

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

04/02/07 ☒

UNDERGRADUATE 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.

118: INTRODUCTION TO INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Cronen 304 Machmer

Lecture. Our focus will be on acquiring a principled understanding of everyday, person-to-person interaction conceived as the process by which we create, maintain, and manage social experience. (Course capacity is LEC 1 (COMM)= 100, LEC 2 (Freshmen & Sophomores)=200/Total=300--Lecture 1 and Lecture 2 meet at the same time in the same room.

Course Eligibility*: LEC 1=Students who are already COMM majors, LEC 2=Freshmen & Sophomores.

Course Notes: COMM 118 is one of the 2 COMM courses that are prerequisites for applying to the COMM major. (The other prerequisite courses are COMM 121 and any "R2" course.)

121: INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA AND CULTURE

Henderson 312 Machmer

Lecture. This course is an introduction to the social and cultural roles of mass media in advanced, industrial Western societies (primarily in the U.S.), focusing on how media and their surrounding economic framework affect cultural, political, and ideological processes. We will examine a range of media forms in social historical context (including print, telegraphy, cinema, broadcasting, cable, and computing), and will also consider different theoretical approaches to the study of media influence, the formation of meaning, and cultural power. (Course capacity is LEC 1 (COMM)= 100, LEC 2 (Freshmen & Sophomores)=200/ Total= (Course capacity is LEC 1 (COMM)= 100, LEC 2 (Freshmen & Sophomores)=200/ Total= 300—Lecture 1 and Lecture 2 meet at the same time in the same room.

Course Eligibility*: LEC 1=Students who are already COMM majors, LEC 2=Freshmen & Sophomores.

Course Notes: COMM 121 is one of the 2 COMM courses that are prerequisites for applying to the COMM major. (The other prerequisite courses are COMM 118 and any "R2" course.)

222: MEDIA PROGRAMMING AND INSTITUTIONS

Morgan 401 Machmer

Lecture. An introduction to the entire media programming process, with a special focus on the institutional structures and constraints that shape the content of the electronic media. We will consider a variety of historical, technological, cultural, legal, political, economic, ethical, and other factors that influence programming, especially in terms of how they are playing out on the currently unfolding media scene. We will explore dynamic interactions among communications institutions and industries, new technologies, and governmental and other regulatory bodies, all in terms of their impact on the production, distribution, and consumption of electronic media content. (Course capacity is 229)

Course Eligibility*: COMM & Undeclared majors or students who have already taken COMM 118 or 121.

231: FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION CONCEPTS

Geisler 411 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This class provides an overview of film and television production principles and processes from script to screen and also prepares students for later hands-on production courses. We will explore both the art and craft of film and video production, including the roles and functions of the major creative and technical personnel in the scripting/ pre-production, production and post-production phases. Technical aspects such as digital vs. analog media, lighting, lenses, types of film and videotape, crew organization and function, editing concepts, sound recording, etc. will be discussed, as well as creative functions such as dramatic and documentary structure, creating characters, acting for the screen, visualization and composition for the camera and more. (Course capacity is 150)

Course Eligibility*: COMM & Undeclared majors or students who have already taken COMM 118 or 121.

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

Course Notes: Formerly numbered COMM 297D. If you have already taken COMM 297D you cannot take this course. Honors Colloquium available.

240: MODES OF FILM COMMUNICATION

Shimpach 408 Machmer

Lecture, lab (screening). The nature and functions of film, including narrative and non-narrative approaches to film communication. Topics will include: the components of film expression (composition, movement, editing, sound, directing, and acting); designs in screen narrative; film's relationship to other arts and media; and the role of film as an instrument of social reflection and change. (Course capacity is 150)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Communication majors only.

250: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (FOR NON-MAJORS ONLY!)

