COMMUNICATION ARTS (COM)

COM 119. Introduction to Film. (3 Credits)
Students are introduced to the aesthetics of narrative and documentary motion pictures through the study of the basic elements of cinema. Topics may include story structure, cinematography, editing, sound, and lighting.

COM 121. Introduction to Theatre. (3 Credits)
This course will include a general survey of Western theatre from Classical Greece to contemporary America. Students will learn the diverse practice of the art of theatre by studying theatre history, dramatic literature, and the practical components of acting, directing, design and production.

COM 151. Introduction to Mass Media. (3 Credits)
An examination of media-related industries (broadcasting, journalism, advertising, public relations and online communications), and the issues related to those industries that affect contemporary public discourse.

COM 197. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)

COM 202. Academic Writing and Inquiry. (3 Credits)
Students expand on the process and techniques begun in Academic Writing. Primary focus is on analytical written communication and on advocacy oral communication. Also included throughout the course is the reading of relevant academic professional writing, which promotes student awareness of the role of written and oral communication in academic and professional life. Prerequisite: ENG 102 with a minimum grade of “C-.”

COM 205. Communication Arts I. (3 Credits)
This course is a study of the theory and associated terminology of visual communication including the application of concepts to film, theatre, and convergent media. Topics include aesthetics, design elements, mimesis, performance, semiotics and introduction to the primary techniques of the various communication arts. Prerequisite: ENG 102 with a minimum grade of C.

COM 216. Dramatic Literature and Script Analysis. (3 Credits)
This course introduces students to the diverse genre of dramatic literature in Western and Eastern theatre. Students study the origins of tragedy, comedy, melodrama, the rise of Realism and Anti-Realism, as well as the sub-genres within those general categories. Eastern traditions of texts such as Kabuki, Noh, and Bunraku are also studied. Students learn how to read a play on a deeper level for content, themes, historical and sociopolitical influences, as well as the emerging and changing aesthetics of each genre. Prerequisite: ENG 102.

COM 231. Technical Production I. (4 Credits)
A study of how things are done behind the scenes in theatre and film and why they are done that way, including the basic customs and traditions of production work and the philosophy, aesthetics, and process of production. Intensive hands-on development of skills in the construction of sets, costumes, lights, sound, and props; the operation of rolling units, lights, flies, and sound; and production assistant duties.

COM 235. Fundamentals of Acting. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the principles, processes, and techniques of acting. The study is designed to balance theory and performance; to explore in detail the psychological, perceptual, and conceptual linkages to the strategies, techniques, and skills of the actor; and to develop a significant sense of self-discipline on the part of the actor. Topics include warm-up and awareness skills, basic body and voice integration techniques, the theories of Stanislavski, character analysis, and performance process.

COM 241. Media Writing. (3 Credits)
An analysis and practice of the major forms of media writing, including print, broadcast and web-based publication, with an introduction to the ways that production varies the writing of each. Prerequisite: ENG 102 with a minimum grade of “C-.”

COM 261. Introduction To Audio Communication. (3 Credits)
This course introduces the basic concepts, functions and technology of audio production as they relate to the elements of narrative and storytelling. Prerequisite COM 119, COM 121, or COM 151; or instructor permission.

COM 264. Introduction to Production and Theory. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the theory and practice of media production including critical and aesthetic theories. Topics may include scriptwriting, producing, directing, cinematography, sound recording, editing, and standards of operation for production facilities and equipment. Prerequisites: COM 205, COM 261, and sophomore standing; or instructor permission.

COM 274. Public Relations Communication. (3 Credits)
A study of the use of communication to establish credibility, trust, and confidence between and among communities, employees, public agencies, civic organizations and business institutions.

COM 284. Sophomore Portfolio. (1 Credit)
A course in which students familiarize themselves with the requirements for the Communication Arts program and related capstone project, formulate specific goals, and prepare strategies through which those goals can be achieved. Students will develop an awareness of field-specific expectations required of them in professional or graduate-level work, and develop a plan for creating a portfolio that reflects that awareness. A part of the course consists of formally applying for admission to the Communication Arts program. Prerequisite or corequisite: COM 205 or instructor permission.

COM 292. Independent Study. (1-6 Credits)

COM 297. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)
Special Topics

COM 298. Practicum. (1-4 Credits)
Enter-level supervised experiences in theatre, organizational communication and journalism/mass media. Prerequisite: instructor permission.

