve the existing state of race relations in the United States. Throughout the course, up-to-date issues that surface locally and nationally in the media that illustrate the relevance of improved interracial communication will be addressed through class discussion and linked to course assignments. Using case studies to explore interracial exchanges in close relationships, at the workplace, and reflected in social media, students will link theory with practical applications in an effort to better understand interracial communication.

CO 0345 Relational Communication**3 Credits****Prerequisites:** CO 0200 or CO 0220; junior or senior standing.

Close relationships can bring us a great deal of joy, happiness, and love, but unfortunately they can also be sources of frustration, pain, and conflict. This course is designed to help us understand the critical role of communication in developing, maintaining, and terminating close relationships with romantic partners, friends, and family members. The course examines the most current research and theory on a variety of topics that are central to understanding and maintaining close relationships, with a focus on attraction, attachment, conflict, power, emotion, transgression, reconciliation, and termination.

CO 0346 Communication and Spirituality**3 Credits****Prerequisites:** CO 0200; junior or senior standing.

This course engages a critical understanding of the way in which spirituality is constructed through communication. Using the unique perspectives and empirical tools of the communication discipline, the course seeks to familiarize students with the variety of ways in which spirituality has been studied both within and outside of religion. Examining various contexts that engage spiritual discourses, from interpersonal communication settings to organizational, health and mass mediated settings, students reflect on the potential for spiritual discourses to transform individuals and society, and consider their own participation in such discourses.

CO 0347 Communication in Healthcare Organizations**3 Credits****Attributes:** HSSS Health Studies: Social Science**Prerequisites:** Junior standing.

This course explores the organizational communication of modern U.S. healthcare organizations, including: Managed Care, Insurers, Healthcare Systems, and Medicare/Medicaid. The primary purposes of this course are to provide an understanding of how communication within, and from healthcare corporations impacts the organization, its employees, the health of its customers and U.S. healthcare delivery. This course will evaluate and explore the multidimensional processes involved in healthcare organizations and how communication is critical to their success or failure and to the health and well-being of their customers.

CO 0348 Health Risk Communication**3 Credits****Attributes:** EVAP Environmental Studies: Applied Professional Skills**Prerequisites:** Junior standing.

Risk Communication examines the communication theories and research that underlie the study of risky behaviors and the development of effective responses to perceived risks. This course provides an understanding of how communication impacts our assessment of risk, critical thinking and policy making about risk prevention and response, and the creation of preventive programs and campaigns. Students will evaluate and explore the multidimensional processes involved in researching and responding to sustained risks or emergency situations, utilize communication theory to develop appropriate campaigns, and assess their success or failure. Topics may focus on health and environmental risks, security, or disaster response.

CO 0349 Special Topics (Shell)**3 Credits****Prerequisites:** CO 0200, CO 0220, CO 0240; junior or senior standing.

This course focuses on a specific context where social identities are negotiated through particular discursive practices, emphasizing the verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors that are appropriate in this context and through which people constitute and perform their identities. The course examines symbolic practices and communication norms in families, self-help groups, television talk shows, cyber communities, social movements, and genders/sexualities, using approaches such as symbolic convergence theory, social constructivism, ethnography of communication, and conversational analysis. Students may take this course up to two times with different topics.

CO 0397 Independent Study**1-3 Credits****Prerequisite:** Junior or senior standing.

This course allows students to thoroughly investigate communication concepts, theories, or issues presented in a previously completed communication course. Independent study does not substitute for any other required course(s) in the communication program and students' investigations must be scholarly in intent. An independent study may be taken no more than twice. Enrollment by permission only.

CO 0399 Internship**1-3 Credits****Prerequisite:** Junior or senior standing.

Communication internships provide students with first-hand knowledge about the field of work, allow them to experience new professional activities and relationships, help them apply conceptual knowledge and skills in communication in the work environment, and allow them to experience the problems and successes of efficiently and effectively communicating within a complex organization. One three-credit internship course can be used toward the major. Students may take an internship twice for credit. Students must have a GPA of 2.8 or higher.

Faculty

Professors

Zhang

Associate Professors

Pagano
Wills

Assistant Professors

Brennan
Iddins
Nuru
Rugg
Ryan

Lecturers

Larkin
Smith

Professors Emeriti

Nedela