COMMUNICATION STUDIES (COMS)

COMS Courses

COMS 101. Public Speaking. 4 units
GE Area A2
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP, SU
Introduction to the principles of public speaking. Practical experience in the development, presentation, and critical analysis of speeches to inform, to persuade, and to actuate. Not open to students with credit in COMS 102. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as COMS/HNRS 101. Fulfills GE A2; for students admitted Fall 2016 or later a grade of C- or better is required to fulfill GE Area A2.

COMS 102. Principles of Oral Communication. 4 units
GE Area A2
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Introduction to the fundamentals and principles which underlie effective oral communication. Practical experience in various types of speaking situations: informative speaking, persuasive speaking, and panel discussion. Not open to students with credit in COMS 101. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as COMS/HNRS 102. Fulfills GE A2; for students admitted Fall 2016 or later a grade of C- or better is required to fulfill GE Area A2.

COMS 126. Argument and Advocacy. 4 units
GE Area A3
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A1 with a C- or better, or consent of instructor. Recommended: Completion of GE Area A2.

COMS 145. Reasoning, Argumentation, and Writing. 4 units
GE Area A3
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP, SU
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A1 with a C- or better, or consent of instructor. Recommended: Completion of GE Area A2.

COMS 201. Advanced Public Speaking. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: COMS 101 or COMS 102.

COMS 202. Performance of Literature. 4 units
GE Area C3
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C1.

COMS 208. Performance of Literature. 4 units
GE Area C3
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C1.

COMS 212. Interpersonal Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: COMS 101 or COMS 102.

COMS 213. Organizational Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: COMS 101 or COMS 102.

COMS 217. Small Group Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: COMS 101 or COMS 102.

COMS 218. Media, Self and Society. 4 units
GE Area D4
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Overview of the interaction between mass media and individuals in American society. Drawing on theoretical perspectives from mass communication and psychology to explore how individuals develop a coherent understanding of self within a highly mediated world. The power and influence of media messages and practices. Individual responsibility in an information society. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as COMS/PSY 212.

COMS 226. Applied Argumentation. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A.

COMS 250. Forensic Activity. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: COMS 101 or COMS 102.

Further consideration of the principles of public address. Advanced practice in manuscript, extemporaneous, and impromptu speaking. 4 lectures.
COMS 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

COMS 301. Business and Professional Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: COMS 101 or COMS 102.

Communication skills and functions for all levels of organizational employees. Interviewing, oral briefings, motivational and conference speaking. 4 lectures.

COMS 308. Group Performance of Literature. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area A and C3.

Examination and experience in the various modes of group performance of literature: Readers Theatre, Chamber Theatre, Story Theatre. Scripting; directing; performing and critiquing of group performance of literature. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C4 except for Communication Studies majors.

COMS 311. Communication Theory. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A.

Survey of human communication theories including interpersonal, small group, organizational, persuasion, nonverbal, intercultural, and media. Philosophical foundations for understanding communication from a social science perspective. 4 lectures.

COMS 312. Communication Research Methods. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: COMS 311 and STAT 217, junior standing; for COMS majors only.

Exploration of communication research strategies and methodologies. Basic methods of designing research in empirical communication studies. 4 lectures.

COMS 315. Intergroup Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A.

Survey of theory and research concerning language and communication between various social groups (e.g., age, sex, race, sexual orientation), with an emphasis on understanding the role verbal, nonverbal, and mass communication plays in identity formation and differentiating group members. 4 lectures.

COMS 316. Intercultural Communication. 4 units
GE Area D5; USCP
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP, SU
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A; completion of one lower division Area D course.

Cultural aspects of communication within and among diverse groups. Particular focus on U.S. culture and history and the diversity of ethnic, subcultural, and co-cultural groups. Development of nuanced understanding of the role of culture and communication in human thought, behavior, and interaction. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Not open to students with credit in COMS 416. Fulfills USCP. Fulfills GE D5 except for Communication Studies majors.

COMS 317. Technology and Human Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A.

Impact of technological change upon human communication. Past, present, and future technological developments that have affected how humans communicate. Emphasis on new communication technologies. 4 lectures.