(SB) Staff

Lecture, discussion. Focus on acquiring a principled understanding of person-to-person interaction conceived as the process by which we create, maintain, and manage social reality. Beginning from this perspective the course will provide the vocabulary and concepts that will enable the student to account for, analyze, and evaluate current interpersonal communication practice. (Course capacity is 50 Total/2 sections @ 25)

Course Eligibility*: For Non-majors.

Course Notes: Students who are planning to apply to the COMM major should take COMM 118, not COMM 250.

260: PUBLIC SPEAKING

Staff

Lecture, lab. Theory of speech composition, presentation, and evaluation, and its relation to public discourse. Application of theory through the presentation of several speeches. Requirements include frequent in-class speaking assignments and related practices. (Course capacity is 100 Total/4 sections @ 25)

Course Eligibility*: COMM majors & Senior Non-majors

287: ADVERTISING AS SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Jhally 302 Machmer

Lecture 1 will be taught on-campus/face-to-face. Lecture 2 will be taught "On-Line" with IN-CLASS exams. This course looks at advertising from the viewpoint of SOCIAL THEORY, that is, of how we can understand advertising's broad political, economic, social, and cultural role in modern society. The course will broadly examine the social role of advertising in consumer societies with a central focus on advertising's mediation of the modern person/object relationship, the satisfaction of needs, the constitution of popular culture, and the process of socialization. A wide-ranging theory locating advertising as a crucial institution at the intersection of media, popular culture, and industry will be developed. This course is NOT a course in HOW to advertise. It does not approach advertising from a practitioner's viewpoint. (Course capacity is Lec 1 = 230 and Lec 2 = 470 = Total of 700)

Course Eligibility*: Any student

Course Notes: Lecture 1 will be taught on campus.

Lecture 2 of this course is being taught principally in an on-line format. All lectures will be available as streaming video on the internet. A high-speed connection is required. There will be two in-class mid-term exams and a final exam that students have to attend on the UMass-Amherst campus. Go to "www.comm287.com" at the start of the Fall Semester for instructions on how the course will proceed. All relevant information will be provided to students via their UMass email address (@student.umass.edu). Students have the responsibility of regularly checking mail at this address.

296F: INDSTU-Film Festival

Ciecko 306 Machmer

This is a 1-credit Mandatory Pass/Fail course

Film screening. This semester's festival colloquium will be held in conjunction with the annual New Asia Cinema series. The theme for Fall 2007 is youth in cinema from Asia and the Middle East. To earn 1 credit (pass/fail), students are required to attend at least 7 festival events and complete surveys at the end of the screenings. (Course capacity is 50)

Course Eligibility*: All majors; no prerequisites

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

297A: SPECIAL TOPIC-INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL COMMUNICATION

Geddes 307B Machmer

Lecture. This course uses a comparative approach to analyze global communication and develop a conceptual framework for understanding the media around the world as cultural industries with implications for democracy, cultural identity, and social change. Background in Communication and/or International Relations/Area Studies preferred but not required.

*Course Eligibility**: COMM & Undeclared majors or students who have already taken COMM 118 or COMM 121.

297G: SPECIAL TOPIC-MEDIA, GOVERNANCE AND POWER

Chakravartty 305 Machmer

Lecture. As the media have become an increasingly central component of our everyday lives, it becomes more and more important to understand how national and international politics and economics shape the development and use of communications technologies and mass media in society. This course will provide students with an introduction to political economic and institutional approaches to communication as a field of study. We will take a historical perspective and cover a wide range of media technologies—the telegraph, print newspapers, radio, cinema, television, the Internet and mobile media—and trace shifts in patterns of regulation from the rise of colonialism to the current era of globalization. Students will be expected to attend lectures regularly and keep up with weekly readings. (Course capacity is 229)

*Course Eligibility**: COMM & Undeclared majors or students who have already taken COMM 118 or 121.

297P: ST-CAREER WORKSHOP

Joyner Career Services/Goodell Bldg.

