

# COMMUNICATION (COM)

---

## COM 101 Mass Media and Society

This course is an introduction to the mass media and their impact on society. Students will investigate the historical, technological, and social developments of a variety of media, including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, film, and emerging technologies. Students will be asked to consider evidence, assumptions, and assertions about the effects of media in order to draw conclusions about the responsibility of media professionals and the public when creating, sharing, and consuming content. The course will also examine legal and ethical issues of the media and how politics and economics affect the form, function, and content of media.

## COM 102 Interpersonal Communication

This course examines the factors that influence interpersonal communication, effective and ineffective interpersonal communication practices, and the effects of interpersonal communication on our personal and professional lives. Specific topics include how culture influences communication, conflict management, the power of language, and the influence of communication on relationship development, maintenance, and deterioration.

## COM 150 Presentation Skills

The presentation skills course teaches students how to research, structure, and deliver effective oral presentations. It requires active student participation in order to build both skills and confidence. Among the topics covered in the course are: analyzing the audience; identifying, selecting, and critically evaluating content; organizing content in a logical manner; matching presentation content to presentation goals; using visual aids effectively; dealing with speaking anxiety; and effective, respectful collaboration in preparing presentations.

## COM 170 Special Topics

### COM 203 Media Writing

In this course, students will learn a variety of creative writing techniques for visual media projects. Students will work with various written formats including creative concepts, dual column and master scene scripts, treatments, and storyboards. Students will work within an interactive writers' room to craft effective advertisements/public service announcements, documentary concepts, original film and television scripts, and projects for emerging and interactive media forms. \*This course also meets ILO 8a.2 (effective written communication within the major).

### COM 204 Media Criticism

In this gateway course to the Media & Journalism track, students will learn the language of mediated storytelling by describing and analyzing the ways in which stories are creatively and artistically crafted for various formats and purposes, including television, film, online video, documentary, and news. Students will be exposed to various types of contemporary visual media, and discuss the ways in which production techniques play a role in creative expression and telling effective stories.

### COM 205 Communication Theory and Research

This course introduces students to significant theories of communication, including interpersonal communication, mass media, and persuasion theories. Students will be introduced to the humanistic, social scientific, and critical traditions. A focus of the course is on practical application of theory to real world problems and situations. The course is geared toward sophomore or early junior-year students. Prerequisite(s): COM 101 and COM 102

### COM 206 News Writing and Reporting

This course teaches students how to report and write news stories that are accurate, fair and complete. Students will learn the basic elements of reporting—how to observe events, how to interview people, and how to use other research tools. Students will also learn how to write and structure news stories for different media platforms including print, broadcast and online. \*This course also meets ILO 8a.2 (effective written communication within the major).

### COM 207 Principles of Public Relations

Public relations has been called "the unseen power" that influences culture, business, politics, and society. This class introduces students to the wide-ranging field of public relations, the role it plays in managing organizational relationships of all kinds, and the skills required to succeed in one of the fastest-growing communication professions.

### COM 208 Introduction to Digital Video

This course introduces students to the fundamental theories and practices of audio and video production. Students will learn how the preproduction, production, and postproduction stages apply to media. Emphasis is on storytelling, the importance of audience research and planning, scheduling, and selecting and employing proper resources. Students will experience the process using fundamental production techniques of audio and video through hands-on projects.

### COM 215 Group and Team Communication

Successfully working within a group or team setting is important for our academic, professional, and personal lives. This course blends the theory and practice of successful group communication. Through experiential activities, students will learn about group roles, collaboration, and effective and ineffective decision-making and problem solving.

### COM 220 Intercultural Communication

Communication between members of different cultural groups is complex and challenging, and can lead to misunderstanding and a lack of trust. This course focuses on uncovering historical patterns that influence values, beliefs, and behaviors within cultural groups, and how these issues influence communication practices. A particular focus is on increasing knowledge and skills to improve communication between races and other ethnic and cultural groups.

### COM 225 Topics In Cinema

### COM 255 Communication and Sport

This course is designed to integrate the phenomena of sports with the field of communication. The course examines how sports are impacted by interpersonal communication, group communication, organizational communication, and mass media. Specific concepts include family communication and sport, the performance of identity in sport, coach-athlete communication, team communication, and cultural views of sports.

### COM 256 Sports Journalism

This course focuses on the skills of writing, reporting, interviewing, and analyzing in the context of sports media. Students will learn how to develop strategies for sports coverage in a variety of forms, including straight news, features, opinion, and investigative work. Students will be expected to produce content and ideas for written copy, photographs, and video or audio segments. The course will also introduce students to the uniqueness of covering specific sports beats each week. Prerequisite(s): Com 203 or Com 206

**COM 267 Communication and Conflict Management**

Communication can be the source of conflict, can reflect conflict, or can be a tool to resolve conflict. This course focuses on productive and unproductive conflict management processes, with a particular focus on the techniques associated with negotiation and dispute resolution.

