COMMUNICATION STUDIES (COMM)

COMM 101 | INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION
Units: 3-4
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 all upper division communication studies courses, and fulfills a core curriculum requirement in the social sciences.

COMM 130 | INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA STUDIES
Units: 3
Core Attributes: First Yr Integration (LC Only), Social/Behavioral Inquiry area
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 radio, television, and cable are addressed. Fulfills a core curriculum requirement in the social sciences.

COMM 203 | PUBLIC SPEAKING
Units: 3
Core Attributes: 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. Fulfills a core curriculum requirement in the social sciences.

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 265 | INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH
Units: 3
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.

COMM 294 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES
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 | FIELD EXPERIENCE
Units: 0.5 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
The course offers students credit for participating in a professional communication related field or taking a short course related to professional communication skills. It is appropriate for students who are interested in learning new skills and gaining professional experience to complement their coursework. To qualify, students must have completed at least one lower division communication course and be a Communication Studies major. This course is offered Pass/Fail.

COMM 300 | COMMUNICATION THEORY
Units: 3
Prerequisites: COMM 101
This course provides a comprehensive survey of the various theories that comprise the communication studies 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 Studies.

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
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 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 studies, 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.
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 that students complete COMM 130 before enrolling in this course.

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: 3-4  
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 360 | PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No  
Core Attributes: Community Service Learning  
Prerequisites: COMM 130 (Can be taken Concurrently)  
This is a critical PR class. Usually, Public Relations classes reflect an instrumental view of the profession, without drawing larger structural implications about how the public relations industry shapes and affects discourse in the public sphere. 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  
Core Attributes: Writing-Pre F17 CORE
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  
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. It is recommended that students complete COMM 130 before enrolling in this course.

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 | ADVANCED JOURNALISM
Units: 3  
Prerequisites: COMM 220  
This course combines instruction in contemporary theories about press performance with advanced newsroom skills. The course advances students’ understanding of newsroom management, news gathering, press ethics, and the organizational norms that drive journalistic styles. Students develop advanced reporting and editing skills in completing various news assignments.

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 a modern and historical contexts. Students will apply theory to understand and analyze their own and others’ familial communication experiences and portfolio of their work.
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  
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 435 | PRINCIPLES OF VIDEO PRODUCTION  
Units: 3  
Prerequisites: COMM 130  
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: writing and planning (storyboarding, scripting); audio (actualities, sound effects, music); and visual production (composition, lighting, editing). By the end of the course, students will produce a short video and/or audio presentation.

COMM 440 | END OF LIFE COMMUNICATION ISSUES  
Units: 3  
Prerequisites: COMM 101  
This course explores various end of life contexts and issues through the discipline of Communication Studies. We 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. Our 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 445 | GENDER COMMUNICATION  
Units: 3  
This course provides an overview of the relevant research on gender issues and the construction of gender through mediated forms. Communicator styles of women and men are discussed. Attitudes and beliefs concerning female and male cultural stereotypes as they are manifested through communication are investigated. It is recommended that students complete COMM 101 and COMM 130 before enrolling in this course. Course may be offered to fulfill the core upper division writing requirement. Check the Schedule of Classes.

COMM 455 | INTERVIEWING AND NEGOTIATING: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES  
Units: 3  
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 460 | PERSUASION AND PROPAGANDA  
Units: 3  
Repeatability: No  
Core Attributes: Social/Behavioral Inquiry area  
This course is an examination of various forms of persuasion and propaganda. Through understanding rhetorical, behavioral, and cognitive theories of persuasion students will learn to both create and ethically critique persuasive messages.

COMM 462 | POLITICAL COMMUNICATION  
Units: 3  
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 coverage and business of sports communication, sports media audiences and fanship, and contemporary issues in sports communication.

COMM 475 | INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION  
Units: 3  
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 that students complete COMM 300 before enrolling in this course. Course may be offered to fulfill the core upper division writing requirement. Check the Schedule of Classes.

COMM 480 | ADVANCED TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA  
Units: 3-4  
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 that students complete COMM 130 and COMM 380 before enrolling in this course. Course may be offered to fulfill the core upper division writing requirement. Check the Schedule of Classes.
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. Course will fulfill the core Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice requirement (Level 2).

COMM 482 | CHILDREN AND MEDIA
Units: 3
This course is an overview of the relevant research on the role of electronic media in the lives of children. Some topics include: sex role stereotypes; violence; advertising; relationships, body image; and materialism. Students will also explore the positive influence of electronic media including its use for pro-social and educational purposes. It is recommended that students complete COMM 130 and COMM 330 before enrolling in this course. Course may be offered to fulfill the core upper division writing requirement. Check the Schedule of Classes.

COMM 483 | TEENS AND POPULAR CULTURE
Units: 3
Core Attributes: Writing-Pre F17 CORE
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 that students complete COMM 130 and COMM 330 before enrolling in this course. Course may be offered to fulfill the core upper division writing requirement. Check the Schedule of Classes.

COMM 485 | WRITING FOR MEDIA
Units: 3
This course introduces students to the skills and strategies associated with writing and production in various electronic media 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 create and criticize a variety of electronic media texts, including news packages, television narratives, and advertisements.

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 491 | VISTA STAFF
Units: 1-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Core Attributes: Law - Experiential
Students interested in receiving journalism experience may participate in the publication of the USD student newspaper The Vista by serving as staff writers, editors, or working in other available positions. Enrollment is by consent of instructor.

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 studies majors. Students will compile a portfolio of coursework and craft a coherent, persuasive essay synthesizing and applying and transfiguring the knowledge and skills they have acquired in the Department of Communication Studies 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 studies discipline and prepares students for a career in communication.

COMM 493 | USD MEDIA PRACTICUM
Units: 1 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Prerequisites: COMM 220
Student media participants can register to receive credit and work in a multi-media 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 STUDIES
Units: 0.5-4 Repeatability: Yes (Repeatable if topic differs)
Selected topics in Communication Studies 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 the advanced Research Experience is to provide communication studies majors with an applied experience in the conduct of original academic research by assisting on a faculty-led scholarly project. The experience is designed to build expressly on the knowledge students gain in COMM 265 or a more advanced research methods courses. Students will meet with a faculty member, with whom a research relationship is established, 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: survey construction and design, project management, participant solicitation, experimental research, qualitative interviewing, focus group moderation, fieldwork, literature searches, data entry, data analysis, critical analysis, political economy inquiries, and writing of 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 STUDIES INTERNSHIP  
Units: 2-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)  
Core Attributes: Law - Experiential  
Prerequisites: COMM 300 (Can be taken Concurrently)  
An experiential education course in which students participate as interns in either radio or television, public relations, advertising, or some facet of organizational communication. Open only to communication studies 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 studies Internship Director or go to www.sandiego.edu/commstudies/interns for details about enrollment and qualification.

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.