

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

5/2/08

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL SEMESTER, 2007

(All courses carry 3-credits unless otherwise indicated)

*Course Eligibilities are as of April 2007 and are subject to change.

611: INTRODUCTION TO THEORIES AND CONCEPTS OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION

Cooks 415 Machmer

Seminar. This course explores the role and function of theory in the field of communication as well as the processes through which theories are built, applied, tested and critiqued. The course will delve briefly into the historical roots of the discipline; we'll discuss the philosophy of scientific thought as it applies to the major paradigms of the field and its legacy in current disciplinary practices. The course is an introduction to the variety of perspectives on and assumptions about the phenomenon of communication and should provide students with a guide for assessing the usefulness of these theories in the contexts of their application. Attention will be given to the theoretical diversity of faculty research in panel discussions and faculty presentations. This course is a core requirement for graduate study in the program. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility**: Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

620: QUALITATIVE METHODS IN RESEARCH

West 303 Machmer

This course is designed to a) introduce you to the logic and epistemological underpinnings of qualitative methods, including relationships among research questions, theory, methods, and findings, and b) expose you to practical issues in using qualitative methods. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to: textual analysis, participant observation, interviewing, focus groups, visual analysis, discourse and conversation analysis, case studies, qualitative computing, and research ethics. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility**: Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

621: QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN RESEARCH

Romantan 412 Machmer

Introduction to the structure, process, and logic of quantitative empirical research in communication. Topics covered include research design, measurement, descriptive and inferential statistics, and basic multivariate analysis. Students are expected to acquire an understanding of and the ability to critique various methodological approaches and techniques. Fundamental concepts of data analysis; preparation for further, more advanced courses. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility**: Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

693A: SEMINAR-SILENT CINEMA AND INVENTION OF MASS CULTURE

Shimpach 410 Machmer

This course places the emergence and transformation of the early cinema at the center of changes in commercialized culture and media at the start of the twentieth century. The course will examine and contextualize transformations in narrative and form; modes of production, distribution, and exhibition; political and commercial discourse on the audience; and legal responses to the emerging entertainment form during its first decades. These developments will also be contextualized within the broader emergence of "mass media" amidst transformations in publishing, journalism, advertising, popular music, and nascent forms of broadcasting. As such questions of cultural history, critical political economy, textuality, and the place of popular culture will figure prominently. More broadly, we shall also ask questions about historiography, examine theories of the experience of modernity, and consider the role of the Progressive reform movement. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility**: Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

693B: SEMINAR-FILM/VIDEO CURATING PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Ciecko 306 Machmer

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

Lecture, discussion, lab (screening). This seminar concentrates on the politics and practices of public screening events, especially international/multicultural film festivals and issues of community outreach. Course readings will also address relevant theory. Students will be required to attend the Wednesday evening New Asia Cinema film screenings, as well as occasional other local screening events. Assessment will likely be based on a combination of hands-on and analytical projects, presentations and class participation. (Course capacity is 10).

Course Eligibility*: Doctoral & Masters Graduate students

791C: SEMINAR-MODERNISM & INEQUALITY

Chakravartty 305 Machmer

This seminar will explore current theoretical debates about modernity, inequality and citizenship in the context of neo-liberal economic integration. Globalization has reinforced and created new inequalities, both in its material and existential forms around gender, race, class and recognition of citizenship. The seminar will cover a number of interdisciplinary perspectives on new inequalities as well as a range of empirical ethnographic studies set in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition to weekly readings, students will be expected to write a substantive literature review or an original research paper related to the materials covered in class. Class open to graduate students in Communication and to graduate students in other fields with backgrounds in globalization, development and social theory. (Course capacity is 10)

Course Eligibility*: Doctoral & Masters Graduate COMM majors

794A: SEMINAR-CONTENT ANALYSIS

Scharrer 309 Machmer

Students will be introduced to the principles and practice of quantitative content analysis research in this workshop-type seminar. We will learn how to conduct systematic explorations of patterns in media content and will conduct one or two content analyses from conceptualization to execution and from data analysis to writing up results and discussion. The goal is to present the ensuing studies at a major conference and/or submit them to a journal. Prerequisite: COMM 621, Quantitative Research Methods. (Course capacity is 10)

Course Eligibility*: Doctoral & Masters Graduate COMM majors

795G: SEMINAR-THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AS ACTION AND PERFORMANCE

Gencarella 414 Machmer

This course examines the historical development of theories of language as action, social semiotics, and performance. These perspectives stand as a corrective to the study of language and communication as an abstract system; topics throughout these works emphasize language as socially constituted and socially constituting. The first half of the course concerns major contributions to this perspective in Europe and the U.S.A. from the late 1800s to the 1960s. The second half of the course focuses on the continuation of these ideas in the development of the ethnography of speaking and performance studies. Readings derive from literary, linguistic, rhetorical, sociological, and anthropological approaches and include Nietzsche, Saussure, the Bakhtin Circle, the Prague School, Kenneth Burke, J. L. Austin, Derrida, Habermas, Raymond Williams, Dell Hymes, John Gumperz, and Richard Bauman. (Course capacity is 10)

Course Eligibility*: Doctoral & Masters Graduate COMM majors