COMMUNICATION (COMM)

COMM 101 | INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: First Yr Integration (LC Only), Oral communication competency, Social/Behavioral Inquiry area

An examination of the principles and contexts of human communication. Some of the principles surveyed are perception, listening, nonverbal communication, and persuasion. The primary contexts examined include interpersonal, group, organizational, and public communication. This course is a prerequisite for many upper division communication courses, and fulfills core curriculum requirements in social and behavioral inquiry and oral communication competency.

COMM 130 | INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA STUDIES

Units: 3-4 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: First Yr Integration (LC Only), Social/Behavioral Inquiry

This course offers an introduction to the examination of media and media literacy. Students learn about the origins, history, and development of mass media. Additionally, the present structure, characteristics, and challenges in the areas of print, radio, television, film, and digital media are addressed. Fulfills the core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral inquiry.

COMM 203 | PUBLIC SPEAKING

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: First Yr Integration (LC Only), Oral communication competency

An introduction to several forms of public communication. Emphasis is placed on the development and practice of public speaking about salient political, cultural, and social issues. Students are taught an audience-sensitive approach to the invention, arrangement, and delivery of public messages. Students are also introduced to the relationship between socially responsible speeches and rhetorical communication. Fulfills the core curriculum requirement in oral communication competency.

COMM 220 | INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA WRITING Units: 3

A general introduction to the skills and strategies associated with print and electronic journalism. Students are exposed to methods of news gathering, reporting, writing, and editing. The elements of the news story, interviewing, and the news conference are among the topics covered.

COMM 221 | INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO PRODUCTION Units: 1 Repeatability: No

An introduction to video production skills. This course teaches students the skills and strategies employed to collect, edit, and present information through audiovisual means. This course prepares students interested in visual media and broadcast journalism using hands-on, collaborative training. The objective is to teach students how to tell a story using audio and video. Topics covered include camera angles, shooting techniques, audio capture, composition, and video editing.

COMM 265 | INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: First Yr Integration (LC Only), Quantitative reasoning comp

An introduction to communication research methodologies. Students are exposed to the prevailing paradigms of qualitative and quantitative research. The interpretive, descriptive, and explanatory foundations of research methodologies will be examined. Ethical principles governing the process of research will also be explored. Fulfills the core curriculum requirement in quantitative reasoning.

COMM 294 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION

Units: 0.5-4 Repeatability: Yes (Repeatable if topic differs)

The course will introduce students to various topics within the field of communication. Course may be repeated as topics vary.

COMM 298 | COMMUNICATION TRAINING

Units: 0.5 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

Non-Core Attributes: Experiential

The course offers students credit for participating in a professional communication-related field during the summer. The course is appropriate for students who are interested in learning new skills and gaining professional experience to complement their coursework, but who have not yet completed COMM 300 or those who do not have second-semester sophomore standing. To qualify, students must have completed at least one lower division communication course and have declared a communication major. This course is offered pass/fail.

COMM 300 | COMMUNICATION THEORY

Units: 3 Repeatability: No Prerequisites: COMM 101

This course provides a comprehensive survey of the various theories that comprise the communication discipline. Students are exposed to the dominant philosophical, conceptual, and critical perspectives germane to communication as a distinct academic pursuit. This class is intended as an overview of both speech communication and media studies traditions and is a recommended prerequisite to all upper division courses in communication.

COMM 320 | CONTEMPORARY PRINT JOURNALISM

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Prerequisites: COMM 220

This course is designed to develop students' research, reporting, analytical, and writing skills. Students will also investigate the nature and significance of the evolution of print journalism, how changes in the media environment alter journalists' behaviors and responsibilities, and how audiences read and interpret the news in modern society. Ethical pressures of contemporary journalism practices are also addressed.

COMM 321 | ADVANCED VIDEO PRODUCTION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Prerequisites: COMM 221 (Can be taken Concurrently)

This course provides students an opportunity to learn production skills while incorporating discussions of aesthetics, film theory, and ethics. Students are introduced to three phases of broadcast production: preproduction (concept, writing, scheduling, and planning); production (principle photography and audio recording), and post-production (editing and sound design). By the end of the course, students will produce a short video that is a culmination of production principles applied over the course of the semester.

COMM 325 | INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION Units: 3

Prerequisites: COMM 101

This course examines the dynamics of relational communication. Humanistic and social scientific theories of interpersonal relationship development will be emphasized. Topics include impression management, attraction, love, conflict, and the dark side.