This is a 1-credit Mandatory Pass/Fail course

*Course Eligibility**: Senior & Junior College of Social & Behavioral Science majors

318: COMPARATIVE COMMUNICATION THEORY

Chang 310 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. Current approaches to communication theory. Emphasis on a comparative approach to communication problems, and on a critical analysis of theoretical foundations. Theories considered include: systems theory, 20th-century rhetorics, reductionism, ethnographic studies, critical indicators, and critical cultural studies. (Course capacity is 25)

*Course Eligibility**: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

331: PROGRAM PROCESS IN TELEVISION

Staff

Course Director: David Maxcy, 120 South College

Lecture, studio. Introduction to concepts and techniques of television production, through lectures, lab exercises, and guided production projects. All 3 sections will meet together once a week for a 50-minute lecture with the course director. Each section will then meet once a week for a 3-hour lab session. (Course capacity is 36)

*Course Eligibility**: Open to Senior, Junior & Sophomore Communication majors

340: HISTORY OF FILM I

Norden 409 Machmer

Lecture, lab (screening). A survey of key events and representative films that mark the history of motion pictures in the United States and other countries to 1950. In addition to identifying and providing access to major works, the course is designed to facilitate the study of the various influences (industrial, technological, aesthetic, social, cultural, and political) that have shaped the evolution of the medium to the advent of television. (Course capacity is 50)

*Course Eligibility**: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

375: WRITING AS COMMUNICATION

Staff

Lecture, discussion, lab. Development and improvement of the student's writing, research, and critical-thinking skills. Frequent writing/editing assignments. Writing/discussion will focus on contemporary issues in communication and their larger cultural contexts. Fulfills COMM writing requirement. Double majors may fulfill their COMM writing requirement by fulfilling the requirement in their other major. (Course capacity is 120 Total/6 sections @ 20)

*Course Eligibility**: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

Course Notes: Restricted to Communication Seniors and Juniors only.

387: ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AS SOCIAL CONTROL

Jhally 302 Machmer

On-Line with IN-CLASS exams. This course looks at how the industries of advertising and public relations have been used as instruments of social control by economic and political elites. Examined will be the following: the historical roots of the public relations industry in government propaganda efforts; the contemporary influence of the public relations industry on public debate of

description continued on next page--

387: ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AS SOCIAL CONTROL (continued)

social issues; the role of public relations in distorting discussion of the military/industrial complex; the effects of structuring media systems around the needs of advertisers; the role advertising plays in constructing children as consumers; and the role of advertising and public relations in limiting the debate around tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs. (Course capacity is 300)

Course Eligibility*: Any student

Course Prerequisite: COMM 287

Course Notes: Comm 387 is being taught principally in an on-line format. All lectures will be available as streaming video on the internet. A high-speed connection is required. There will be one in-class mid-term exam and a final exam that students have to attend on the UMass-Amherst campus. Go to "www.comm387.com" at the start of the Fall Semester for instructions on how the course will proceed. All relevant information will be provided to students via their UMass email address (@student.umass.edu). Students have the responsibility of regularly checking mail at this address.

393C: SEMINAR-ISSUES IN WORLD CINEMA

Ciecko 306 Machmer

Lecture, lab (Screening). The topic this semester is youth in cinema from Asia and the Middle East with representations of children, teens, and young adults from a variety of countries and cultural contexts. In addition to twice-weekly class meetings, students will be required to attend the Wednesday evening New Asia Cinema film screenings. Assessment will likely be based on a combination of short written work addressing screenings and readings, group presentation/project, tests/quizzes, and class participation. (Course capacity is 40)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

393D: INTERMEDIATE VIDEO: DOCUMENTARY PRACTICE

Hillman (5-College Film Faculty)

Lecture, studio. An intermediate course in the theory and practice of documentary video and film. Students will acquire practical and critical skills through analyzing the development of theoretical discourses that frame past and current issues surrounding the production and interpretation of documentary films. Students will complete several collaborative and individual video production assignments. Prerequisite: an introductory level video production course. Instructor permission required. Contact bhillman@hampshire.edu to request an application. Enrollment with permission of instructor by application only. Application deadline: April 13, 2007. (Course capacity is 10)

Course Eligibility*: Permission of instructor--application is required. Students cannot add this course through SPIRE.

