

Communication: OPEN COURSES ~ Fall Quarter 2019, Winter 2020, and Spring Quarter 2020

COMM 101M: Media Production Lab: Communication and Computers

This course introduces students to computers as media of communication. Each quarter students participate in a variety of networking activities designed to show the interactive potential of the medium. Fieldwork designed to teach basic methods is combined with readings designed to build a deeper theoretical understanding of computer-based communication.

COMM 102C: Practicum in New Media and Community Life

A combined lecture/lab in a specially designed after-school setting in southeastern San Diego working with children and adults. Students design new media and produce special projects, and explore issues related to human development, social justice, and community life

COMM 103E: Communication and Media: History of Electronic Media

This course considers the social, cultural, economic, and technological contexts that have shaped electronic media, from the emergence of radio and television to their convergence through the Internet, and how these pervasive forms of audiovisual culture have impacted American society

COMM 104D: Comparative Media Systems: Asia

The development of media systems in Asia, focusing on India and China. Debates over nationalism, regionalism, globalization, new technologies, identity politics, censorship, privatization, and media piracy. Alignments and differences with North American and European media systems will also be considered.

COMM 104E: Comparative Media Systems: Europe

The development of media systems and policies in Europe. Differences between European and American journalism. Debates over the commercialization of television. The role of media in postcommunist societies in Eastern Europe.

COMM 105G: Communication Technologies: Computer Games Studies

Course considers computer games both as media and as sites of communication. Games are studied through hands-on play and texts from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Course encompasses commercial, academic, and independent games.

COMM 105M: Communication Technologies: Mobile Communication

Movement is central to our lives. This course draws on the latest research into how we travel, trade, and move. Diverse topics will be covered, including kids in cars, the New York subway, and theories of mobility.

COMM 106T: Communication Industries: Television Culture and the Public

How and what does television communicate? Emphasis will be on contemporary US television programming, placed in comparative and historical context. Special topics may include: TV genres, TV and politics, TV and other media. Frequent in-class screenings.

COMM 106V: Communication Industries: TV Industry

Course examines political economy of television throughout its history. How TV is made, who is involved, how is industry organized, how does it get regulated, distributed? Consider how these answers changed over time and look at recent influences of digital technologies.

COMM 108A: Politics of Bodies: Introduction

How do political contests and debates come to be organized on and around bodies? In what sense is the natural body a sign system and how does its organization represent and reproduce cultural values, moral assumptions, social relations, and economic rationales? This course examines these and other questions through political, historical, and media analysis.

COMM 108G: Politics of Bodies: Gender and Biomedicine

Historical and cultural aspects of media, information, imaging technology use in biomedical research, clinical care, health communication to constructions of gender and identity. We approach the subject through audiovisual texts and writings from fields including science and technology studies and cultural studies.

COMM 110P: Language, Literacy, Communication: Language and Human Communication

This course examines the interaction of language and culture in human communication. Beginning with language evolution, the course then discusses a broad range of human languages, including indigenous languages, sign languages, and hybrid languages spoken in urban centers.

COMM 110T: Language, Literacy, Communication: Language, Thought, and Media

This course examines the ways in which various communicative channels mediate human action and thought. A basic premise of the course is that human thought is shaped in important ways by the communicative devices used to communicate. There is a particular emphasis on how thought develops, both historically and in the individual.

COMM 111A: Communication/Cultural Production: Communication and Cultural Production: Introduction

This course examines the products of culture industries (e.g., music, television, fashion, food, landscape, architectural design) to analyze, specifically, how culture is consumed and by whom. How are spectators hailed and audiences fostered and shaped? And what is the role of audiences in fostering and shaping cultural forms and products?

COMM 111C: Communication/Cultural Production: Cities and Space

This course offers an introduction to the production of urban space. Cities are produced by sociocultural shifts wrought by migration, technological changes, new forms of production, globalization, and climate change. How is the landscape or built environment of the city shaped by the combined and often contradictory forces of capital, expert knowledge, social movements, and urban dwellers?

COMM 111F: Communication/Cultural Production: Folklore and Communication

Folklore is characterized by particular styles, forms, and settings. Course introduces a range of folklore genres from different cultures, historical periods, oral narrative, material folk arts, dramas, rituals. Study of the relationship between expressive form and social context.

COMM 111T: Communication/Cultural Production: Cultural Politics of Sport

Examine sports as play, performance, competition, an arena where there are politics, culture, power, identity struggles. Establishing the social meanings of sport, we address ethics, race, class, nation, gender, body, science, technology, entertainment industries, commerce, spectatorship, consumption, amateurism, professionalism.

COMM 112C: Interaction and Mediation: The Idea of Childhood

Our understanding of childhood as a stage of innocence is a modern idea. The idea of childhood has not been constant; different cultures, communities, and classes have shaped the integration of children according to their own standards. We examine the different ways that attitudes toward children have changed, how these attitudes have been connected to an understanding of the human being, and how the desires of society and parents are manifested in what they think the child should be.