**COM 270 Special Topics****COM 271 Special Topics****COM 272 Special Topics****COM 273 Special Topics****COM 280 Business & Professional Com****COM 300 Communication Ethics**

This course provides students with an overview of ethical standards relevant to social behavior and an in-depth study of contemporary ethical issues facing communicators. Students will apply ethical perspectives such as virtue, universalism, utilitarianism, egalitarianism, dialogic ethics, postmodernism, and the feminist ethic of care to contemporary ethical issues in interpersonal, organizational, public, and mass mediated communication contexts. Concepts of truth, confidentiality, conflict of interest, social justice, and other issues will be addressed.

**COM 301 Media Industries**

This course explores how the media industries of television, radio, and the web have grown and changed through exploration of the economics, regulation, and effects of current entertainment and news media. Students will analyze how media companies make decisions based on research, discuss up to the minute news related to the business practices of media conglomerates, and learn the impact of media business decisions on society and culture. Prerequisite(s): COM 101

**COM 302 Broadcast Journalism**

This course entails reporting for TV and radio broadcast with an emphasis on hard news but including some feature stories. Prerequisite: COM 208.

**COM 303 Scriptwriting**

This course is an introduction to and application of scriptwriting techniques in formats appropriate for radio, television, and film.

**COM 306 Featuring Writing**

In this course, students will learn how to report and write feature stories making use of storytelling techniques such as scene-setting, descriptive language, the narrative arc, character development, use of dialogue, explication, and literary devices such as metaphors, flashbacks, foreshadowing and parallel construction. The techniques learned in this class will be applicable to print, broadcast and online presentation. Prerequisite(s): COM 206

**COM 308 Communication Law and Ethics**

The course is designed to review the history, development, and interpretation of the First Amendment in the U.S. by our court system and its impact upon journalists, professional communicators, and citizens, along with the ethical principles that underpin effective communication practices. Topics include privacy, defamation, press freedom, media regulations, and the law of emerging technologies. Students will learn to apply statutes, case law, and ethical theories to First Amendment issues and disputes. \*This course also meets ILO 10.2 (ethical understanding and reasoning within the discipline).

**COM 310 Communication Portfolio**

The portfolio assists students with synthesizing and applying what they have learned in Communication courses to the task of bridging from undergraduate studies to post-graduation. Students will build a portfolio that can be used to demonstrate knowledge and skills.

**COM 312 Persuasion, Power, and Influence**

This course emphasizes theory-based analysis of persuasive messages across a variety of contexts and situations, ranging from interpersonal settings to mass mediated-campaigns. Students will also be taught techniques of presenting and selecting evidence with the goal of enhancing the student's abilities to strategically analyze and create persuasive messages. Students will be asked to consider assumptions and draw conclusions about the persuasive efficacy of messages by applying concepts from theory and research. \*This course also meets ILO 4.2 (critical analysis and reasoning in the discipline).

**COM 315 Advanced Interpersonal Communication**

Through reading and reflection, students will assess their own interpersonal communication skills. Students will also explore interpersonal programs of research, such as: forgiveness, jealousy, distance relationships, and bullying. Prerequisite(s): COM 102

**COM 316 Communication Research and Analysis**

This course introduces students to the strategic process of collecting and analyzing information in professional settings. The practical focus of course assignments will be on using research to solve problems. Students will be introduced to situation analysis, designing and implementing surveys, interviewing, focus groups, and content analysis.

**COM 317 Organizational Communication**

This course surveys classic concepts and theories associated with organizational communication such as leadership, organizational culture, and the role of organizations in society. Contemporary issues such as globalization, technology, and ethical decision making in organizations are also featured, as well as a focus on the practical skills necessary for successful organizational encounters and socialization. \*This course meets ILO 10.2 (ethical understanding & reasoning within the discipline).

**COM 319 Advanced Personal and Professional Presentations**

This advanced course is designed to maximize professional success through an in-depth focus on achieving presentation goals. Students will learn how to effectively present themselves as skilled content experts in professional settings. Prerequisite(s): COM 150

**COM 320 Com & Culture**

Students will learn how communication practices vary across cultures. Focus will be on intercultural, cross-cultural, and interethnic communication.

**COM 324 Film History****COM 325 Nonverbal Communication**

Nonverbal communication refers to the many ways that we send messages without relying on words. This course focuses on specific nonverbal structures (e.g., touch, gesture, facial expression, appearance), the functions of nonverbal communication (e.g., impression formation, deception, etc.), and cultural variations in nonverbal communication rules and interpretations.