Course Prerequisite: Permission of instructor--application is required.

397B: SPECIAL TOPIC-INTRODUCTION TO STUDIO DIRECTING

Maxcy 120 South College

Lecture, studio. Students will learn basic concepts and techniques of studio television production, with a focus on directing live programs in a full-scale studio facility on the UMASS campus. The course includes lecture presentations, production exercises, script-writing projects, and studio production projects. Each student will write, produce, and direct two live studio productions. (Course capacity is 10)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior, Junior & Sophomore Communication majors only.

Course Notes: *If have taken COMM 433 you CANNOT take this course.*

397FF: SPECIAL TOPIC-MYTH, RITUAL AND PERFORMANCE

Gencarella 414 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This course does not focus on a specific body of myths or rituals. Rather, it examines theories of myth and ritual and the implications of their performances within specific cultural contexts and as a means to construct meaning and power in society. Myth is treated here broadly, from narratives about divinities and the cosmos in antiquity to contemporary advertising practices; ritual practices are likewise considered in a wide range, from nods of the head to elaborate religious festivals. Students will engage the work of professional mythologists and ritual scholars (such as Claude Levi-Strauss, Walter Burkert, Marcel Detienne, Arnold van Gennep, and Victor Turner), as well as that of communication, language, and social theorists who draw heavily upon myth and ritual studies (such as Friedrich Nietzsche, Ernst Cassirer, Roland Barthes, Kenneth Burke, and Giorgio Agamben). Required texts are volumes by William Doty and Catherine Bell; students are required to complete several response papers, including a brief ethnographic study.

Lecture, discussion. (Course capacity is 43)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

397J: SPECIAL TOPIC-MEDIA AND PUBLIC POLICY

Castaneda 311 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This course examines communication public policy across a variety of media industries in the U.S., but emphasizes broadcast media and its relationship to the Federal Communications Commission. Students will examine, theoretically and empirically, how public policy processes, rules and regulations, and public debate impact the political, economic and cultural character of new and traditional media systems. Some topics include children's television and violence, ownership rules and localism, and digital media policies. Requirements include two exams, weekly journals, and a group research project. (Course capacity is 43).

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

Course Notes: Recommended pre-Courses-COMM 222, 226, 334, or 287.

397M: SPECIAL TOPIC-NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Fuentes (New Faculty beginning in the Fall 2007)

Lecture, discussion. This course addresses main debates and perspectives on the economic and social transformation associated with the spread of new media technologies, from various forms of collaborative and social software, to mobile phones and wireless broadband delivery systems. Assuming a social shaping of technology approach, we will examine topics such as: peer to peer networks and emerging forms of social production; mobile phones, social networks and social protest; and broadband delivery systems, social inequalities and the digital divide. The course will provide participants with tools to critically assess and engage these debates, identifying their implications for social research and public policy. Grading will be based on class participation, individual short assignments, and a group project and presentation. (Course capacity is 43)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

397NN: SPECIAL TOPIC-RACE, GENDER AND THE SITCOM

Shabazz (New Faculty beginning in the Fall 2007)

Lecture, discussion. This course examines the situation comedy from sociological and artistic perspectives. We will seek, first of all, to understand how situation-comedy is a rich and dynamic meaning-producing genre within the medium of television. Secondly we will work to dissect narrative structures, and the genre's uses of mise-en-scene, cinematography/videography, editing, and sound to create specific images of the family through social constructions of race, class, and gender. In addition we will use various critical methods such as semiotics, genre study, ideological criticism, cultural studies, and so on to interrogate why the sitcom form since its inception in the 1950s has remained one of the most popular genres for audiences and industry personnel alike and assess what the genre might offer us in terms of a larger commentary on notions of difference and identity in the US and beyond. (Course capacity is 43)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

