

**COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory 1 course unit**

(every semester) Provides students with an overview of the discipline and an understanding of the role theory plays in the study of communication. Students are introduced to different ways of thinking about communication as influenced by cultural, historical, and academic perspectives. Helps students to apply theories to actual communication events and experiences in interpersonal, organizational, mass, and political communication contexts.

**COM 117/Introduction to Film Studies 1 course unit**

(every semester) The course is meant as an introduction to basic concepts of film analysis. We will examine how formal elements like cinematography, editing, mise en scene and sound are used to create meaning in film. We will also consider how genre, authorship, film history, ideology, and gender, among other critical approaches, can be used to analyze films. In addition to screening and discussing clips from mainstream film and television, we will also examine alternative practices (from independent film and global cinemas) that challenge these conventions.

**COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies 1 course unit**

(every semester) Why study television? Is broadcast television a dying form or are we in a new golden age? What are the possibilities and challenges of representation in the post-network era? This course will examine the diverse ways that television has been conceptualized, theorized, and analyzed by media scholars in the discipline of television studies. We will use different critical perspectives to examine television as an industry, a mode of entertainment, and a site of textual meaning by exploring how economic and political forces, technological innovation, advertisers, creative producers, and audiences have interacted to shape how these cultural products, narratives and processes have become part of our social history.

**COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication 1 course unit**

(every semester) Surveys broadcast, print, and digital communication industries in terms of their origins, development, and social impact. Students are introduced to various theoretical perspectives of media ownership and the press, industry practices, and media influence. Ethical, legal, political, and economic issues surrounding the mass media are also analyzed.

**COM 176/Makeup for Performance 1 course unit**

(occasionally) A practical study of the theory, design, and application of makeup for stage, film, and television. Two-dimensional (paint) and three-dimensional makeup, wigs, and beards. Course work may be coordinated with production activity. Each student is required to purchase a makeup kit.

**COM 201/Social Media: History, Theory, Practice 1 course unit**

(occasionally) This course introduces students to the origins of social media theory, the intersection between old and new media, the impact of social media on vulnerable populations, person reputation, commercialization of user information, the ability of social media to assist or hinder activism, and the future of online forms of communication. COM 201 is open to all majors. This course counts as an elective in the Public/Mass or Interpersonal/Organizational specializations or can also count as one of the three Communication Studies electives. *(Formerly offered as COM 370: Disruptive Forces of Social Media.)*

**COM 210/Mass Media and the First Amendment 1 course unit**

(spring) An examination of the opportunities and constraints governing the expression of ideas in major forms of American public media. Emphasis on the legal, social, and technical limits placed on free expression in American society.

**COM 211/Motion Picture Production I 1 course unit**

(fall) An introductory course examining the medium of motion picture production in relation to both aesthetics and production technique. Students will produce two short films using 16mm cine cameras and editing equipment. Exercises will include optical and mechanical theory and operation of motion picture cameras, lighting and metering technique, editing/post-production practice, and production organization.

**COM 212/Introduction to Television Studio 1 course unit**

(lecture and studio) (every semester) An introduction to the basic concepts and techniques of multicamera studio production including fundamentals of camera operation, video control, audio, lighting, pre-production preparation, and directing.

**COM 216/History of Performance 1 course unit**

(occasionally) Examines the development of performance history and theory in the context of popular culture, exploring the interrelationship of live, filmed, and electronically recorded performance media. Topics to be discussed include naturalism in theater and film, method acting, anti-realist performance styles, and performance art.

**COM 225/Writing and Announcing for Broadcasting 1 course unit**

(spring) An introduction to the role of the announcer in radio and television. The course examines the responsibilities and skills involved in writing and performing broadcast copy. *(Formerly offered as COM 270, Writing and Announcing for Broadcast.)*

**COM 235/African American Film 1 course unit**

(same as AAS 235) Students will examine the history of African American filmmaking placing emphasis on periods in which filmmakers have made significant impact. Analysis of films will revolve around their relation to social and political contexts in which they were made as well as the diverse cinematic techniques employed to construct their narratives.

**COM 240/Public Speaking in Business and Government 1 course unit**

(every semester) Examines the theoretical, practical, and ethical dimensions of public speaking. Focuses on the basic principles and understanding of verbal and nonverbal communication, audience analysis, and techniques for researching, organizing, supporting, and presenting ideas effectively. Students are provided with opportunities to develop their communicative knowledge and skills within the context of public- and business-speaking situations. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between critical thinking, speaking, and effective listening.