**COM 334 Critical App to Film****COM 337 Advertising Copywriting**

This course provides experience with writing for advertising. Students will explore the theoretical and research basis for communication and will examine the role of both strategy and creativity in the development and implementation of communication campaigns. Students will write for print, broadcast, and other media.

**COM 338 Social Media**

This course addresses the many positive and negative implications associated with society's reliance on social media platforms. Using a perspective rooted in digital literacy, the course examines how social media is used in both personal and professional contexts, and how we might use social media to communicate competently, ethically, and strategically.

**COM 345 Communication and Sex, Gender, And Sexuality**

This course focuses on the influence of sex, gender, and sexuality on communication in a variety of contexts. The course will review the recent theories and research literature on communication and sex, gender, and sexuality. The course will present information on communication and sex, gender, and sexuality as it relates to individual identity development, personal relationships, and social relationships.

**COM 348 Media Research**

This course introduces students to research methods used by media professionals, with particular emphasis placed on the Nielsen and Arbitron ratings reports. Topics address principles of collecting and interpreting audience data with application to programming, promotion, and sales.

**COM 350 Cooperative Education**

This experience is normally a full-time, paid employment in a cooperating firm to provide on-the-job training (part-time positions at least six months in duration may qualify). The course requires meetings with the faculty supervisor, reflection papers, and interaction and evaluation by the site supervisors. Position must be approved by Department Chair. Restriction(s): Junior or Senior status, 2.75 GPA, approval of Department Chair

**COM 355 Communication and Coaching**

Coaching, regardless of whether it occurs in an athletic context or an organizational context, is dependent on effective interpersonal communication. This course focuses on effective coaching practices, including the instructional, persuasive, team-building, and leadership elements of coaching. Prerequisite(s): Com 102 or permission of the Chair

**COM 356 Online Journalism**

This course teaches core technical and journalistic skills for journalistic storytelling on the Web. Each student will create his or her own Web log and fill it with original reporting of community-based stories told using words, still photos, video, and audio. The reporting will be accurate, fair, and compelling. Prerequisite: COM 206. COM

**COM 357 Public Relations Writing**

Writing is one of the top-rated skills for public relations professionals. This writing intensive course introduces students to the principles of planning and pre-writing as the basis for successful writing efforts. Students will learn how to produce a variety of pieces for print and electronic media, including press releases, backgrounders, brochures, newsletter articles, and public service announcements, as well as other tools designed to engage an organization's key stakeholders. \*This course meets ILO 8b.2 (effective writing in the discipline).

**COM 358 Advanced Media Production**

In this course students learn to apply more advanced audio and video production techniques. Students will develop and strengthen their production skills through hands-on projects both in the field, and utilizing the tools of the television studio, for both news and creative productions that can be distributed across various media platforms. Prerequisite(s): COM 208

**COM 365 Communication in Relationships**

This course focuses on contemporary research and theories associated with communication in close relationships. We will address cultural norms regarding "good" communication and "good" relationships, as well as what research suggests are the realities associated with communication and relationships. Prerequisite(s): COM 102

**COM 368 Video Editing**

Combining the study and critique of media examples with hands-on experience, this course examines the techniques, equipment, and theories involved in achieving structure in film and video through editing. Students will strengthen and expand their editing skills through class exercises and outside projects, while also studying past and present film and video productions. Prerequisite(s): Com 208

**COM 370 Special Topics****COM 371 Special Topics****COM 387 Public Relations Cases and Campaigns**

Public relations (PR) practitioners face a daunting range of choices when trying to manage key relationships. This course is designed to help students approach public relations strategically and to apply public relations techniques and theories to communication programs and campaigns. The course will also explore current trends in PR practice and how they influence planning. Prerequisite(s): COM 207

**COM 388 Sports Broadcasting**

This course trains students to produce live sports broadcasts and sports studio shows. Students work behind and in front of the camera, in production and on-air roles, which include: play-by-play announcer, color analyst, sideline reporter, and studio show host and analyst. Students do background research and conduct interviews to identify storylines. They prepare depth charts and memorize key information and statistics for on-air roles. They write scripts and create rundowns and graphics. They research, report, shoot and edit video profiles and enterprise stories. Prerequisite(s): Com 208

**COM 400 Communication Ethics**

This course provides students with an overview of ethical standards relevant to social behavior and an in-depth study of contemporary ethical issues facing communicators. Concepts of truth, confidentiality, conflict of interest, social justice, and other issues will be studied from the perspective of several sub-disciplines of communication. NOTE: COM 400 is taken the same semester as COM 401. Corequisites/Prerequisites: COM 401; COM 406, 407, 408, or 415; senior standing.