397SS: SPECIAL TOPIC-YOUTH, DEMOCRACY AND THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES

Saxe

Lecture, discussion. The entertainment industries are inordinately focused on young people as they represent a tremendous market force. Yet how do the imperatives of this market-driven media culture correspond with principles of

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

democracy? As an action research course, the mapping of key features of this terrain --- youth socialization, advertising and consumption; media oligopoly and cross-marketing; cultural appropriation and hip hop; cable, the internet and government regulation -- will guide applied research around particular sites of power we've identified. This may include an assessment of youth aggregate purchasing power in Massachusetts, Comcast costs and profits, university investments in the entertainment industries, and a survey of political initiatives for media democracy. (Course capacity is 30)

Course Eligibility*: Senior & Junior COMM majors

397TT: SPECIAL TOPIC-PERFORMANCE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Cooks 315 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. A performance-approach to identity, difference and culture is unique in its connection of meaning, symbols, and representation with the sensory, emotional, and physical experiences of different bodies. This course focuses on interventions in cultural process that create difference, rather than looking for precise definitions and descriptions of racial, gender, class, sexuality, etc. as categories that make up identities. One objective of the course is to introduce the key ideas of performance studies and the range of human diversity through a study of performance. The second is to develop a critical perspective on performance as practices of tremendous significance for the constitution and renegotiation of society and identity. The course hopes to inspire students to look at the social worlds they contribute to in new ways, and to use performance as a means for social justice and social change. Course assignments: quizzes, in-class performances, paper. CSL/Honors credit optional for community project (see instructor). (Course capacity is 43)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

397U: SPECIAL TOPIC-CHILDREN, TEENS AND MEDIA

Scharrer 309 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This course will explore the use of media (radio, television, Internet, video games, magazines, etc.) among young people, primarily in the United States, and discuss the role of media consumption in the formation of thoughts, attitudes, and behavior in children and teens. Among the topics discussed will be the amount of time young people spend with media, preferred content and opinions about media, and media effects on socialization. Developmental changes in childhood and adolescence will be explored in relation to relationships formed with media. Students will read original research projects in addition to chapters in the text, will work in groups to propose their own research study, and will make fairly extensive class presentations. (Course capacity is 43)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

441: PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES OF FILM-STYLE PRODUCTION

Geisler 411 Machmer

Lecture, studio. A hands-on introduction to single-camera filmmaking using digital video camcorders (electronic field production) or 16mm cameras and non-linear (computer-based) editing. Students will learn concepts of pre-production, shot composition, lighting, visual storytelling, continuity editing, and production & post production audio as they plan, shoot and edit exercises and complete projects. A "real world" editing project (scenes from an episode of "Highlander") will also be included. (Course capacity is 12)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

Course Prerequisites: COMM 297D or COMM 331 or permission of instructor.

Course Notes: Junior and Senior COMM majors who have completed either COMM 231 (formerly COMM 297D) or COMM 331 may add this course through Spire. Others may add only by permission of the instructor.

491A: SEMINAR-MEDIA AND CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

Phillips 406 Machmer

Seminar. This course draws on research and theory in psychology, sociology, gender and cultural studies, and related fields to examine how various forms of media shape our understandings of ourselves and others as gendered beings. We will discuss how media messages not only influence our behaviors, but also permeate our very senses of who we are from early childhood. Through a critical examination of fairy tales, text books, advertisements, magazines, television, movies, and music, students will explore the meanings and impacts of gendered messages as they weave with cultural discourses about race, class, sexuality, disability, age, and culture. (Course capacity is 20)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

