

Spring 2022 Grad Course Atlas

COMM 7321/8321: Communication Theory– Dr. Katherine Grace Hendrix

This course serves as an overview of theories created by communication scholars and/or applicable to communication contexts. We will discuss how theories are constructed, evaluated, and applied in everyday contexts. Our focus will be on learning how certain theories are applied in family and interpersonal contexts. We will begin with a broad overview of what constitutes theory, the communication process, and the nature of communication research. From this macro view, we will then explore individual theories and their application in specific contexts. All theories will be viewed with a critical eye towards applicability in our daily lives, processes left unexplained, and consistency/inconsistency with other related theories and, if applicable, media influence.

COMM 7/8345: Health Literacy — Dr. Joy V. Goldsmith

Wednesday 5:30-8:30

Health literacy is an area of study that is growing at lightning speed. This class concentrates on the synergies of communication studies and applied health literacy issues, emphasizing risk, disparity, caregivers, patients, providers, measures, and interventions. Students from a range of disciplines including communication studies, public health, allied health, nursing, and more will explore relationships among health literacy, language and culture, power, and a range of stakeholders and their impacts on quality health care.

The work in this course will acquaint you with a broad understanding of the quickly expanding world of health literacy science in the United States, explore the role of communication studies in matters of health literacy, and examine the lived experiences of patients, families, and providers. A secondary focus of the course will explore evidence-based development of health literacy interventions and implementation. Each student enrolled in the course will participate in original research as well as carry the responsibility of presenting a specific course topic in a formal presentation.

Materials for the course will come from a range of sources and will be supplied by the instructor.

Class periods will include lectures, formal presentations, discussion, conversation, potential site visits, and collaboration with other students.

COMM 7371/8371: Rhetorical Criticism– Dr. Antonio de Velasco

Monday 5:30 - 8:30PM

What makes “criticism” – a term with its own set of problems and confusions – “rhetorical?” How does this pairing of terms change the meaning of each? Amidst overlapping contexts of social change, disciplinary controversy, and the rise of alternative forms of research into persuasion, what value does rhetorical criticism still hold for scholars in the field? For anyone? This course brings together a brief survey of key figures in the United States’ history of

rhretorical criticism with a student-led foray into the most recent scholarship and debates in the field.

Key assignments include weekly responses, a book review, and a seminar paper.

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 7/8355: Topics in Critical-Cultural Studies - Dr. Marina Levina

Tuesday 5:30-8:30pm

This seminar will consider the role of the body in media studies, critical rhetoric, and critical health communication. We will examine how focusing on the body allows us to theorize materiality of power and inequalities and their impact on the lived experiences of everyday life. We will learn about current trends in critical-cultural studies, including disability studies, film studies, surveillance studies, affect theory, critical race theory, posthumanism, new materialisms, and technofeminism, to situate the body at the intersection of various strands of communication studies. The final project will be a research article which will encourage students to use course material to analyze cultural texts of student choosing. These will include, but not be limited to, media texts (film, tv shows, etc.), social media, rhetorical utterances, public health documents, and/or news media.

Sample Reading List

Samuels, Ellen. "Examining Millie and Christine McKoy: Where Enslavement and Enfreakment Meet"

Haraway, Donna. "A cyborg manifesto"

Weheliye, Alexander G. *Habeas viscus*. Duke University Press.

Benjamin, Ruha. "Race after technology: Abolitionist tools for the new jim code."

COMM 4891/6891: Producing for Film - Professor Marty Lang

This course will focus on film producing and production management, with concentration in development, budgeting, scheduling, location management, marketing and distribution. There will also be study and experience with crowdsourcing and crowdfunding campaign work.

COMM 4893/6893: Directing for Film - Professor Marty Lang

This course will focus on filmmakers interpreting a visual text. There will be concentration in working with actors, moving the camera, shot design, mise en scene, sound, editing and visual transitions between scenes.

COMM 6894: Community Action Film – Professor David Goodman

Tuesday from 1:00-4:00 PM

Students will work together to make short films that promote the work of not-for-profit organizations that benefit the community. Production work outside of class time will be required.

PREREQUISITE: COMM 3824 or permission of instructor.

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.

Text: Martin, J., & Nakayama, T. (2021). *Experiencing intercultural communication: An introduction* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

Additional readings for students at the graduate level.

COMM 6856: Gender and Film - Dr. Marina Levina

Wednesdays 1-4pm.

Using film studies, media studies, and cultural studies approaches this course will analyze representations of femininity and masculinity in various film genres. The class focuses on films produced from the 1940s to the present. The course puts representations of gender in the historical contexts of race, class, and sexuality.

COMM 4222/6222: Special Topics: Ecocinema – Criticism and Practice - Dr. Elja Roy

“Ecocinema – Criticism and Practice” is designed to encourage and prepare students to understand the relationship between community-engaged stewardship and the environment. Moreover, it enables students to create their own projects that can effectively address the pressing environmental issues in their own communities.

In this class, students will get to bring in case studies from their communities. The students will watch several films that are considered instrumental by the ecocinema scholars and read their essays. The course

does not intend to limit students' understanding of what ecocinema is, rather it expands their boundaries of what it can be. Understanding of the theories and concepts taught in the class must be reflected through their group and individual assignments and by applying them in the field.

COMM 6851: Film History II - Dr. Elja Roy

This course will examine films from the early 1940's through the late 1970's. The focus will be not only on American cinema but also on global cinema. The classes will comprise screenings and discussions. The screenings are a part of an intellectual inquiry concerning the form and content of major films representing this period in film history