COMM 326 | NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

Units: 3

Prerequisites: COMM 101

This course draws upon and scrutinizes the intersection of nonverbal and verbal communication channels, with an emphasis on the influence of nonverbal channels on communicator competence in interpersonal, media, organization, intercultural, and group contexts. Examples of specific topics include scholarship on the theory and application of nonverbal codes (and subsequent functions) vocal variation, nonverbal channels, and context-specific communication style.

COMM 330 | MEDIA PROCESSES AND EFFECTS

Units: 3

Non-Core Attributes: Diversity-Pre F17 CORE

Prerequisites: COMM 130

This course examines the process of media production and the theories related to the effects media have on audiences. A historical approach is used to analyze and explain the development of the field of mass communication. Other topics include the functions media perform for individuals and society. Analysis and application of media theory is emphasized.

COMM 333 | PODCAST STORYTELLING

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course teaches professional skills in audio recording, sound mixing, and storytelling. Students will improve their audio broadcasting skills, including research, writing, interviewing, delivering, and editing podcast stories. Focus is also placed on changemaking, investigating complex social issues and community engagement through the medium of podcasting.

COMM 335 | MEDIA LAW AND POLICY

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course examines various legal and policy issues of communication and media technologies in the past, present, and future. Topics include free speech and free press, fake news and content moderation, copyright, data privacy and surveillance, competition and antitrust, representation and identity, and digital divide and algorithmic discrimination. Students will analyze the power dynamics of governments, corporations, and civil society manifested in rulemaking, lobbying, and social movements. The course will focus on exploring the intersection of media policy and social justice to critically understand how communication technologies are regulated and our rights are protected. Previous completion of COMM 130 is recommended, but not required.

COMM 336 | COMMUNICATION CRITICISM

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Advanced writing competency, First Yr Integration (LC Only)

Prerequisites: COMM 101

This course introduces students to the art and discipline of communication criticism as the interpretive method of analysis within the field of communication, exploring popular and scholarly criticism of public messages by examining the functions of criticism and by paying particular attention to the relationships among critical interpretations of texts, critical evaluation of media performance, and audience assessment. Students will enhance their understanding of these relationships by applying communication criticism methods to a variety of texts in a series of written assignments. Fulfills the core curriculum requirement in advanced writing competency.

COMM 337 | WRITING FOR MAGAZINES

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course develops students' writing, editing, and design skills by focusing on the development of magazine content. Students will develop and write magazine features; edit, copy-edit, and layout magazine stories; create audience development and engagement plans including social media strategies; and demonstrate an understanding of the magazine media industry.

COMM 338 | MEDIA AND CONFLICT

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Domestic Diversity level 2

This course examines the role media play in the progression and public perceptions of conflict. Relevant topics will include media and military intervention, portrayals of protest movements, and news and entertainment coverage of crime, rumors, domestic politics, violence, and ethnicity. It is recommended but not required that students complete COMM 130 before enrolling in this course. Fulfills the foundations in domestic diversity (level 2) core curriculum requirement.

COMM 340 | HEALTH COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course explores communication issues relevant to health, disease, and illness. Topics covered include the role of language, provider-patient communication, social support, diversity, culture, and spirituality in health, information processing, health care teams, public health campaigns, and mass media. The course explores how communication shapes and is shaped by personal, institutional, and cultural constructions of health and how such concepts are created, maintained, and transformed in communication. Course content includes critiques of Western perspectives on health, illness, disease, and wellness and their influence on communication by investigating issues of race, class, gender, and sexism that exist in health practice, policy, and institutional structures. COMM 101 or COMM 300 are recommended, but not required.

COMM 350 | SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

Units: 3

Prerequisites: COMM 101

An examination of theories and principles of group communication. Students study interactional and attitudinal variables which influence the nature of group dynamics. Topics include group norms and roles, leadership, motivation, coalition formation, communication networks, and decision making.

COMM 353 | ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Prerequisites: COMM 101

This course examines the form and function of messages within organizations, with special emphasis on business communication. The course will focus on the role of communication in developing productive work relationships, human-resource practices, and organizational cultures. Topics include past and current management practices, communication networks and technologies, interpersonal relationships in organizations, public communication, and organizational communication assessment.

COMM 356 | STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Students in this course will learn key concepts and strategies in advertising, public relations, and promotions. Students will refine their ability to identify and understand problems and develop and execute solutions in the marketing-communication environment. The course will cover aspects of strategic research, media planning and management, the principles of branding, advertising design and management, and public relations strategies. This is meant to be a survey course on different aspects of strategic integrated communication, in which students are exposed to different stages of strategic planning, execution, and evaluation. Students can expect to be better equipped to initiate, participate in, and improve strategic campaigns after completion of this course.