**COM 241/Argumentation and Debate 1 course unit**

(fall) Intensive study of content and techniques of argument in public controversies. Theories of rational argumentation and debate. Participation in traditional debates, cross-examination debates, and mock trials.

**COM 242/Interpersonal Communication 1 course unit**

(every semester) Examines interpersonal communication, combining theory with practice; emphasizes the uniqueness of interpersonal communication as opposed to communication in other settings.

**COM 245/Modern Arabic Society and the Media 1 course unit**

(same as ARA 245 and ANT 245) (occasionally) This course will be taught in English. It will explore social issues that have been central to the transformation of modern Arab societies in the modern period. Readings and recordings will address major topics such as democracy and development, nationalism, Islam, feminism and the status of women, and socialism.

**COM 250/Small Group Communication 1 course unit**

(fall) Explores small group communication theory and research, group problem solving, decision making, conflict resolution, and participation in group problem-solving tasks.

**COM 255/Acting for Stage and Screen 1 course unit**

(every semester) The role of the actor in the interpretation of dramatic and narrative texts adapted for camera performance. Course work culminates in preparation of individual "audition" tapes. May be repeated once for credit with departmental consent.

**COM 269/Introduction to Audio Production 1 course unit**

(every semester) This is an introduction to the world of audio production. It is meant for students with an interest in audio and its applications in modern media and art. Students will learn to employ audio as a creative tool for documentary storytelling, fiction filmmaking, news media, radio production, commercials and internet production. Creativity and careful execution are major factors in the grading of ALL projects.

**COM 271/Film and Society 1 course unit**

(lecture and lab) (every semester) A critical/analytical study of the social impact of the cinema. Review of the systems which bear upon the filmmaker, the social contexts within which films are presented and interpreted, and the societal impact and function of the cinema. Emphasis will be placed on cinematic work which falls outside the mainstream.

**COM 272/Theories and Effects of Media Communication 1 course unit**

(spring) Research on the effects of mass media messages has always been helped along by theories that explain how and why media institutions make messages, how individuals receive and use these messages, and how these messages have effects on both the social and individual levels. This course will examine some of the noteworthy traditions and research programs on theories about the production and effects of mediated messages.

**COM 273/Cable and Broadcasting in America 1 course unit**

(spring) An analysis of the history, technology, economics, programming, and impact of broadcast media on society. This course reviews government regulations, constitutional issues, and commercial pressures that effect programming and network success.

**COM 280/American Political Communication 1 course unit**

(occasionally) A survey of the design and use of political messages in various media. Includes an assessment of the strategies and effects of campaign techniques, the legislative process, and the presidency.

**COM 293/Health & Risk Communication: A Social Marketing Approach 1 course unit**

(every semester) This course examines the impact of public communication campaigns, in particular health communication campaigns, aimed at informing and persuading mass audiences. Special attention is given to the selection of achievable objectives, to the integration of carefully chosen strategies with specific tactics for designing successful campaigns, and to the evaluation of campaign effectiveness. *(Formerly offered as COM 403 Health & Risk Communication: A Social Marketing Approach)*

**COM 300/Intergender Communication 1 course unit**

(fall) Prerequisite: COM 242 or instructor consent This course is designed to broaden the student's awareness of communication, gender, and culture. Students will focus on the ways gender differences are infused in Western culture, politics, and interpersonal relationships. Society's views on gender are clearly reflected in our literature, films and music. Using a number of approaches, students will explore communication patterns in relationships.

**COM 310/Theories of Persuasion 1 course unit**

(every semester) A mix of rhetorical and social science perspectives on the art and science of persuasion. Topics include classic models and theories, source credibility, message design, visual persuasion, and compliance gaining strategies in politics, advertising and health campaigns.

**COM 311/Advanced Motion Picture Production 1 course unit**

(every semester) Prerequisite: COM 211 Following on the concepts and practices learned in Motion Picture Production I, this class deals with color negative stocks and synchronous sound shooting and editing. Students learn advanced organizational practices, how to communicate with labs and postproduction service houses, and sync-sound finishing procedures.

**COM 312/Intermediate Video: The Art of Editing 1 course unit**

(every semester) The art of editing is the art of constructing meaning through the juxtaposition of visual imagery. This course is designed to give students a thorough background in editing theory and an opportunity to put this theory into practice. Through editing a number of short pieces, students will gain an understanding of the impact that their choice of shot order, shot duration and shot frequency has on the tone of the final piece and in constructing meaning. They will also gain valuable experience with current editing software.