COM 305. Communication Arts II. (3 Credits)
An exploration of the philosophical and theoretical foundations of human communication, concentrating specifically on textual analysis and interpretation. Using a wide range of media, students will investigate how the particular method of communication informs, alters, and shapes the messages being consumed, and how those messages both constitute and affect self-expressive acts. PREREQUISITES: COM 205 and admission to the Communication Arts Program; or instructor permission.

COM 306. Scriptwriting. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the fundamental tools and skills required to craft a script for performance on stage or in film/video. Students are expected to produce play scripts and screenplays of varying lengths; they are also expected to read and respond to one another’s writing. Some history of playwriting and study of prevailing models of scriptwriting are also included. Prerequisites: COM 205 or ENG 205, with a minimum grade of C, or instructor permission.
COM 310. Introduction to Performance Studies. (3 Credits)
An interdisciplinary course exploring the human desire to perform in both aesthetic and everyday settings. It explores the links between the arts and literature, anthropology, communication, sociology, and philosophy. Critical reading, written analysis, and performance of literary texts are essential elements of the course.

COM 317. Studies in Theatre and Performance. (3 Credits)
An introduction to performance studies research and artistic practice through readings, discussion, and creative work. Prerequisites: junior standing and instructor permission. Repeatable for a maximum of six credits among different topic areas.

COM 323. Media/Arts Management. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the basic principles and structure of management as it applies to Communication Arts. Particular focus is given to management of small and mid-size nonprofit media and arts organizations, and to the interrelationship between those two areas. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of the instructor.

COM 324. Advanced Acting. (3 Credits)
An advanced-level course that focuses on specific areas of actor training, including methods of voice and movement training; the requirements and techniques of different styles of acting including classical, Elizabethan, Restoration/18th Century, Commedia, and Advanced Contemporary acting styles; and advanced textual analysis required of actors by specific theatrical works. Repeatable for a maximum of six credits among different topic areas. Prerequisite: COM 235 or instructor permission.

COM 330. Technical Production II. (3 Credits)
An intermediate-level study of lighting and sound production for theatre and film. Instruction is provided in the proper rigging of light and sound equipment, use of control consoles and software, optics, basic electrical theory, the nature of light, and acoustics. The design and aesthetic use of light and sound are also explored. Prerequisite: COM 231 or instructor permission.

COM 331. Scenography in Film and Theatre. (3 Credits)
A study of designing visually for the stage and screen, with an emphasis on a unified look and a single intense effect. A strong emphasis on script analysis as a basis for design. Additional information on visual research for theatre and film including location scouting and contextual research into the background of the story. Hands-on development of skills in generating graphic communication of design ideas is included. Prerequisite: COM 231 or instructor permission.

COM 346. Multimedia Communication. (3 Credits)
An exploration of the theory and application of multimedia communication principles through projects that use common interactive multimedia, animation, non-linear editing, web authoring, and desktop-publishing programs. Prerequisites: COM 205, or instructor permission.

COM 351. Media Theory and Research. (3 Credits)
An examination of media from a theoretical, organizational perspective. Topics covered include departmental functions and duties, programming, formats, regulations and finances. Also, in the context of media theory, empirical data is explored. Prerequisite: COM 241 and COM 274, or instructor permission.

COM 352. Advanced Cinema Studies. (3 Credits)
An in-depth study of the aesthetics and theory of cinema through the examination and critical analysis of the technical and creative elements of selected iconic Hollywood and international motion pictures. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

COM 361. Multi-Camera Studio Production. (3 Credits)
Through the instruction in the theories and practices of studio-based media production, students receive training in the operation of studio equipment and technology. Students will practice the various job duties required in a studio production environment. Topics may include media writing, directing, floor directing, technical directing, camera operating, lighting, and audio. Prerequisite: COM 264 or instructor permission.

COM 362. Advanced Audio Production. (3 Credits)
An in-depth study of audio design and production for film, radio, television and live theatre. Prerequisite COM 261.

COM 371. Small Group and Conflict Management. (3 Credits)
An exploration of various concepts and types of conflict and the role of argumentation in managing and/or resolving conflict. The study examines the theory and practice of communication within small groups, as well as problem solving and decision making as common contexts in which argument occurs and conflict arises, and a continuum from formal to informal modes of conflict management/resolution is discussed and practiced by the students. Examples of specific areas covered include formal debate, negotiation, and arbitration. Prerequisite: COM 202.