491C: SEMINAR-MEDIA & CHILDREN'S CULTURE

Phillips 406 Machmer

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

Seminar. In this seminar, we will consider how children make meaning of and navigate through their complex relationships with media and consumer culture, as well as the implications of those relationships for children's individual and collective well-being. We will draw on social and cultural theory and research to examine a wide range of topics, including: the nature and politics of children's programming; gendered toys and games; the sexualization and commodification of children in advertising; psychological, social, and familial impacts of marketing strategies aimed at children; media portrayals of childhood disorders; depictions of race, class, gender, and sexuality in ads, programming, fairy tales, and classroom materials; cultural, environmental, and health consequences of childhood consumerism; the roles of various media in the construction of adolescent identity; the possibilities of early media literacy; and the lived realities of children around the world whose labor creates the products promoted to children in Western cultures. Throughout the course, we will ask ourselves: What is child culture? How have our cultural constructions of childhood shaped our sense of who children are, what they need, and what type of developmental environments we, as a society, should provide for them?

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

493B: SEMINAR-FILM/VIDEO CURATING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Ciecko 306 Machmer

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*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors, and other students with relevant background and interests with permission of the instructor.

493E: SEMINAR-SCREENWRITING

Geisler 411 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. An examination of the art, craft, and business of screenwriting from theoretical and practical perspectives. Topics include screenplay format and structure, story, plot and character development, dialog and scene description, visual storytelling, pace and rhythm, analysis of professional and student scripts and films, and more. Written work includes three screenwriting projects. The focus is on writing for narrative films and, to a limited extent, TV programs. (Course capacity is 20)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

497E: SPECIAL TOPIC- ADVANCED INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Cronen 304 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. Advanced Interpersonal Communication extends the consideration of particular topics within one theoretical orientation. These topics include language and meaning, identity and selfhood, culture, emotion, aesthetics, and moral obligation. The theoretical orientation was originated by a past and a current member of the University of Massachusetts Communication Department faculty and has become one of the "standard" communication theories. It is called, "Coordinated Management of Meaning." While the theory is oriented to face-to-face communication, we will also consider the implications of it for how people use mass communication. The theory is meant to be used in situated action so, in addition to learning the theory, students will spend a good deal of time using it by means of interview, observation, and text analysis. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

497F: SPECIAL TOPIC-SPANISH-LANGUAGE MEDIA

Castaneda 311 Machmer

Seminar. This advanced course examines the historical development and current transformation of the Spanish-language media industry, particularly in the United States but also across the Americas and the Caribbean. We will examine how political, economic, and cultural constructions of Latinidad are implicated in the production, distribution, and consumption of Spanish-language and Latina/o media, broadly defined. This course will also have a Community Service Learning component that will require outside classroom work. Although Spanish fluency is not required, some

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

knowledge of the language would be extremely helpful since we will be analyzing a large portion of Spanish-language media texts. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Senior & Junior COMM majors and with instructor's permission Spanish/Portuguese majors, and Center for Latin American/Caribbean/Latino Studies certificate students.

497FF: SPECIAL TOPIC-PERSUASION AND PROPAGANDA

Yousman

Lecture, discussion. In this course we will examine the connections between persuasion, propaganda, and coercion. Starting with a critical examination of the history of propaganda, we will then examine the refinement of persuasion techniques during the twentieth century. We will consider various theoretical perspectives on persuasion and discuss how psychological research is used in today's sophisticated marketing campaigns. We will also discuss topics such as political advertising, the role of the persuasion industries in shaping public opinion and public policy, and how visual imagery is increasingly utilized as both persuasion and propaganda. Finally, we will consider how citizens may practice intellectual self-defense in response to the persuasive assaults that we are all subject to on a daily basis. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Senior & Junior COMM majors