COMS 319. Critical Cultural Studies and Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: GE Area A completed and Junior standing.

Analysis and integration of theories and methods of Cultural Studies as an interdisciplinary mode of critical qualitative inquiry. Emphasis on the role of communication in differential power relations, particularly on issues of identity, struggle, and representation in a diverse culture. 4 lectures.

COMS 322. Persuasion. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A.

Theory of persuasion with particular emphasis upon social psychological principles of influence. Analysis of various forms of persuasion, social influence and propaganda. 4 lectures.

COMS 330. Classical Rhetorical Theory. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A.

Early development of rhetorical theory in Greco-Roman civilization. Analysis of the canons of rhetoric. Rhetorical thought of Sophists, Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero and Quintilian. 4 lectures.

COMS 331. Contemporary Rhetorical Theory. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and junior standing.

Rhetoric’s role in contemporary culture. Issues: political advocacy; science, technology and mass persuasion; ethics and rhetoric. Representative theorists: Burke, Weaver, Richards, Toulmin and McLuhan. 4 lectures.
COMS 395. Science Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: completion of GE area A and completion of one GE area B course.
Examination of science communication in a variety of contexts. Issues covered may include: scientific journal articles, boundary-work, information deficit models, public understanding/awareness of science, accommodated science, mediated science, popular science. 4 lectures.

COMS 386. Communication, Media, and Politics. 4 units
GE Area D5
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A; completion of one lower division Area D course. Recommended: COMS 218 or POLS 112.
Political communication and the U.S. mass media system, including role of the media in democratic society; news norms, government regulation of media, and media ownership; the changing media landscape and implications for news construction, polarization, and selective exposure; and incivility and bias. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D5 except for Communication Studies majors.

COMS 390. Environmental Communication. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and junior standing.
Recent developments in the field of environmental communication, including how and with what effect environmental messages are transmitted among scientists, policymakers, and the public. Critical/rhetorical and mediated perspectives that inform contemporary understandings of the human-nature relationship are addressed. 4 lectures.

COMS 422. Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and junior standing.
Examination of rhetoric strategies and persuasive techniques used within scientific, technical, and medical discourses. Topics include genre features of scientific articles, rhetorical topoi in scientific discourse, pop-culture depictions of science, the scientific ethos, and risk communication. 4 lectures.
**COMS 428. Family Communication. 4 units**
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A; and COMS/PSY 212.

Communication theory and practice within family structures. Examination of relationship communication in marital/partnership, parent/child, intergenerational, and sibling relationships. Topics include family communication regarding identity, attachment, conflict, relational dialectics, storytelling/narratives, family transitions, cultural influences, and family support. 4 lectures.

**COMS 435. American Political Rhetoric. 4 units**
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Role of oratory in American political and social history since Lincoln. Historical and rhetorical analyses of important political speeches delivered by presidents, activists, demagogues, and leaders of social movements. 4 lectures.

**COMS 450. Internship: Communication Studies. 2-4 units**
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: Junior standing, 2.5 GPA, and consent of instructor.

Supervised practicum and application of principles and theories of communication in organizational settings. Total credit limited to 8 units. Credit/No Credit grading only.

**COMS 460. Undergraduate Seminar. 1 unit**
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of COMS 311, COMS 312, COMS 330 and COMS 332, and junior standing; for COMS majors only.

Discussion and design of individual projects, oral reports on material in current professional writings. 1 seminar.

**COMS 461. Senior Project. 3 units**
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: COMS 460; for COMS majors only.

Completion of approved project under faculty supervision. Project results are presented in a formal written report. Minimum 90 hours total time.

**COMS 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units**
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and junior standing.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures.

**COMS 485. Cooperative Education Experience. 6 units**
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: 2.5 GPA and consent of instructor.

Part-time work experience in business, industry, government, and other areas of student career interest. Positions are paid and usually require relocation and registration in course for two consecutive quarters. Formal report and evaluation by work supervisor required. Major credit limited to 4 units; total credit limited to 12 units. Credit/No Credit grading only.