Department of Communication

Descriptions of Undergraduate Courses Offered, Fall 2014

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300 & 400 numbered courses are LAS advanced hours.
http://www.communication.illinois.edu/undergrad/

CMN 101 Public Speaking. 3 hrs. Staff. An introductory course in public speaking skills. Students present six speeches of various kinds during the semester. Satisfies the requirement in many undergraduate curricula for a course in public speaking. Credit not given for 101 & CMN 111/112.

CMN 102 Intro to Communication Theory and Research. 4 hrs. Quick. Survey of the questions probed, methods employed, and the current status of knowledge in the communication discipline; provides opportunities to understand the range of concerns and to explore specific areas of interest in the field. Meets Behavioral Sciences General Education requirement.

CMN 113 Small Group Communication. 3 hrs. Staff. Study of leadership, group process, and interpersonal relations in the small group, conference, and public forum; practice in leading and participating in discussion.

CMN 211 Business Communication. 3 hrs. Staff. Designed to equip you with the specific communication skills that are vital to your success in professional contexts. Focus on developing your verbal, non-verbal, listening, and written communication skills for success in “the real world.”

CMN 212 Intro to Organizational Communication. 3 hrs. Staff. Introduces concepts and schools of thought in organizational communication. Topics include: interpersonal communication and organizing, internal and external communication systems, communication and organizational effectiveness in the workplace.

CMN 220 Communicating Public Policy. 3 hrs. Staff. Advanced instruction in composition and analysis of oral and written communication, especially messages addressing public policy issues. Students identify an issue of concern, conduct background research, and complete a series of assignments in which the discourse of others is analyzed. Prerequisite: Completion of Composition I requirement. Meets Advanced Composition requirement.

CMN 230 Intro to Interpersonal Communication. 3 hrs. Knobloch. Examines how communication works in personal relationships (e.g., friends, romantic relationships, family). Emphasis is on mastering and applying basic concepts through extensive discussion of conflict and misunderstanding in personal affairs to facilitate the development of knowledge, insights, and skills in the process of face-to-face interaction. Meets Social Science General Education Requirement.

CMN 232 Intro to Intercultural Communication. 3 hrs. Koven. Examines the role of culture as an important dimension of verbal and non-verbal communication; asks what happens when members of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds interact; addresses theoretical and practical issues of intercultural contact situations, with a focus on national boundaries. Meets Social Sciences and Non-Western Cultures General Education Requirements.

CMN 260 Intro to Health Communication. 3 hrs. Staff. Introduces theory and research on communication in health and illness contexts. Explores how messages from media, interpersonal, and organizational sources affect health behaviors and beliefs. Meets Behavioral Sciences and Western Comparative Culture requirements.

CMN 277 Intro to Mediated Communication. 4 hrs. Tewksbury. Overviews history, structure, forms and social effects through research on political communication, violence and aggression, new technology, race, gender, and public health as portrayed in the mass media. Meets Social Sciences General Education requirement.

CMN 280 Communication Technology & Society. 3 hrs. Jackson. Introduction to theory and research on both old and new communication technologies; focus will be on how these technological systems develop and are used, and what implications of these systems have for culture and society. Meets Social Science General Education Requirement.

CMN 310 The Rhetorical Tradition. 3 hrs. O’Gorman. History of rhetoric as a discipline from earliest times to the 20th century. Selective focus on leading ideas, movements, and theorists with emphasis on understanding particular rhetorical theories as an adaptation to the specific demands of each cultural milieu.

CMN 321 Strategies of Persuasion. 3 hrs. Murphy. Examines the process of public persuasion. It considers the opportunities, constraints, means, and ends that tend to characterize U.S. public rhetoric. We do so through a series of case studies.

CMN 322 Argumentation. 3 hrs. Staff. Studies theory of argumentation, such as evidence, reasoning, and construction of briefs; practice in formal and informal forms of debate and public discourses on current public questions.

CMN 325 Politics and the Media. 3 hrs. Althaus. Examines the interaction between the media and politics in the United States and elsewhere, with special emphasis on the constitutional protection of the media, politics of media control, impact of the media on and quest for a new international information order. Same as MACS 322 and PS 312.

CMN 326 Mass Media and the Audience. 3 hrs. Dixon. Presents information on how to conceptualize audiences, mass media use, and reception of media messages. Examines the character of the audience experience, uses and gratifications of mass media, social cognition, and studies of audiences as interpretive communities.