**COM 401 Communication Portfolio**

The portfolio assists students with synthesizing and applying what they have learned in Communication courses to the task of bridging from undergraduate studies to post-graduation. Students will build a portfolio that can be used to demonstrate knowledge and skills. COM 401 is taken the same semester as COM 400. Corequisites/Prerequisites: COM 400; COM 406, 407, 408, or 415; senior standing.

**COM 402 Media Writing Seminar****COM 403 Film Seminar**

This course involves an in-depth study of film as art and cultural document. Rotating topics include film history, critical approaches to film, film noir, American comedy, etc. Prerequisite: COM/FLMS 204.

## COM 404 Mass Com Seminar

## COM 406 Community Journalism

Community journalism comprises a wide range of practices designed to give news organizations greater insight into the communities they cover. In this course, students will use the reporting, editing, production, and design skills developed throughout the track to create non-fiction stories about Philadelphia community issues. They will learn to produce their work in print, broadcast, and/or Web-based format. Prerequisites: COM 206 and COM 356.

## COM 407 Public Relations Management

This capstone in Public Relations uses a combination of case studies and service-learning to provide students with an in-depth study of public relations theory and practice. In addition to exploring a particular practice area in greater depth, students work with community organizations on public relations projects to apply what they have learned. Students complete journal assignments throughout the semester that ask them to reflect on both their professional development and understanding of the needs addressed by the community partners with which they work. \*This course meets ILO 2.2 (reflective thinking and valuing in the discipline). Restriction(s): Senior Standing Prerequisite(s): COM 207, 357, 387

## COM 408 Media and Journalism Practicum

This capstone in Media and Journalism builds upon the skills students have developed throughout their coursework, including planning, writing, production, and editing. Students will synthesize various skills and work as a team to produce multimedia storytelling projects within the local community. Students will have the opportunity to create advanced-level work, cooperate as a team, and reflect on their role as media storytellers. \*This course meets ILO 2.2 (reflective thinking and valuing in the discipline). Restriction(s): Senior standing Prerequisite(s): COM 358 and either COM 306 or COM 368

## COM 409 Advertising Capstone

This course is the culmination of previous advertising coursework. Students will develop a professional advertising campaign. The emphasis will be on developing sound strategies and rationales, creativity, and the use of multiple media channels.

## COM 410 Human Comm Seminar

## COM 415 Communication Training and Development

This capstone course challenges students to apply theoretical and practical understanding of interpersonal communication to professional situations. Using problem-based learning, students will identify communication needs and propose informed recommendations. As part of the course, students will also reflect on their own communication patterns and identify factors related to increased competencies for interpersonal and professional success. This course meets ILO 2.2 (reflective thinking and valuing in the discipline). Restriction(s): Senior standing Prerequisite(s): COM 102, COM 205

## COM 444 Research in COM I

This course provides the student with an opportunity to do research with a faculty member. The student and the faculty member agree on the research project before the student registers for the course.

## COM 445 Research in COM II

This course is a continuation of the 444 research course. It provides the student with an opportunity to continue to conduct research with a faculty member.

## COM 450 Cooperative Education

This experience is normally a full-time, paid employment in a cooperating firm to provide on-the-job training (part-time positions at least six months in duration may qualify). The course requires meetings with the faculty supervisor, reflection papers, and interaction and evaluation by the site supervisors. Position must be approved by Department Chair.

Restriction(s): Junior or Senior status, 2.75 GPA, approval of Department Chair

## COM 451 Co-op Education II

## COM 458 Production Seminar

## COM 461 Internship

Students may intern in communication industries. Working approximately 15 hours a week under professional supervision, students learn how to apply their education to the everyday demands of professional positions. The course requires meetings with the faculty supervisor, reflection papers, and interaction and evaluation by the site supervisors. Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior standing, 2.75 GPA, and recommendation of the Chair.

## COM 462 Internship

Students may intern in communication industries. Working approximately 15 hours a week under professional supervision, students learn how to apply their education to the everyday demands of professional positions. The course requires meetings with the faculty supervisor, reflection papers, and interaction and evaluation by the site supervisors. Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior standing, 2.75 GPA, and recommendation of the Chair.

## COM 463 Internship

Students may intern in communication industries. Working approximately 15 hours a week under professional supervision, students learn how to apply their education to the everyday demands of professional positions. The course requires meetings with the faculty supervisor, reflection papers, and interaction and evaluation by the site supervisors. Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior standing, 2.75 GPA, and recommendation of the Chair.

## COM 464 Internship IV

## COM 465 Internship V

## COM 466 Internship VI

## COM 470 Special Topics

## COM 471 Special Topics

## COM 472 Special Topics

## COM 476 Special Topics

## COM 480 Independent Study