497O: SPECIAL TOPIC-MUSIC, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

Geddes 307B Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This course will look at key writings on musical cultures in the United States and around the world with a view toward developing a communication perspective on musical form and practice. We will begin by reviewing the development of Western and Non-western musical traditions with an emphasis on their communicative properties within a wider social cultural context. Musical form and practice will be discussed in relation to technology, economic organization, the constitution of identities and social space (nation, empire, social movements, subcultures, hybrid cultures), and related cultural practices in cinema and television. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Senior & Junior COMM majors

497QQ: SPECIAL TOPIC-COMMUNICATING CULTURE IN ORGANIZATIONS

Suopis

Lecture, discussion. This course explores the organizational communication systems and processes that contribute to the creation, maintenance and change in an organization's culture. Using theories and concepts from cultural discourse and ethnography of communication, lectures, readings and assignments will include a focus on cultural assumptions, meaning, sense-making, values and artifacts that emerge from the interactions of organizational members. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Senior & Junior COMM majors

497TT: SPECIAL TOPIC-POLITICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Chakravartty 305 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This class will focus on the role of work and workers across uneven global information societies, from Silicon Valley to Bangalore as well as on the transnational spaces of migrant "high-skilled" work in between. How do we understand the new terms of work in both information-based economies in the industrialized North and in emerging economies in the South? How do we understand the changing nature of work and the experiences of workers in globalized media industries and information technology (IT) industries? What is the role of trade unions as well as new social movements in representing the interests of traditional and workers in these industries? This course is designed as an upper-level undergraduate seminar with the expectation that students will both read for class and present in class regularly. Evaluation for this class will be based on class presentation, and written assignments including a substantial final research paper. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors and permission of instructor.

*Course Eligibility subject to change, check SPIRE

Course Notes: Class is open to Senior and Junior Communication Majors with a background in global communication as well as Juniors and Seniors from Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology and ST PEC with area interest in the topic.

497UU: SPECIAL TOPIC-ANCIENT RHETORICAL THEORY

Gencarella 414 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This is an advanced, comprehensive seminar, meant especially for students who plan to attend graduate school, who are deeply invested in the subject matter, or who seek a robust intellectual challenge. The course focuses on rhetorical theory within the context of Greece and Rome in antiquity, although it also draws attention to the influence of these works on contemporary communication and social theory, and draws comparison with rhetorical theory of ancient China and India. The emphasis is on primary texts (most now available on the internet): the Sophists, Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, and Augustine, as well as the rearticulation of ancient rhetoric in Vico. The relationship between rhetoric and democracy—and empire—will be a specific topic explored throughout the course. Required texts are the primary readings and a volume by George Kennedy; students are required to complete a term-paper of about thirty pages, plus drafts, throughout the semester. (An additional response paper will be due on the second class meeting; those who do not complete it will be asked to drop the course.) (Course capacity is 20)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only.

497Z: SPECIAL TOPIC-AMERICAN CINEMA IN THE 1970'S

Norden 409 Machmer

Lecture, discussion, lab (screening). This course will examine the relationship of cinema and society during an often overlooked period in U.S. history: the 1970s. Sandwiched between the politically active 1960s and the "Greed is Good" 1980s, the 70s decade witnessed a number of strikingly important events -- most notably, the end of a long and divisive war in southeast Asia, the resignation of a U.S. President in the wake of a far-reaching political scandal, and the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. Upheavals of a different sort rocked the movie industry, including the rise of conglomerate takeovers, the growth of the "blockbuster" film (e.g., *The Godfather*, *Jaws*, *Star Wars*) and the exponentially increasing influence of Hollywood's first wave of college-trained filmmakers. We will explore a range of themes and topics expressed in representative films of the time and attempt to draw connections to the socio-cultural and industrial contexts out of which these films emerged. We will also study the films' influence during the 1970s and thereafter. Requirements will likely include in-class presentations and essay exams. Prerequisites: 6 hours in COMM film courses. (Course capacity is 25)

Course Eligibility*: Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors

Course prerequisite: COMM 240 or COMM 342 or permission of the instructor.