COMM 112G: Interaction and Mediation: Language and Globalization

The interaction of language and culture in human communication. New and old languages, standard and dialect, dominant and endangered are the special focus. Selected languages as examples of how languages exist in contemporary contexts.

COMM 113T: Intermediate Topics in Communication

Specialized study of communication topics, to be determined by the instructor, for any given quarter. May be taken for credit three times.

COMM 114C: Communication and Social Institutions: On Constitutions

Consider “constitutions” as meaning-making, world-building mechanisms and practices. Explore how constitutions work: as interpretive instruments designed to frame, organize, guide human thought, action, and systems (according to certain rules or principles often represented as divine in origin and universal in effect) and; as ongoing, dynamic interpretative processes that nevertheless congeal in objects, bodies, and social arrangements and are thus considered binding or unalterable.

COMM 114E: Communication and Social Institutions: Gender, Labor, and Culture in the Global Economy

This course introduces students to different theories of globalization and of gender. Against this theoretical background, students critically examine the gendered (and racialized) nature of labor in the production of material, social, and cultural goods in the global economy.

COMM 114F: Communication and Social Institutions: Law, Communication, and Freedom of Expression

Examination of the legal framework of freedom of expression in the United States. Covers fundamentals of First Amendment law studying key cases in historical content. Prior restraint, incitement, obscenity, libel, fighting words, public forum, campaign finance, commercial speech, and hate speech are covered.

COMM 114G: Communication and Social Institutions: Gender and Science

This course will focus on arguments about cognitive differences between men and women in science. We will review current arguments about essential differences, historical beliefs about gender attributes and cognitive ability, and gender socialization into patterns of learning in school.

COMM 114M: Communication and Social Institutions: Communication and the Law

Using classic and modern texts, the course explores fundamental questions of law and political theory: What are rights and where do they come from? What is the balance between freedom and equality, between individual and common goods? These theoretical explorations are then oriented to specifically communication concerns: What is the relationship between privacy and personhood? Between free speech and democracy? Between intellectual property and efficient markets?

COMM 114N: Communication and Social Institutions: Communication and the Law: The Body in Law

This course concentrates on one area of law specific to the concerns of communication: the relationship between privacy, personhood, and bodily autonomy. Using a combination of legal texts, court cases, and theoretical literature, we will consider the changing nature of each dimension of this relationship as the courts have been called upon to adjudicate conflicting claims and visions in matters of reproduction, sexual identity, genetic engineering, and the commodification of body parts.

COMM 114P: Communication and Social Institutions: Public History and Museum Studies

This course will explore the role that “public history”—history as created for general audiences—plays in communicating cultural and national identities by examining museum exhibitions, their controversies, and how material objects mediate interpretations of the past.

Advanced Level Courses

COMM 120I: Advanced Media Production: Social Issues in Media Production

Analyze forms of social issue media production, photography, audio/radio, arts, crafts, web, print zines, political documentary. Students work with several forms of media making: video, audio, web design, and a project in their chosen format.

COMM 120M: Advanced Media Production: Media Stereotypes

An examination of how the media present society’s members and activities in stereotypical formats. Reasons for and consequences of this presentation are examined. Student responsibilities will be (a) participation in measurement and analysis of stereotype presentations. (b) investigating techniques for assessing both cognitive and behavioral effects of such scripted presentations on the users of media.

COMM 120N: Advanced Media Production: News Media Workshop

Designed for students working in student news organizations or off-campus internships or jobs in news, public relations, or public information. A workshop in news writing and news analysis.

COMM 120P: Advanced Media Production: Digital Media in Education

This course develops critical understanding of educational uses of digital media through firsthand experience in public educational settings, and readings/discussions of challenges, benefits, and pitfalls of educational applications of media technology. Three hours/week of fieldwork required.

COMM 120W: Advanced Media Production: Writing for Digital Media

Practice, history, and theory of writing for digital media. Text combines with images, sounds, movement, and interaction. New network technologies (email, blogs, wikis, and virtual worlds) create new audience relationships. Computational processes enable texts that are dynamically configured and more.

COMM 124B: Critical Design Practice/Topic Studio (4)

Course builds on understanding design as political activity. Group work to design quarter-long projects that explore political role of design, include design in built environments, organizations, media technologies. Deepens capacities to design in public, for publics, with publics.

COMM 125: Transparent Society

How have politics, media, and society made visible features of life that were once hidden? From the women's health movement to gay liberation to laws requiring public disclosure, frankness challenges civility, privacy, and taste. How can this be understood?

COMM 127: Problem of Voice

This course will explore the problem of self-expression for members of various ethnic and cultural groups. Of special interest is how writers find ways of describing themselves in the face of others' sometimes overwhelming predilection to describe them.

COMM 128: Education and Global Citizenship

Concepts, possibilities, and dilemmas inherent in the notion of global citizenship. Formulate goals and instructional strategies for global education, expected competence of individuals within society. Examine roles that communication and curriculum play in the formation of identity, language use, and civic responsibility of global citizens.

COMM 129: Race, Nation, and Violence in Multicultural California

How does media representation of race, nation, and violence work? Taking multicultural California as our site, we will explore how social power is embedded in a variety of visual texts, and how media not only represents but also reproduces conflict.