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CMN 336 Family Communication. 3 hrs. Staff. Examines prominent theories and methodologies used to study communication in families, explores specific communication processes in the context of families, and considers how particular issues facing families can influence and be influenced by communication.

CMN 340 Visual Politics. 3 hrs. Staff. Explores the role of visual images in U.S. culture, paying special attention to the ways that images function persuasively as political communication. Provides tools for analyzing historical and contemporary images and artifacts, such as photographs, prints, paintings, advertisements, and memorials. Emphasis on how visual images are used for remembering and memorializing; confronting and resisting; consuming and commodifying; governing and authorizing; and visualizing and informing.

CMN 362 Folklore as Communication. 3 hrs. Davis. Study of unofficial, noncommercial and face-to-face modes of communication, called "folklore" or "vernacular culture." For purposes of this course, "folklore" includes speech, stories, legends, sayings, proverbs, customs, rituals and performances. Students will be asked to develop and use a variety of cultural description and documentation skills. The goal is to give students a strong sense of variety, persistence, and flexibility of traditional culture as it lives in the present, and practice in recording it, writing about it, and analyzing it.

CMN 368 Sexual Communication. 3 hrs. Ramey. Explores the many ways in which sexual communication intersects our personal, relational, cultural, and institutional norms and values. Topics will include social norms about sexual communication, sexual harassment, family communication about sex, sexual health education, doctor-patient communication about sex, and sex in the media and in advertising. Theory and research on communication processes will be used to elaborate how talk about sex can achieve multiple goals.

CMN 375 Popular Media and Culture (Topic: Game Changers: Movies that Transformed Their Genre). 3 hrs. Gill. Provides a theoretical and interpretative introduction to the cultural function of film, examining the historical role of and political debates about popular entertainment. In exploring these general topics, we will look at American films that reworked or expanded the conception of their genre. We will view fourteen popular films of the past ninety or so years that depicted protagonists, situations, social concerns, moral stances, political views, and cultural predicaments that captured the public imagination and served not only to modify the conventional standards of the genre but to become cinematic archetypes. In most cases, these films were controversial in some way, some because of race, ethnicity, or class, and others because of unseemly conduct, questionable goals, and suspect morality. Students will learn to identify and describe general cinematic devices and techniques, to understand the conventions and codes of a variety of film genres, to interpret both the form and content of films, and to speculate on the cultural operations these films perform.

CMN 396 (Sec. 2) Performing Rhetoric. 3 hrs. Bishop. Examines the intersections of rhetoric and performance in stage plays from various eras, including Classical Greece, Elizabethan England, and Twentieth-Century America. Discussions/activities focus on the rhetoric of performance, the performance of rhetoric, rhetorical techniques of each historical era, the persuasive powers of performance, the use of language in character development, and performance techniques used with language. Course requirements include reading and viewing plays.

CMN 396 (Sec. 3) Visual Media Effects. 3 hrs. Bigsby. This course will survey research on the study of visual persuasion. We will engage with relevant theory (e.g., visual persuasion, visual design) and recommendations for visual elements in public communication.

CMN 396 (Sec. 4) Social Movement Communication. 3 hrs. Cisneros. Focus on the communication of 20th and 21st century social movements. Examines the communication strategies of social movements, concentrating on the types of messages that social movements create (including rhetorical messaging, social protest, grassroots organizing, fundraising, and media outreach). Focus on the role of communication in identity formation, circulation, & effectiveness of protest movements.

CMN 396 (Sec. 5) Photography & Public Life. 3 hrs. Finnegan. Examines the role of photography in public contexts, i.e., those complex spaces in which citizens engage matters of common concern. As the course unfolds we will engage such questions as: How do photographs participate in public deliberation about social and political issues? How does photographic rhetoric shape who we imagine ourselves to be as citizens? In what ways has photography historically been used to intervene in public debate? How does the contemporary public engage photography today? Topics include photographs of health, war, civil rights, labor, poverty, nature, “illustrious Americans,” trauma, and science. We will also explore the changing nature of photography in the digital age.

CMN 412 Advanced Organizational Communication. 3 hrs. Lammers. Advanced study of theory and research in organizational communication; considers such topics as communication networks, superior-subordinate communications, task-related and social information processing, and communication with the external environment. Prerequisite: CMN 212.

CMN 415 Classical Rhetorics. 3 hrs. O’Gorman. Survey of the contributions to the theory and practice of rhetoric from Homer to the Renaissance. Same as CLCV 415 and MDVL 415.

CMN 421 Persuasion Theory & Research. 3 hrs. Bigsby. Covers various theoretical accounts of the processes underlying persuasion and research concerning the effects of various factors of persuasive effectiveness.

