**Fall 2020 Graduate Course Atlas**

**COMM 7616/8616**

**Contemporary Rhetorical Theory-Antonio de Velasco**

**Monday, 5:30-8:30**

What makes a theory of rhetoric – itself a contested term – “contemporary?” Is it merely a question of historical location in an evolving tradition? Or is something more fundamental at stake in the emerging “new rhetorics” of the middle and late twentieth century? This course will take a sustained look at such questions surveying a range of topics and thinkers that central to recent scholarship in rhetoric studies in Communication. Course goals include: understanding the dialectical relationship between rhetoric study in the 20th Century and classical and modern rhetoric study; becoming familiar with the work of Kenneth Burke and Chaïm Perelman; making links between rhetoric, subjectivity, and ideology; situating rhetoric in the context of social and critical theory; and, finally, demonstrating a strong historical and conceptual grasp of the approaches to contemporary rhetorical theory under consideration in the course.

Weekly Responses

Book Presentation

Oral Presentation

Final Paper

*The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation* (ISBN: 978-0268004460)

*Permanence and Change: An Anatomy of Purpose*, 3rdedition (ISBN: 978-0520041462)

*Sourcebook on Rhetoric: Key Concepts in Contemporary Rhetorical Studies*(ISBN: 9780761905042)

*Contemporary Rhetorical Theory: A Reader*, 2nd edition (ISBN: 978-1462526581)

**COMM 7014/8014/ PUBH 7014/8014**

**Public Health Communication, Amanda Young**

**Tuesday, 5:30 – 8:30**

This course explores the communication processes and practices that are used to promote positive change in health behaviors. In addition to exploring the research models and methodologies used to disseminate health information and promote behavior change, we will examine issues of health literacy; formats for disseminating medical, health, and wellness information; health disparities; and the complex, specific audiences that public health communication must address. A central focus of the course will be the public health communication issues surrounding the COVID-19 crisis at the national, state, and local levels.

**Course Objectives:**

1.        To understand the role of communication in public health campaigns, interventions, and research

2.        To develop an awareness of the complex issues of health communication in the public health arena

3.        To examine theoretical models, research design, and evaluation methodologies inherent in public health communication

4.        To appreciate the interplay of theory and practice in communication in public health settings and campaigns

5.        To recognize the multicultural audiences in public health communication

**Textbook:**

Parvanta, Claudia, Nelson, David E., Harner, Richard N. (2017). *Public Health Communication: Critical Tools and Strategies*. Jones and Bartlett Learning. ISBN-10: 1284065944

            Additional readings will be assigned.

**COMM 6375: Intercultural Communication   
Dr. Katherine Grace Hendrix  
Tuesday/Thursday, 2:40-4:05pm**

This course provides an opportunity to explore the various means by which we define what constitutes culture and how we acquire our cultural identities. Self-perception and the perception of the "other" will be discussed as factors that serve to problematize the communication that occurs between (and within) groups. This course will focus on communication that occurs among the domestic populations of the United States; however, international relationships will be discussed to a limited degree. My main goal is to provide a practicum for developing the initial stages of effective interpersonal and intercultural communication competence. A second goal is to introduce you to various theories (from within as well as outside of the Communication discipline) that attempt to explain intercultural interaction.

Martin, J., & Nakayama, T. (2017). Experiencing intercultural communication: An introduction (6th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

·Additional readings for students at the graduate level.

**COMM 7332/8332 Topics in Communication Methods   
Dr. Katherine Grace Hendrix  
Thursdays 5:30-8:30 pm**

In this course we will discuss the distinction b/w qualitative and quantitative approaches to research methods and go through an overview of various forms of qualitative inquiry including autoethnography, narrative analysis, grounded theory, and phenomenology. The course content will then focus on case study and students will have an opportunity to design a case study research project related to their subject matter interest.

Textbooks and readings tbd.

**COMM 7017/8017:  Introduction to Graduate Studies in Communication**

**Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre**

**W 5:30p - 8:30p**

This course is designed as an introduction to the norms and expectations of graduate training in communication.  Focusing on the major areas of academic assessment (teaching, research, and service), the course will introduce students to various communication sub-fields with a particular emphasis on the department expertise; help them begin to develop a teaching portfolio; teach fundamentals of research such as developing research agenda/finding publication venues; and begin preparations for the academic and non-academic job market. Students will also be introduced to some of the main methodological and theoretical approaches used in the discipline.