**COM 313/Seminar in Philosophy of Communication 1 course unit**

(spring, open to majors and non-majors, sophomores or higher) This seminar explores ancient and current wisdom about the nature of communication, from intimate to formal settings, and as a crucial link between humans, animals and machines. Communication is considered as information, expression, performance, signification, and an emblem of identity.

**COM 325/Writing for Film and Television 1 course unit**

(spring) This course examines the fundamental elements of screenwriting for the narrative film. Through a combination of lectures, workshop, screenings, writing assignments and discussion, the class stresses the development of skills in story, structure, character, scene writing, and dialogue. Students are expected to watch, analyze and discuss films, as well as to read, analyze and critique scripts - both their own and those of their classmates. By the end of the course, students should have a solid foundation in visual storytelling, dramatic structure, and screenplay format. Throughout the semester, students will be given assignments to master the fundamentals of screenwriting and will have two major projects, one being a short script, the other being the first act of a feature-length screenplay.

**COM 335/ Interpersonal Health Communication 1 course unit**

This course provides an overview of interpersonal research on health-related topics or contexts. The emphasis will be on how interpersonal communication affects perceptions of health issues, management of health behavior, and health-related decision-making. The class is open to Communication Studies and Public Health majors/minors. *(Formerly offered as COM 370 TPCS: Interpersonal Health Communication.)*

**COM 342/Lifespan Communication 1 course unit**

Lifespan communication examines how communication processes (social support, language skills, interpersonal relationship management) change across one's existence. This course will map out both normative and unexpected demographic and health events across a lifespan (e.g., schooling, pregnancy, marriage, health issues, parenthood) and acknowledge how our communication processes influence and are influenced by these social experiences. Students will engage in practical applications of this information through self-reflections, case analyses, and consulting-based projects.

**COM 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminisms, and Film 1 course unit**

(same as AAH 343; WGS 305) (fall) Explores the impact feminism has had on film theory, criticism, and production. Various approaches to the study and production of the cinematic apparatus will be explored including psychoanalysis, issues of representation, spectatorship, ethnicity, and hybrid sexualities.

**COM 345/ New Media & Health Communication 1 course unit**

(spring) The emergence of new media intersects with public health in many ways, raising new questions and affording new opportunities for health communication and intervention. This seminar examines the roles and effects of new media and emerging technologies in a variety of health communication contexts and prepares students to utilize new media tools when designing health interventions through critical reading, intensive discussion, empirical exploration, and hands-on application.

**COM 350/Documentary Production 1 course unit**

(every semester) This course enables students to participate as members of a production unit, with the objective of completing a television documentary. Documentaries deal with social issues of major significance. Students may take this course twice.

**COM 368/Lighting and Cinematography 1 course unit**

(annually) An exploratory course in the uses of light beyond basic illumination. Electrical, optical, and color theory applied to stage and television lighting. Familiarity with luminaires, control systems, physical and dynamic properties of light. Practical application in studio and on location.

**COM 369/Advanced Radio and Audio Production 1 course unit**

(spring) This course is designed to give students an introduction to audio production and postproduction. Through hands-on activities and editing a number of short pieces, students will gain an understanding of the importance of sound in various media and how sound creates place and mood. Students will also gain valuable experience recording audio and working with Avid Pro Tools, the industry standard. Students will be required to edit with Pro Tools during this course. In-class exercises are designed for students to practice and become familiar with equipment, understand concepts and results, and gain familiarity with different types of audio recordings.

**COM 370/Topics in Communication Studies 1 course unit**

(every semester) Focuses on a significant historical or theoretical topic, or on studio and performance skills; may be repeated when topic changes.

**COM 371/Strategies of Public Relations 1 course unit**

(every semester) Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, Senior standing An overview of the strategies and tactics used in the practice of public relations, with special emphasis on defining the current parameters of this field of expertise. Students will explore the processes involved in professional public relations work: research, planning, communication, and evaluation.

**COM 377/Conflict and Collaboration 1 course unit**

(spring) This course introduces students to social science theory and research on conflict. It will offer a review of the core concepts and theoretical frameworks relevant to communicating through conflict in a variety of interpersonal and organizational settings. Students will learn about conflict dynamics from a personal, rational, and group level and be introduced to a skillset to help them analyze and approach conflict to productive and collaborative ways. *(Formerly offered as COM 370: Conflicts in Context.)*

**COM 380/Public Discussion of Vital Issues 1 course unit**

(spring) Covers rhetoric and propaganda as used in controlling public opinion through debate, public speaking, panel discussion, theater, films, radio, television, and other forms of media and public address.