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CMN 423 Rhetorical Criticism. 3 hrs.  
Finnegan. Methods of interpreting and judging persuasive discourse with emphasis on political speaking and writing; extensive practice in criticism of rhetorical texts.

Presents an overview of racial stereotypes in the media and the effects of stereotypical imagery on viewers. Discussion of the structural and social origins of stereotypic media from multiple perspectives focusing on published scholarship that systematically assesses the content and effects of racial representations from a scientific perspective. Intersections between race, ethnicity, class, and gender also will be explored.

CMN 435 Advanced Interpersonal Communication. 3 hrs. Ramey. Study of the major processes involved in an individual's adjustment to the communication situations of everyday life; emphasis on the development of interpersonal competency and orientations, social perception, interpersonal sentiment and hostility, trust, and the social context as factors influencing the understanding and evaluation of interpersonal messages.  
Prerequisite: CMN 230.

CMN 462 Interpersonal Health Communication. 3 hrs. Huhman.  
Examines the role of communication in the management of mental and physical health. Focuses on topics such as communication and illness identity, health and interpersonal relationships, health care provider-patient interactions, impacts of technology on health communication, and health education and prevention efforts.

CMN 465 Social Marketing Health & Behavior. 3 hrs. Huhman. Studies the application of commercial marketing concepts and practices to bring about behavior change for a social good. Provides a thorough orientation to the discipline of social marketing and its application to a range of problems with an emphasis on issues in health contexts. Topics include: audience research, segmentation strategies, communication channels, the marketing mix, and the application of behavioral theory. Students will acquire practical skills in the design, implementation, and evaluation of health intervention initiatives that use social marketing.

CMN 466 Social Marketing Health Inequalities. 3 hrs. Bigman-Galimore.  
Explores the role that communication plays as both a potential contributor to existing health inequalities and a means of helping to reduce them. The class will draw on (1) theories and research from communication, public health and related social science disciplines and (2) illustrative policy and media examples that address key topics, such as communication inequalities and social determinants of health.

CMN 496 Social Marketing Health  
Communication and Health Inequalities. 3 hrs. Bigman-Galimore.  
Explores the role that communication plays as both a potential contributor to existing health inequalities and a means of helping to reduce them. The class will draw on (1) theories and research from communication, public health and related social science disciplines and (2) illustrative policy and media examples that address key topics, such as communication inequalities and social determinants of health.

CMN 496 (Sec. CBU) Communication and Health Inequalities. 3 hrs. Bigman-Galimore.  
Explores the role that communication plays as both a potential contributor to existing health inequalities and a means of helping to reduce them. The class will draw on (1) theories and research from communication, public health and related social science disciplines and (2) illustrative policy and media examples that address key topics, such as communication inequalities and social determinants of health.

CMN 496 (Sec. CSU) Discourse Analysis. 3 hrs. Jacobs. This is a course in how to analyze discourse. Discourse is understood to be uses and functions of language and patterns of language beyond the unit of the sentence. This includes both written and oral uses of language; mediated and face-to-face contexts of communication; texts of various sorts and patterns of interaction; individual acts and broad types of activity. The focus of the course will be on methods for collecting and analyzing various forms of data relevant to the study of discourse. The course will explore issues in field observation and techniques of qualitative interviewing; collecting, transcribing, and analyzing conversational data; methods for eliciting linguistic judgments and competencies. Statistical analysis is not included, and no background in statistics is assumed.

CMN 496 (Sec. MKU) Communication & Culture. 3 hrs. Koven. Identifies theories and methods of culture in everyday talk. Topics include cultural variability in ways of speaking, in negotiating interactions, and in displaying identities (gender, ethnic, national, class, generational, and so forth) and will address how people make relevant connections to multiple communities in interaction. Focuses on the study of cultural dimensions of interaction in an era of “globalization,” in which people participate in multiple groups with fluid boundaries.

CMN 496 (Sec. SJU) Argumentation Design & Analysis. 3 hrs. Jacobs. This is a course in the analysis of argumentative strategies and formats for deliberation. We will examine theories of how argumentation proceeds in actual situations and how argumentation should proceed. Topics include the functions and structures of argumentation, the role of language in message design, the process of adjusting arguments to situations, and the interplay of normative principles and practical formats for conducting argumentation.

**CMN 396 & 496 MAY be repeated provided topics are different**

(When enrolling in a 400 level course make sure you are enrolling in the undergraduate CRN for 3 hours)