COMM 360 | PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Non-Core Attributes: Community Engagement

Prerequisites: COMM 130 (Can be taken Concurrently)

This is a critical PR class. The course offers a critical, historical, and practical perspective in the US and global PR industries. It examines the current and historical dependency of news media outlets on the PR world as sources of information. While the course has a critical view of corporate public relations, it also offers concrete skill-building opportunities for students interested in working to promote diversity, inclusion and social justice through critical public relations. The practical side of the class focuses on the use of communication and public relations strategies for advancing causes such as fair representation of minorities in media, economic justice, community development, workers' rights, environmental justice, and other pressing social issues. Students taking this class will spend one hour per week working for a local community organization helping to either design or enhance their communication and public outreach programs.

COMM 365 | COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS

Units: 3 Repeatability: No Prerequisites: COMM 265

A survey of contemporary quantitative methods in communication research. This course will help students understand how to measure and explain communication behaviors and beliefs from a quantitative perspective. Students will be exposed to methods such as experimentation, structured observation, and survey design, including the analysis and interpretation of results.

COMM 370 | RHETORICAL THEORY

Units: 3

Prerequisites: COMM 101

An examination of rhetorical thinking from its birth in Athens to the present time covering basic rhetorical principals and tenets. Students explore issues such as rhetoric as a humane discipline, the place of rhetoric in democracies, and the worth of rhetoric as a means of inducing change.

COMM 380 | INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Global Diversity level 2

Prerequisites: COMM 130

This course examines media systems, uses, and social impact around the world, with an emphasis on trans-national comparisons of media development. Topics to be addressed include globalization of the media environment, media and national identity, communication for social change, and the influence of U.S. media on cultures around the world. Fulfills foundations in global diversity (level 2) in the core curriculum requirements.

COMM 384 | MEDIA AND THE MARGINALIZED

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Domestic Diversity level 2

Prerequisites: COMM 130

This course will utilize theories, concepts, and empirical social scientific research to highlight how media depict social groups, why media messages depict social groups in particular ways, and the effects of those messages on audiences' perceptions of their own identities and their understanding of outgroup others. The course will focus on racial minorities, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, religious minorities, and disability within a U.S. media context. Fulfills the foundations in domestic diversity (level 2) core curriculum requirement.

COMM 397 | ADVANCED INTEGRATION IN COMMUNICATION

Units: 1-4 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

Core Attributes: Advanced Integration

Cross-listed, inter-disciplinary team-taught offerings that are approved as INST courses and treat a special topic, genre, or author. See departmental list of course offerings each semester.

COMM 403 | ADVANCED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Units: 3

Prerequisites: COMM 203

This course offers intensive training in the types of public speaking that are germane to social, political, and business communication. Through instructor and peer critique, students will gain proficiency in extemporaneous and impromptu speaking, and debate. Special attention is given to the critique and engagement of public controversy.

COMM 421 | MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Prerequisites: COMM 220 and COMM 221 (Can be taken Concurrently) This course will provide students with foundational skills needed to report, write, produce, edit, and distribute news stories across multiple platforms for diverse audiences. Students will engage in digital storytelling by engaging with the fundamentals of reporting, news judgment, and interviewing. The role of social media newsgathering is also covered.

COMM 422 | FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course provides an examination of family communication theory as it applies to interaction and cognition within the rich context of our earliest group membership. Role formation, identity development, and a range of family structures across the life span will be emphasized in both historical and modern contexts. Students will apply theory to understand and analyze their own and others' familial communication experiences.

COMM 432 | FILM AND CULTURAL POLITICS

Units: 3

This course looks at the role of film in responding to and defining culture and politics. It focuses on mainstream, commercial, and narrative film, and includes a focus on historical and ideological approaches to film criticism. Students will be encouraged to appreciate historically significant movies, learn sophisticated methods of film criticism, and assess the contributions contemporary films make to students' understanding of themselves and others. It is recommended that students complete COMM 336 before enrolling in this course.

COMM 433 | AMERICAN INDEPENDENT CINEMA Units: 3

This course is an examination of the history, forms, and functions of American independent cinema. The course will introduce students to important films and filmmakers instrumental in the independent genre while comparing and contrasting the aesthetic and content of independent cinema with the traditional practices of Hollywood studios. The course will also focus on independent cinema as a vehicle of social and political change including representations lacking in mainstream film production and inclusion of a wider spectrum of voices and experiences.

COMM 434 | DOCUMENTARY FILM

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course is an examination of the form and content of documentary film. The course will focus on American documentaries but will include some exposure to international films as well. Students will develop a critical approach to documentary film viewing and expand their appreciation of nonfiction film.

