
Communication and Journalism

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DEGREE OFFERED

M.A. in Communication

The Department of Communication and Journalism offers graduate work leading to the master of arts degree in communication (either Plan A or Plan B) with emphasis on human communication or mass communication.

The graduate curriculum addresses six major areas of inquiry in human communication: 1) the structure and function of contemporary epistemological, ontological, theoretical, and methodological paradigms in the communication discipline; 2) theories of language and nonverbal symbolic interactions; 3) communication processes in small group and organizational settings; 4) communication as an agent of stability and change in diverse social systems; 5) the role assumed by communication processes in the formation, development, and coordination of intimate human relationships; and 6) the nature and function of argumentative discourse in democratic societies.

The master's program in the mass media addresses media issues and problems from a theoretical perspective. The program is designed to be flexible such that students can examine questions that relate to their specific interests in the media. Areas of interest include but are not limited to print media, broadcasting, advertising, public relations, visual communication, media law and regulation, media management, media effects, mass media and society, media history, or media ethics.

Please refer to the Graduate School section for minimum admission and degree requirements.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Official acceptance for candidacy for the M.A. degree generally occurs after the student has completed nine credit hours of graduate work.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Administered by a graduate coordinator, the programs are structured to facilitate completion of requirements for the M.A. degree in two years. Deficiency makeups may be required.

Plan A (thesis)

- Students must complete an accepted master's thesis approved by the student's thesis committee.
- Students must complete a minimum of 27 credit hours and 4 hours of thesis. A minimum of 21 hours must be within the department, with a maximum of 3 hours of independent study and 3 hours of 4000-level coursework. A student also must take 3 hours of a 5000-level statistics course approved by the department's director of graduate studies.
- For courses taken outside the department, a student may be credited with no more than 3 hours of 4000-level coursework and 3 hours of independent study.
- Students must complete COJO 5070 and 5080, as well as COJO 5310 or 5540.

Plan B (non-thesis)

- Students must complete an accepted Plan B paper(s) (or project(s) if something other than an actual paper, e.g., film script, film documentary), and this must be developed as part of a 3 hour independent study approved by the student's Plan B adviser and the department's director of graduate studies.
- The non-thesis degree requires a minimum of 33 credit hours, of which a minimum of 21 hours must be within the department. The non-thesis student is limited to 6 4000-level credit hours and a maximum of 6 credit hours of independent study or internship.
- Students must complete COJO 5070 and 5080, as well as COJO 5310 or 5540.

COURSES: Communication and Journalism (COJO formally CMJR)

Please see the General Bulletin for courses listed at the 4000 level.

5000. News-making Process. 3.

Study of the processes underlying the production of news in the mass media with special emphasis on how those processes affect the news and have an impact on society. Course examines the functions of news, values, and objectivity in the news, outside influences, and news as entertainment. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Dual listed with COJO 4000.

5010. Texts of Mass Media. 3.

Intensive critical examination of the history, theory, social responsibility and empirical research in the production and consumption of mediated messages. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

5030. Sem in Interpersonal Comm.. 3.

Intensive examination of contemporary theoretical perspectives and empirical research on interpersonal communication, including the role of communication in self-concept formation, social relationship development, and the structure and function of ordinary discourse in human interaction. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Dual listed with COJO 4030.

5061. Ret Theory Crib. 3.

An investigation into how rhetorical theory, spanning from its ancient roots in Aristotelian thinking to its current postmodern components, operates in society. This course will explore how various critical methods can be utilized to gain a stronger understanding of public communication texts, including newspapers, speeches, music and film. Prerequisites: COJO1040 and 2040 or ENGL2035 or permission of instructor. Cross listed with ENGL4061/5061 Dual listed with COJO4061.

5070. Research Comm. I. 3.

Principles and problems of experimental research in human communication. Attention primarily on experimental design within laboratory and field settings. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

5080. Research Comm. II. 3.

Principles and problems in quasi-experimental and naturalistic research in human

communication. Attention primarily on the observation and systematic investigation of naturally occurring communicative events. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

5140. Nonverbal Comm. Sty. 3.

Critical analysis of current studies in the areas of nonverbal communication. Students will be required to complete an independent study of some aspects of nonverbal communication relevant to interests. Prerequisites: COJO 2110 and junior standing. Dual listed with COJO 4140.

