Fall 2021 Graduate Course Atlas

**COMM 7/8017: Introduction to Graduate Studies in Communication**

**Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre**

**Wednesdays 5:50PM – 8:30PM**

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 7/8804 Seminar in Media Theory**

**Dr. Amanda Edgar**

**Monday - 5:30PM – 8:30PM**

Rooted in the work of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (sometimes called The Birmingham School) in 1960s and 1970s, the British Cultural Studies tradition approaches scholarship from the premise that “culture is ordinary” (Williams, 1958). In other words, to fully understand the ways power, agency, structure, and resistance operate, we must take seriously the everyday experiences of regular people as cultural producers and consumers.

Students will come away from the course with an understanding of the theoretical and analytical perspectives of cultural studies. To that end, we will root our study in the works of scholars like Stuart Hall, Richard Johnson, Angela McRobbie, and Julie D’Acci and embrace the critical lenses of feminist, critical race, social class, queer, and disability studies.

Required texts will be made available through eCourseware.

**COMM 7/8351: African American Public Address**

**Dr. Andre E. Johnson**

**Tuesdays: 5:30PM - 8:30PM**

Students will examine the African American oratorical/public address tradition from classical times up to the present. By engaging in a close reading of texts, students will draw upon the practical tools of rhetorical criticism to examine, understand, and analyze public address of African Americans throughout American history. The methods utilized will include classical and contemporary rhetorical theory as well as classical and contemporary theories of rhetorical analysis. Students will choose specific speakers, themes, or texts and engage in a rhetorical criticism of some element of discourse

**COMM 7/8332: Topics in Comm Methods: Critical Discourse Studies**

**Dr. Craig Stewart**

**Thursdays 5:30PM - 8:30PM**

This seminar will introduce students to traditions and methods of discourse analysis broadly referred to as Critical Discourse Studies (CDS). CDS approaches are becoming more established in communication studies and related disciplines (e.g., rhetoric & composition) as methods for analyzing text and talk. As Martínez Guillem and Toula (2018) argue, CDS is *transdisciplinary*, practiced across the humanities and social sciences; *overtly political*, committed explicitly to issues of social justice; and *grounded*, based on detailed analyses of discourse. Students in this seminar will become familiar with CDS theoretical approaches and methods for addressing their own research questions.

Martínez Guillem, S., & Toula, C. (2018). Critical Discourse Studies and/in communication: Theories, methodologies, and pedagogies at the intersections. *Review of Communication, 18,*140-157. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15358593.2018.1480793>

Texts: TBD

**COMM 7012, Health Communication  
Dr. Amanda Young  
Tuesdays at 5:30PM - 8:30PM**

This graduate seminar will focus on communication within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will explore the various modalities of health communication throughout the pandemic, looking at the communicative, rhetorical, political, social, cultural, psychological and relational aspects of various venues of communication – public health, education, politics, patient/provider, family, and others. Students from a variety of disciplines, including communication, rhetoric, public health, sociology, psychology, education, health promotion, and others, will find this course useful in understanding the communicative processes that shaped our response to the pandemic and the vaccine roll-out, and to theorize and perhaps develop ways to improve crisis communication in the future. Based on their disciplinary backgrounds and experience, students will focus on a particular area of interest and will develop a project based on a research question that each student develops. By the end of the course, students will produce a draft of a conference paper or a paper for publication.

There is no textbook for this course. Materials will include a series of journal articles, as well as audiovisual and visual communication artifacts.

**COMM 6859 Monster Films**

**Marina Levina**

**Mondays 1:00PM – 4:00PM**

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 6824 Cinema/Videography**

**David Goodman**

**Thursdays 1:00PM – 4:00PM**

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

**COMM 6822 Audio Production Film/Video**

**Elja Roy**

**Tuesdays 1:00PM – 4:00PM**

A course covering the principles of sound and their application in the recording, processing, editing and mixing of audio for film and video production.

**COMM 6970 Screenwriting**

**Marty Lang**

**Mondays/Wednesdays 10:20AM -11:50AM**

This course will give students a practical and theoretical understanding of writing visual stories. We will cover the fundamentals of screenwriting, narrative film writing and structure, television writing and structure, and the business of filmmaking. In class demonstrations, a television writers room simulation and outside assignments will give students opportunities to apply what they learn and write scripts that could also be produced in subsequent courses.

**COMM 6858 Contemporary Cinema: Film and Social Justice**

**Marty Lang**

**Wednesdays 2:00PM – 5:00PM**

This course will explore contemporary films and documentaries that tell stories centered around social justice issues. Through in class lectures, film screenings, discussions and related research, students will examine the portrayal of these issues in cinema, the methods of production in relation to subject matter, and how storytelling can serve as activism.