COMM 437 | WRITING FOR SCREEN MEDIA

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Prerequisites: COMM 220

This course introduces students to the skills and strategies associated with writing and production in various screen media production industries. Course material surveys the industry standards media professionals bring to their work, as well as academic criticism of these practices. Students will learn how to design and write a variety of media texts, including commercial, documentary, and film scripts.

COMM 440 | END OF LIFE COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course explores various end of life contexts and issues through the communication discipline. Students will study the ways in which personal and public communication about dying and death influence attitudes about, and practices, at the end of life. This includes communication within the family, in healthcare settings, in public discourse, and the media. The goal is not a morbid or voyeuristic one; a close examination of dying and death can influence how we live, how to make life meaningful, as well as how we die. Communication at and about the end of life also shapes, and is shaped by, law and policy that dictate living and dying well, ethics, and justice. This class will interrogate the concept of a good death and investigate how we communicate about dying well.

COMM 442 | CRITICAL WHITENESS AND COMMUNICATION PRACTICES

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

In this course students will think critically about whiteness by studying the communication practices that create and sustain power differentials in society. The course explores the social construction of whiteness in the foundations of the US, maintenance of citizenship, legal definitions of race, property ownership, neighborhoods, educational systems, technology, and media, emphasizing the way this history shapes our communication practices today. Students will emerge from the course with a thorough understanding of the ways white supremacy has shaped their social geography and will be equipped with tools for disrupting it.

COMM 445 | GENDER COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course examines gender from a communication perspective, focusing on the construction of gender and gender-relevant issues. Communication styles of women and men are discussed. Attitudes and beliefs concerning female and male cultural stereotypes as they are manifested through communication are also investigated. It is recommended but not required that students complete COMM 101 before enrolling in this course.

COMM 455 | INTERVIEWING AND NEGOTIATING

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Prerequisites: COMM 101

This course is an examination of methods and techniques applicable to a variety of interviews and negotiations. Students prepare, participate in, and critique employment, journalistic, and appraisal interviews. Students also learn techniques and principles of negotiating, including alternative dispute resolution, distributive bargaining, and principled negotiations.

COMM 456 | DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Quantitative reasoning comp

Students in Digital Campaigns will learn how to formulate a data-driven, digital strategy plan. Digital strategy requires students to collect, analyze and report on digital media analytics, and present them as a means of guiding decision making. This course is designed to be practice-oriented, while also engaging critically with the technical, legal, moral, and practical challenges that shape strategic interactions on the web and social media.

COMM 460 | PERSUASION AND INFLUENCE

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Social/Behavioral Inquiry area

This course is an examination of various forms of persuasion. Through understanding rhetorical, behavioral, and cognitive theories of persuasion students will learn to both create and ethically critique persuasive messages. Fulfills core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral inquiry.

COMM 462 | POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

A survey of the centrality of communication processes in substantive areas of political activity. Areas of study include political speeches, election campaigns, debates, government and media relations, advertising and propaganda, and political movements. Special emphasis is placed on the relationship between public opinion and the use of rhetorical strategies, imagery, and symbolism.

COMM 463 | COMMUNICATION AND SPORTS

Units: 3

This course examines the numerous aspects of communication and sports in the U.S., where many of the global trends and developments in sports communication have occurred. Drawing perspectives from popular criticism and scholarly research, the course surveys the development of sports media, the coverage and business of sports media, sports media audiences and fanship, and contemporary issues in sports media, the overage and business of sports communication, sports media audiences and fanship, and contemporary issues in sports communication.

COMM 475 | INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course allows students to explore intercultural communication theory and research within both broad and interpersonal contexts. Topics include similarities and differences in values, language, , interethnic/intergroup communication, identity and adaptation. Students will enhance flexibility with such encounters. It is recommended but not required that students complete COMM 300 before enrolling in this course.

COMM 480 | ADVANCED TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

This upper-division elective provides students an opportunity for an in-depth analysis and examination of media systems in a particular region of the world and/ or transnational connections around a particular international cultural practice. Topics will vary according to the instructor and interest. General themes may include Latin American media systems, British media systems, Asian cinema or global youth culture. Course may be repeated as topics vary. It is recommended but not required that students complete COMM 130 and COMM 380 before enrolling in this course.

COMM 481 | INTERNATIONAL TOPICS IN HUMAN COMMUNICATION

Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit) Core Attributes: Global Diversity level 2

This upper-division elective provides students an opportunity for an in-depth analysis and examination of human communication in a particular region of the world. Topics will vary according to the instructor and interest. Fulfills the foundations in global diversity (level 2) core curriculum requirement.