COMM 132: Advanced Topics in Communication, Politics, and Society

Specialized study of communication, politics, and society with topics to be determined by the instructor for any given quarter. May be taken for credit three times.

COMM 133: Television and Citizenship

Television is a contested site for negotiating the rationales of inclusion and exclusion associated with citizenship and national belonging. Historical and contemporary case studies within international comparative contexts consider regulation, civil rights, cultural difference, social movements, new technologies, and globalization.

COMM 137: Black Women Filmmakers

Students examine film and video media produced by black women filmmakers worldwide. This course will use readings from the writings of the filmmakers themselves as well as from film studies, women's studies, literature, sociology, and history.

COMM 138: Black Women, Feminism, and Media

This course examines the challenges that arise in using feminist theory to understand black women's experience in Africa and the United States. It also looks at the mass media and popular culture as arenas of black feminist struggle.

COMM 140: Cinema in Latin America

Analysis of the changing content and sociopolitical role in Latin America of contemporary media, including the "new cinema" movement, recent developments in film, and popular television programming, including the telenovela. Examples drawn from Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, and other countries.

COMM 143: Science Fiction

Focuses on science fiction's critical investigation of history, identity, and society across a range of media forms, including film, television, and literature.

COMM 144: American Television in the 1970s

Course will explore the politics and culture of the 1970s through the lens of network television programming and the decade's most provocative sitcoms, dramas, variety shows, and news features. Students will analyze television episodes and read relevant media studies scholarship.

COMM 145: History, Memory, and Popular Culture

What role does popular culture play in shaping and creating our shared memory of the past? The course examines diverse sources such as school textbooks, monuments, holidays and commemorations, museums, films, music, and tourist attractions.

COMM 146: Advanced Topics in Cultural Production

Specialized advanced study in cultural production with topics to be determined by the instructor for any given quarter. May be taken for credit three times.

COMM 162: Advanced Studies in Cultural Industries

We examine how people interact with products of popular culture, production of cultural goods by looking at conditions in cultural industries. We examine film, music, publishing, focusing on how production is organized, what kind of working conditions arise, how products are distributed.

COMM 163: Concepts of Freedom

This course examines some of the changing cultural, social, technological, and political meanings; practices; and aspirations that together constitute what is and has been called *freedom*.

COMM 168: Bilingual Communication

This course is designed to introduce students to multiple settings where bilingualism is the mode of communication. Examination of how such settings are socially constructed and culturally based. Language policy, bilingual education, and linguistic minorities, as well as field activities included.

COMM 169: Deaf Culture in the U.S.

The relationship between small groups and dominant culture is studied by exploring the world of deaf people who have for the past twenty years begun to speak as a cultural group. Issues of language, communication, self-representation, and social structure are examined.

COMM 170: Biography and Life Stories

Course examines several different ways of telling stories as a form of communication: our own life and about the lives of others. There are also the occasions that the life stories of ordinary people are told at and celebrated, for example, funerals, Festschrifts, retirement dinners, fiftieth-anniversary parties, and retrospective art shows.

COMM 172: Advanced Topics in Mediation and Interaction

Specialized advanced study in mediation and interaction with topics to be determined by the instructor for any given quarter. May be taken three times for credit.

COMM 174: Communication and Social Machines

An examination of the questions that developments in robotics pose to the scholars of communication: How do we communicate when our interlocutors are nonhumans? How do we study objects that are claimed to be endowed with social and affective character?

COMM 175: Cultures of Consumption

This course examines the cultural politics of consumption across time and cultures through several concepts: commodity fetishism; conspicuous consumption; taste; class; and identity formation; consumption's psychological, phenomenological, and poetic dimensions; and contemporary manifestations of globalization and consumer activism.

COMM 176: Communication and Religion

The secularization thesis—that as society becomes more modern and standards of living rise, the importance of religion will diminish and be confined to the private sphere—may be wrong. We address religion, communication, culture, and politics in the United States.

COMM 177: Culture, Domination, and Resistance

Explores theories and narratives of cultural power, contemporary practices of resistance. Texts from a wide range of disciplines consider how domination is enacted, enforced, and what modes of resistance are employed to contend with uses and abuses of political power.

COMM 180: Advanced Studies in Communication Theory

How are messages created, transmitted, and received? What is the relationship between thinking and communicating? How are linguistic processes embedded in sociocultural practices? Course discusses classic texts in the field of communication theory stemming from linguistics, semiotics, philosophy of language, literary theory.

COMM 183: Global Economy and Consumer Culture

This course critically examines social and economic forces that shape the making of this new global consumer culture by following the flows of consumption and production between the developed and developing worlds in the 1990s. We will consider how consumers, workers, and citizens participate in a new globalized consumer culture that challenges older distinctions between the First and the Third World. In this course, we will focus on the flows between the United States, Asia, and Latin America.

COMM 184: Global Nature/Global Culture

Considers globalization's impact on concepts of nature in and through media texts, information systems, circulation of consumer goods and services, the emergence of global brands, science, health initiatives, and environmental media activism, technology transfer in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.