

Communication (COM)

COM 105 Forensic Activities

1-3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

Students are eligible to earn a maximum of 4 credit hours, with a yearly limit of 2 hours. These hours are earned through active participation in forensic activities, carefully designed to offer students valuable contest speaking experiences and the opportunity to hone their skills in specific areas of speech concentration.

COM 115 Speech

IAI – C2 900

3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

3 hours weekly (3-0)

COM 115 combines communication theory with the practice of oral communication skills. This course: (1) develops awareness of the communication process; (2) provides inventional, organizational, and expressive strategies; (3) promotes understanding of an adaptation to a variety of communication contexts; and (4) emphasizes critical skills in listening, reading, thinking, and speaking. Students are expected to prepare and give at least three substantial speeches, including both informative and persuasive speech assignments. All classes require face-to-face performance of the three substantial speeches with the class and the instructor serving as an in-class audience.

COM 116 Interpersonal Communication

3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

3 hours weekly (3-0)

Study of communication theory and its application to interpersonal relations. Relationship skills will be explored, analyzed, and practiced. Among the topics covered are the communication process, the self as communicator, listening, verbal and nonverbal communication, cooperation and conflict management. Students will also develop their individual interpersonal communication skills by increasing their knowledge of behavioral choices in both personal and professional relationships.

COM 140 Argumentation and Debate

IAI – MC 905

3 Hours

Prerequisites: COM 115 or 116

3 hours weekly (3-0)

Principles of reasoning, critical thinking, argumentation, and advocacy and their expression in a variety of media. Students will develop an understanding of how arguments function to influence attitudes, values, and behaviors in our public culture with an emphasis on the nature of argument, proofs and evidence, constructing arguments, fallacies of argument, and the use of logical and persuasive reasoning.

COM 170 Nonverbal Communication

3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

3 hours weekly (3-0)

This course examines the profound and overlooked contribution of nonverbal behavior to the communication processes. This course explores how body movements, facial expressions, eye behavior, chronemics, the environment, space, and dress impact communication. Nonverbal communication can

determine the effectiveness and well-being of our intimate, social, and working relationships. The importance of the cultural context of nonverbal communication will also be reviewed.

COM 180 Intercultural Communication

3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

3 hours weekly (3-0)

Through a combination of theoretical concepts, practical strategies, and real-world examples, students will develop cultural empathy, awareness, and communication competence. The course examines the impact of cultural differences on communication patterns, interpersonal dynamics, and conflict resolution, preparing students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and multicultural world.

COM 200 Small Group Communication

3 Hours

Prerequisites: COM 115 or COM 116

3 hours weekly (3-0)

This course explores the communication processes that occur in small groups. Students will study and apply communication theory in order to enhance their effectiveness as small group communicators. Focus is given to group formation, group membership, and decision-making and problem-solving procedures.

COM 201 Writing for Mass Media

IAI – MC 919

3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

3 hours weekly (3-0)

Introduction to news writing includes basic techniques of news gathering, reporting, interviewing, computer-assisted reporting, editing, and layout. Some course-work may be published in the student newspaper, The Volunteer.

COM 202 Writing for Mass Media II

3 Hours

Prerequisites: JRN 201

3 hours weekly (3-0)

A continuation of news gathering and writing skills. Coursework will be published in The Volunteer student newspaper. Assignments include investigative re-reporting, computer-assisted reporting, and a site visit to a local media outlet.

COM 210 New Media Production Practicum

1-4 Hours

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

2-8 hours weekly

Students earn credit by joining The Volunteer newspaper staff, increasing their proficiency in one or more of the tasks required to produce consistently a high-quality student newspaper. Volunteer staff members gain an understanding of the collaborative nature of newspaper work through active participation in one or more of the following areas: newswriting, editing, news photography, design, layout, and/or advertising. Students use the resources available in and outside the newsroom to increase their skills.

COM 215 Introduction to New Media

IAI – MC 911

3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

3 hours weekly (3-0)

This is an introduction to the various types of mass media, their effect on the public, their development, and ways in which the consumer can be perceptive and discriminating.

COM 219 Visual Journalism

*IAI – *Pending IAI Approval*

3 Hours

Prerequisites: ART 296

4 hours weekly (2-2)

This course explores the intersection of photojournalism and various digital and print platforms. Students will develop essential skills in photography, video production, and multimedia storytelling. The course emphasizes practical application, ethical considerations, and the creation of compelling visual narratives for diverse media outlets and platforms.

COM 280 Communication Studies Practicum

3 Hours

Prerequisites: Instructor Permission

3 hours weekly (3-0)

This course provides an overview of the concepts, methods, and tools by which communication and social science research is designed, conducted, interpreted, and critically evaluated. Students will design, justify, propose, collect data, and present the findings of a socio-scientific study.