**COM 381/Issues in Film History 1 course unit**

(fall) Prerequisite: COM 117 or COM 271 This is an advanced film history course on methodologies used in writing film history and critical analysis. It is designed to be a third-level writing intensive course for students in the Radio/TV/Film track in which they are expected to apply concepts from diverse methodologies used in film history, theory, and criticism to the subject under study. Topics may include Film Noir (or other historical film movements), Irish Cinema (or other National Cinemas), or Experimental Film (or other genres) depending on the instructor's area of expertise. In each case, students will be expected to use writing as a way of learning more about a topic in film history and the standards of scholarship in the discipline.

**COM 390/Methods of Communication Research and Analysis 1 course unit**

(every semester) An introduction to several major methodologies for analyzing, discovering, and testing observations about communication processes and effects in both print and electronic media. Perspectives include experimental, survey, and content analysis. Students completing this course should be able to critically evaluate communication and other behavioral and scientific research.

**COM 391/Independent Study variable course units**

(every semester) Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing An application for independent study must be developed and approved by the department prior to registration. Students are expected to do individual study under faculty supervision. Work may also be coordinated with participation in performance activities. May be repeated on new project for elective credit outside the 12-course major.

**COM 399/Internship in Communication Studies 1 course unit Graded P/U**

(every semester) Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing Interested students should contact the communication studies department early in the semester. Descriptions of internship opportunities and permission to register forms are available in the department office. The norm for a one unit internship is 200 hours. May be repeated at different work site as elective credit outside of the 12-course major.

**COM 401/The Washington Center 2 course units**

(fall) The Washington Semester Program affords students the opportunity to pursue internships, course work, and enrichment activities during a semester in the Washington, D.C. area. Programs are provided by the Washington Center and the Washington Internship Institute but the student earns TCNJ credit for the semester.

**COM 411/Intercultural/Racial Communication 1 course unit**

(spring) Focuses on the importance of developing one's ability to communicate effectively with people from diverse cultures and co-cultures.

**COM 415/International Communication 1 course unit**

(fall) Prerequisite: COM 103 or 172 This course examines contemporary issues in international communication with special emphasis on methods for comparing cross-national media coverage of critical issues, along with explanatory explorations in areas such as structural/demographic measures (GDP, literacy rate, infant mortality rate, etc.) and media systems (relatively free, relatively closed).

**COM 430/Directing for the Camera 1 course unit**

(every semester) In this course students will direct two to three short narrative films within the semester. Fundamentals of directing for the screen will be covered including: analyzing and interpreting a script; organizing and managing productions; using camera, sound, and editing to convey emotion; working with actors and communicating with the crew effectively. In-class, collaborative group assignments will be assigned to help prepare students for their individually directed projects. Along with creative interpretation of scripts, emphasis will be placed on meeting deadlines and organization of productions. Students will complete the semester having directed three short films and having gained a stronger understanding of directing as a process of analysis and interpretation as opposed to a solely technical process.

**COM 441/Organizations and Leadership 1 course unit**

(spring) The study of the internal communication requirements of organizations. Covers communication problems and solutions associated with conflict, interpersonal power and influence, communication varies, information flow, and communication channels.

**COM 442/Senior Practicum 1 course unit**

(spring) This course involves completion of two group projects, each realizing the solution to a complex problem in different areas (performance, production, directing, writing). For each undertaking, substantial scholarly investigation shall be required and a conceptualization and realization that are both viable and well defended.

**COM 460/Global Health, Communication and Social Change 1 course unit**

(Reserved for Juniors and Seniors or by permission of instructor) This advanced student-faculty research course offers opportunities for students to explore the role of Entertainment-Education, a strategy for promoting healthy behavior and reducing risk, primarily in developing countries. This course examines not only "behavior" change at the individual level, but also "development" change that emphasizes changing environments and contexts (such as poverty or gender relations) in different societies and cultures that affect so strongly the likelihood of change. Choosing their own critical topics, students craft multiple drafts of policy papers similar to those produced by professionals at the World Health Organization and the United States Agency for International Development.

**COM 487/Student-Faculty Advanced Research 1 course unit**

A seminar encouraging students to use a variety of rigorous methodologies to bring papers or projects to a professional level suitable for submission to state, regional, national, and international scholarly meetings. Papers and projects are closely supervised and critiqued by the instructor. May be repeated for different project.