

# COMMUNICATION STUDIES (COMS)

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## **COMS 520 Communication Theory and Practices 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Intensive study of current theories, research, and trends in communication.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 522 Interpersonal Communication Theory and Practice 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Analysis of theories and practices in interpersonal communication in such areas as self-concept, gender, culture, language, paralanguage, and competence in interpersonal relationships.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 524 Small Group and Team Communications 3 Credit Hour(s)**

An analysis of theories, research, and practice of small group communication in various contexts.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 526 Investigative Storytelling 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Investigative journalism in the digital age.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 532 Media Technologies and Communication Strategies 3 Credit Hour(s)**

This course examines established and emerging media technologies used by various organizations in communicating specific messages to diverse audiences.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 534 Strategic Media Analysis 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Analysis of the use of sight and sound to affect audiences.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 542 Communication in Christian Ministry 3 Credit Hour(s)**

A practical and theoretical course designed to strengthen communication competencies of students in the Christian ministry environment.

Concepts of communication theory are applied to ministry contexts.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 546 Effective Social Media 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Using social media platforms to build a competitive advantage. Involves extensive integration and application of social media technologies.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 550 Creativity in Teaching Communication 3 Credit Hour(s)**

The theories and skills necessary to manage communication in the education or training environment. (Required for all graduate teaching assistants.)

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 552 Leadership Communication 3 Credit Hour(s)**

An examination of leadership practice and theory. Students will analyze and discuss the role of communication in leadership practices and theory in personal and professional contexts.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 554 Strategies and Tactics of Persuasion 3 Credit Hour(s)**

A practical application of current rhetorical, psychological and sociological theories of persuasion designed to facilitate understanding and change of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors in various contexts including media, marketing, public relations, politics, and education.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 558 Listening and Nonverbal Communication 3 Credit Hour(s)**

An analysis of theories and research of 1) listening and factors that influence competence and 2) various modes of nonverbal communication. Emphasis on skill development in both areas.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 560 Communication and Conflict 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Analysis of theories and research of the role of communication in conflict in interpersonal, group, organizational, and societal contexts.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 562 Web Strategies for Growth 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Developing the ability to grow organizations through online market-making and strategy. Hands-on experience with radical new digital and interactive tools for achieving relationships and spreading ideas.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

## **COMS 597 Seminar in Communications (Gra 3 Credit Hour(s)**

### **COMS 612 Rhetorical Theory and Criticism 3 Credit Hour(s)**

An examination of the major contributions to rhetorical theory and their critical application in the assessment of symbols in human communication.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

### **COMS 622 Organizational Communication 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Analysis of theories and practices that assist individuals in success in organizations. Students develop the ability to add value to employing organizations and enhance individual careers.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

### **COMS 624 Intercultural Communication 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Analysis of theories and research of communication between people from various generational, racial, ethnic, regional, and international cultures.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

### **COMS 630 Professional Communication & Nonprofit Development 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Explores the communicative preparation and planning for community relations and develops corporate communication functions to lead, motivate, persuade and inform various publics. Teaches theoretically based skills as communication professionals for management, development, crises, public relations in nonprofit and corporate organizations.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

### **COMS 632 Politics and Media 3 Credit Hour(s)**

An overview of the historic and current interaction between media and politics and an examination of potential effects. Students will develop and design a practical application.

**Offered:** Resident

### **COMS 639 The Transmedia Organization 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Principles and practice to strategically manage digital interactive and Transmedia organizations.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

### **COMS 640 Event Planning & Donor Relations 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Focuses on designing theoretical communicative approaches for Implementation I in specific contexts such as conferences, professional meetings, celebratory events and programs for community outreach.

Working from a praxis approach, students engage the development marketplace through professional, interpersonal, and organization coordination of information and people.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**COMS 652 Organizational Communication Consulting 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Analysis of theories and research of consulting practices within organizations. Emphasis on establishing a consultant-client relationship, the investigation of communication within an organization, the design of descriptive evaluations and prescriptive applications, the development and presentation of written and oral proposals, and the facilitation of seminars, workshops, and other activities.

**Offered:** Resident

**COMS 656 Media Strategies 3 Credit Hour(s)**

A study of the historic and futuristic uses of mass communication. Students will design strategies for potential applications of print and electronic media.

**Offered:** Resident

**COMS 658 Strategic Communication Campaigns for the Digital Age 3 Credit Hour(s)**

An exploration the use of integrated marketing communication for strategic movement of organizations, products and services toward growth.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**COMS 670 Comprehensive Examination 3 Credit Hour(s)**

The comprehensive exam is a written examination with a practical component and serves as a culminating activity for the MA in Strategic Communication. Student's comprehensive exam will be based on courses taken in their academic program.

**Registration Restrictions:** At least 27 hours of required courses must be completed before the student may register for the course.

**Offered:** Online

**COMS 680 Communication Research Design 3 Credit Hour(s)**

The study and practice of the research design, interpretation, and evaluation of audiences, strategies, and issues.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**COMS 689 Thesis/Project Proposal and Research 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Research and information-gathering.

**Offered:** Online

**COMS 690 Thesis Defense 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Intended to demonstrate a student's ability to carry out original research using one of three class research methods: historical-critical (qualitative), descriptive (qualitative and quantitative), or experimental (quantitative).

Thesis may be designed to answer practical research questions, theoretical, or ethical issues of interest to scholars and professionals in the communication field.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**COMS 691 Project 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Project may be designed to answer practical research questions, theoretical, or ethical issues of interest to scholars and professionals in the communication field. Demonstrates the ability of a student to conduct research and exhibit expertise in communication.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**COMS 695 Directed Research 1-3 Credit Hour(s)**

**Offered:** Resident

**COMS 697 Special Topics 3 Credit Hour(s)**

Topics of special interest not included in the regular department offerings. May be taken more than once, but no topic may be repeated.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**COMS 698 Communication Practicum 1-3 Credit Hour(s)**

**Offered:** Resident

**COMS 699 Internship 3-6 Credit Hour(s)**

Offers students supervised, on-site training in the marketplace.

**Offered:** Resident and Online