**COMM 4364/6364: Gender and Public Discourse**

**Dr. Christina Moss**

**TR 1:00p – 2:25p**

**Course :Description:**

This course focuses on how gender is portrayed and performed within and through public discourse.  The ways in which gender is publicly performed and constrained now reflects the ways the US has historically publicly discussed gender.  Focus will be placed on theory, topics and contexts that publicly discuss gender Women’s and LGBTQ issues.  Starting with speech texts and writings in the 1800s when social and political norms prevented women’s suffrage and constrained gender debates to current day subjects featuring multiple areas of professional, political and mediated contexts.

**COMM 6013 Political Communication**

**Antonio de Velasco**

**MW 2:20p – 3:45p**

Course Description  
Citizens lament the drama, division, and distortion that mark presidential campaigns. This course turns that lament on its head by teaching you to work with – rather than against – such qualities in the interest of greater civic discernment. Drawing from classical, modern, and postmodern theories of political rhetoric and close study of the major presidential campaigns, the course explores how power circulates and becomes manifest in the conflicting words and images we use to make sense of public life.

Assignments:  
Rhetorical analysis of presidential debates; reading quizzes; final paper of 20-25 pages; class presentation.

Texts  
Murray J. Edelman, *Constructing the Political Spectacle*  
Additional texts available online

**COMM 6859 Monster Films**

**Marina Levina**

**W 1:00p – 4:00p**

In her famous book, *Our Vampires, Ourselves* (1997), Nina Auerbach writes that each age embraces the vampire it needs. This statement speaks to the essential role that monster narratives play in culture. They offer a space where society can safely represent and address anxieties of its time. This course will survey classic and contemporary monster films. As a whole, it argues that monstrous narratives of the past decade have become omnipresent specifically because they represent social collective anxieties over resisting and embracing change. They can be read as a response to a rapidly changing cultural, social, political, economic, and moral landscape. And while monsters always tapped into anxieties over a changing world, they have never been as popular, or as needed, as in the past decade. This course explores monstrosity as a social and cultural category for organizing, classifying, and managing change. Based in the field of media studies and critical theory, it will provide film case studies that explore monstrous discourse and representation in film.

**COMM 6400 Contemplative Communication   
Gray Matthews  
TR 9:40-11:05am**

This course confronts the force of systems of thought, the force of knowledge as a cognitive empire, and thus seeks to explore the liberation of relationality in creative ways of thinking, learning, communicating and living in relation to others. How can we open our compact identities to greater coenesthesia, i.e. greater relational sensitivities and sensibilities, particularly in times of personal, social and political deadening of relations. The course seeks to resist numbness to what John Berger called “ethicide,” the murder of ethics. We will do this by attempting to revive contemplation as a radical mode of inquiry into relational depths. There is a critical edge to the sweep of the course by which we will counter cultural trends where communication is laced with poisons such as fear, aggression, fragmentation, disaffection and exhaustion. Our approach, therefore, will be more philosophical than theoretical as we ponder creative ways to open paths of thinking and acting that could lead to greater responsiveness as living beings to the prospects of a livable world.

Texts:

--Michel Serres, The Troubadour of Knowledge (Univ. of Michigan, 1997).

--Lao Tsu, Tao Te Ching. Trans. Gia-Fu Feng & Jane English (Vintage, 1989).

--Anne Dufourmantelle, Power of Gentleness (Fordham, 2018).

**Film and Video Production Courses**

**COMM 6822 Audio Prdctn Film/Video**

**David Appleby**

**TR 2:40p – 5:10p**

An intermediate level class covering the principles of sound and their application in the recording, processing, editing and mixing of audio for film. Using state-of-the-art recording equipment and software, students will practice on-location recording for narrative and documentary films as well as post-production techniques.

**COMM 6824 Cinema/Videography**

**David Appleby**

**W 1:00p – 4:00p**

This course is designed to give the intermediate student a better understanding of the tools and procedures necessary for solving the multitude of problems, aesthetic and technical, that confront the cinematographer. We will cover cameras, lighting, lenses, filters, exposure, composition, color, grip equipment, and set management. In-class demonstrations and outside assignments give students ample opportunity to apply what they learn.

**COMM 6960 Documentary Writing**

**David Goodman**

**TR 11:20a – 12:45p**

The course will examine the theory, techniques, and ethics of documentary storytelling in film, television, and audio. Students will explore and practice the special planning and writing that distinguishes the documentary from fictional programs. Students will be expected to develop the skills and standards necessary to be effective creators and critical observers of documentaries. In the process, students will create written analyses, outlines, treatments, and proposals for a variety of documentary content.

**COMM 6970 Screenwriting**

**TBA**

**MW 10:20a – 12:25p**