COM 372. Issues Management. (3 Credits)
An exploration of the communication practices and strategies used by organizations to react to current events, publicity, and society. Emphasis is placed upon persuasion, media relations, and information campaigns. Prerequisite: junior standing.

COM 377. Intercultural Communication in the Digital Age. (3 Credits)
A theoretical and practical survey of intercultural communication. Topics may include: the interpersonal dimensions of intercultural communication online and offline, the distinctive cultural orientations, behaviors, expectations, and values that affect intercultural communication situations, including strategic and computer-mediated communication. Prerequisite: Junior standing or instructor permission.

COM 385. Experimental Media Production. (3 Credits)
The essential theory and practice of experimental filmmaking, scanning all modes of making that defy traditional cinema techniques and focus on our individual creative voices. Topics may include: lyrical and structural films, in-camera editing, and the long take. Prerequisite: COM 264 with a minimum grade of "C."

COM 389. Media Production: Narrative. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the theory and practice of the field-based production of narrative films. Topics emphasized may include fictional story, cinematography, lighting, sound, editing, and production management. Prerequisite: COM 264 with a minimum grade of "C."

COM 390. Media Production: Documentary. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the theory and practice of producing nonfiction works, including conventional documentary forms and autobiographical or experimental works. Topics may include actual story, cinematography, lighting, sound, editing, and production management. Prerequisite: COM 264 with a minimum grade of "C."

COM 392. Independent Study in Communication Arts. (1-6 Credits)
A detailed study in a specific area of communication and theatre, emphasizing individualized approaches toward development of creativity and scholarship. Prerequisites: junior or senior status and 10 credits in Communication and Theatre.

COM 397. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)
Special Topics
COM 398. Practicum. (1-4 Credits)
Supervised applications and experiences in communication and theatre. Students assist, analyze, manage, and participate in various aspects of practical situations or job training. Prerequisites: instructor permission and completion of one of the following: COM 241, COM 261, or COM 298.

COM 405. Communications Arts III. (3 Credits)
A multi-disciplinary and multi-media course offering significant historical, theoretical, and practical content by which to explore and discuss how meaning is conveyed in communication. Special emphasis is given to the nature of oral communication in oral societies and to the nature and function of myth, symbol, sign, and inferential reasoning. Prerequisites: COM 305 or instructor permission.

COM 406. Advanced Screenwriting and Producing. (3 Credits)
Students are immersed in advanced screenwriting projects and pitching for independent feature film, television drama and situation comedy. Producing content may include such topics as contract law, releases, copyright, fair use, ethics, location and talent management, production management, and other administrative subject matter pertaining to film and television production. Prerequisite: COM 306 with a minimum grade of “C”.

COM 423. Directing. (3 Credits)
A comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of directing for the stage. Includes an exploration of play selection, character and script analysis, conceptualization of production, actor coaching approaches, staging techniques; as well as the actual direction and presentation of scenes and plays. Prerequisites COM 231, COM 235, COM 310 and junior standing; or instructor permission.

COM 474. Campaign Planning in Advertising and Public Information. (3 Credits)
An analysis of the many facets of information campaign planning. It explores concepts like persuasion and audience behavior, researching attitudes and effectiveness, campaign objectives and strategies, media choices, and relevant social and ethical issues. In addition, students are expected to build their own information campaigns. Prerequisite: COM 274.

COM 484. Communication Arts Seminar. (2 Credits)
A capstone course in which students complete their individual Communication Arts portfolios, based upon their cumulative work through the COM program and guided by their specific career or graduate school goals. The seminar provides an opportunity for students to work individually, in small groups, and with the instructor to evaluate the overall effectiveness of their finished portfolios, and revise accordingly, utilizing the critical techniques, cultural awareness, and technical skills students have developed throughout the COM program. Prerequisite: COM 305

COM 490. Advanced Media Production. (3 Credits)
Students are immersed in advanced project work. Topics may include cinematography, lighting, grip, electrical, special effects, visual effects, sound effects recording, sound design, and animation. Prerequisite: COM 361, COM 385, COM 389 or COM 390 with a minimum grade of “C.”

COM 492. Independent Study. (1-6 Credits)
A detailed study in a specific area of communication and theatre, emphasizing individualized approaches toward development of creativity and scholarship. Prerequisites: junior or senior status and 10 credits in Communication and Theatre.

COM 497. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)
Special topics in Communication Arts.

COM 499. Internship in Communication Arts. (1-12 Credits)