5160. Afro Rhetoric. 3.

African American discourse and its relationship to equality and participation. Using the struggle of African Americans as an instructive exemplar, it will come to terms with the philosophical concepts, political issues, moral complexities, and discursive characteristics of African American rhetoric. Dual listed with COJO4160. Cross listed with AAST4160/5160. Prerequisites: AAST1000 and AAST3010, or COJO 1040, COJO Rhetorical Theory (4210); graduate students: permission of instructor.

5210. Sp: Communication. 1-3. (Max. 6).

Intensive examination of current theoretical issues in communication. Course content varies. Graduate students will be expected to follow a rigorous reading schedule and submit a major paper or research project. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Dual listed with COJO 4210.

5230. Sp Topics: Mass Media. 1-3. (Max. 6).

Intensive study of problems and topics specific to the mass media, including print, broadcast, advertising, public relations and the internet. Course content varies and may include historical, legal, ethical, political, sociocultural, economic and theoretical perspectives. May dual list with COJO 4230. Graduate students are expected to follow a rigorous reading schedule and submit a major paper or research project. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

5250. Sem In Org Comm. 3.

Intensive examination of the historical and contemporary theoretical approaches and empirical research in organizational

dynamics. Attention primarily focuses on how the institutionalized collective affects and is affected by other social systems. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Dual listed with COJO 4250.

5540. Sem: Comm Theory. 3.

An intensive examination of various metatheoretical assumptions and theoretical models used in the study of communicative dynamics. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

5590. Sem: Persuasion. 3.

Participants in this seminar engage in dialog directed toward both 1) understanding the issues raised in contemporary persuasion research and 2) exploring potential solutions and ideas for future research. This should prompt the participants to begin their own research ventures designed to contribute to the study of communication and social influence. Prerequisites: COJO 2090 and 3070. Dual listed with COJO 4590.

5600. Mass Media Ethics. 3.

The study of ethical theory with special emphasis on how that theory can be applied to problem solving in the media. Examines major ethical perspectives and requires the application of those perspectives to actual case studies. Graduate students will be expected to follow a rigorous project. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Dual listed with COJO 4600.

5620. Sem: Small Group Comm. 3.

An intensive examination of the historical and contemporary theoretical approaches and empirical research in small group dynamics. Attention primarily focused on the rules of decision-making and the leader-follower relationship in groups with and without a history. Prerequisite: Graduate . Examines personal relationships and the ethical issues participants in these relationships encounter. Personal relationships are those unique relationships in which the participants cannot be replaced without altering the very nature of the relationship. Personal relationships are originated, developed, maintained, and dissolved through communication between the participants. Prerequisite: COJO 4030 or consent of instructor. Dual listed with COJO 4630.

5890. Prob: Communication. 1-4. (Max. 6). Prerequisite: 18 hours at the 5000 level in the department or consent of the department.

5900. Prac: College Tchng. 1-3. (Max. 3). Work in classroom with a major professor. Expected to give some lectures and gain classroom experience. Prerequisite: Graduate status.

5920. Cont Reg: On Campus. 1-2. (Max. 16). Prerequisite: Advanced degree candidacy.

5940. Cont Reg: Off Campus. 1-2. (Max. 16). Prerequisite: Advanced degree candidacy.

5959. Enrichment Stds.: 1-3. (Max. 99). Designed to provide an enrichment experience in a variety of topics. NOTE: Credit in this course may not be included in a graduate program of study for degree purposes.

5960. Thesis Research. 1-12. (Max. 24). Graduate level course designed for students who are involved in research for their thesis project. Also used for students whose coursework is complete and are writing their thesis. Prerequisites: Enrolled in a graduate degree program.

5985. Rhet Soc Justice. 3. Analyzes concepts of ableism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, racism, sexism, and socioeconomic class through a critical/social construction framework. It attempts to develop a “working” definition of these concepts by analyzing historical and current conceptualizations and identifying marginalization and disenfranchisement as it is woven in the fabric of American society. Dual listed with COJO4985. Prerequisites: For undergraduate: COJO 2150, 3040; For Graduates: Graduate Standing.

5990. Internship. 1-12. (Max. 24). Prerequisite: Graduate standing.