COMM 482 | CHILDREN AND MEDIA

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course is an overview of the relevant research on the role of electronic media in the lives of children. Topics include media violence, sex role stereotypes, advertising and materialism, media and the family, and new technology in the lives of children. Students will also explore the positive influence of media, including media use for pro-social and educational purposes. It is recommended but not required that students complete COMM 130 and COMM 330 before enrolling in this course.

COMM 483 | TEENS AND POPULAR CULTURE

Units: 3 Repeatability: No

This course aims to examine the complex relationship between teenagers and the popular media. Focusing primarily on American teens, various important issues we be considered, such as: how media portray teens, how corporations target teens as a market, how teens make active choices about which media they attend to and how, and how teens themselves actively create their own media and culture. Our goal is to resist simple speculation about media's effects on youth, and to instead engage with why media use is pleasurable and meaningful to young people, and how it operates in their lives. It is recommended but not required that students complete COMM 130 and COMM 330 before enrolling in this course.

COMM 488 | GLOBAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Units: 3

This course is designed to further students' understanding of intercultural and small group theory, development, and research and explore how groups develop into teams. Students will have the opportunity to work in multicultural and virtual teams providing basic diversity training and development, and research. The course emphasizes a wide range and scope of topics related to teams and teamwork by addressing issues such as finding alternative solutions to problems, reaching decisions, making recommendations, and understanding the process of team and organizational development as a whole.

COMM 492 | COMMUNICATION INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE

Units: 1 Repeatability: No

Core Attributes: Advanced Integration

Prerequisites: COMM 300 or COMM 336

This course is designed as an advanced integration experience for communication majors. Students will compile a portfolio of coursework and craft a coherent, persuasive essay synthesizing and applying and transferring the knowledge and skills they have acquired in the Department of Communication and at USD more broadly. Students will be required to orally defend the essay. By working on an integration experience project that draws on prior course work and that culminates in an integrative essay and oral defense, students engage in higher order thinking, by utilizing their critical thinking skills in synthesizing previous course work and extend and develop their own original ideas. The course both challenges students to critically reflect on the communication discipline and prepares students for a career in communication. Fulfills core curriculum requirement in advanced integration.

COMM 493 | USD MEDIA PRACTICUM

Units: 1 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

Non-Core Attributes: Experiential

Prerequisites: COMM 220

Student media participants can register to receive credit and work in a multimedia environment. The lab will facilitate collaboration between USD's media outlets as student learn to navigate the convergent media environment. The lab will emphasize industry best practices. Student may retake course for up to a total of 3 units.

COMM 494 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION

Units: 0.5-4 Repeatability: Yes (Repeatable if topic differs)

Selected topics in communication will be examined. The course may be repeated as topics vary.

COMM 495 | SENIOR PROJECT

Units: 1-3 Repeatability: No

This seminar is a capstone course in which seniors produce an original research or creative project. The course addresses research methods, critical thinking, and the writing process. Students will present the results of their work. Recommended for students planning on pursuing graduate studies.

COMM 496 | RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Units: 1-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

Prerequisites: COMM 265

The goal of research experience is to provide communication majors with an opportunity to assist a faculty member conducting original academic research. Students will meet with a faculty member on an on-going basis to discuss the research project, assess the student's role and responsibilities, and to discuss the process of conducting scholarly research. Students may participate in a range of research activities, including but not limited to literature searches, study design, project management, participant solicitation, data collection, fieldwork, data entry, data analysis, critical analysis, and writing instruments and manuscripts. Students must register with a specific faculty member with whom they complete a contract outlining the roles and responsibilities of the student and faculty member.

COMM 498 | COMMUNICATION INTERNSHIP

Units: 2-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

Non-Core Attributes: Experiential

Prerequisites: COMM 300 (Can be taken Concurrently)

An experiential education course in which students apply their communication education as interns in a communication-related organization or industry setting. Students complete professional portfolios connecting communication theory to their vocational experience. The course is only open to communication majors or minors of second-semester junior status or higher. No more than 3 internship units may be applied toward the major or minor. Students should consult the communication internship director for details about qualification and to enroll.

COMM 499 | INDEPENDENT STUDY

Units: 1-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)

Students interested in completing an independent research project with guidance from a faculty member may consider independent study. Students should consult a faculty member who has expertise in their interest area and be prepared to explain their intended project or research question(s). The student and instructor agree upon specific requirements. Registration is by consent of instructor and requires the completion of the independent study form.