

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

### GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING SEMESTER, 2007

(All courses carry 3-credits unless otherwise indicated)

\*Course Eligibilities are subject to change.

#### **621: QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN RESEARCH**

**Morgan 401 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

#### **691B: SEMINAR IN MEDIA THEORIES**

**Geddes 307B Machmer**

This course is an introductory survey of media theory and research for graduate students. We will examine a range of perspectives on media communication, including the history of "mass society" as a concept in social thought and the evolution of communication technologies and strategies that may no longer be adequately termed "mass media." The course emphasis will be the comparison and critique of theoretical approaches and research traditions, toward understanding both difference and convergence in theory, method and effects. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility:* Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

#### **781: ETHNOGRAPHY OF COMMUNICATION**

**Carbaugh 314 Machmer**

This seminar explores ethnographic inquiry and some of its possibilities for creating insights into all means of human communication. Indeed, several recent ethnographic studies are studies in comparative media, exploring how (e.g.) site, sound, and speech work variably in the conception and evaluation of communication. The course will introduce the basic philosophy, theory and methodology of this approach, with special attention to several recent studies and developments. Various modes of inquiry including descriptive, interpretive, comparative, and critical study will be discussed. Students will engage in ethnographic research as a way of advancing their study of communication.

*Course Eligibility:* Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

#### **791B: SEMINAR-POLITICAL ECONOMY OF COMMUNICATION**

**Castaneda 311 Machmer**

Seminar. What is political economy and how can it be applied to the study of media and communication industries? This course is designed to introduce students to the intellectual history of the political economy of communication industries beginning with the work of EP Thompson, Dallas Smythe, Herbert Schiller and Vincent Mosco, and concluding with contemporary scholarship that reconsiders the structure-culture divide of traditional political economy. Topics for discussion include: commodity formation; ownership and control patterns; the role of the state; consumer culture; labor relations; and information technology & new media policy. Students will be required lead class discussions, submit response essays, and prepare a research paper. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility:* Doctoral, Masters Graduate COMM majors

#### **793G: SEMINAR-ASIAN POPULAR CINEMA**

**Ciecko 306 Machmer**

This course studies popular cinema from Asia and the Asian diasporas, with a special emphasis on questions of genre and gender. Focusing primarily on specific contextual issues of production, exhibition, distribution, and reception, our study of narrative fiction feature films will be comparative, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary. Film genres to be considered include the following: historical epic/biopic; musicals (including Hindi "masala" movies), comedy, melodrama, romance, martial arts/swordplay/samurai films, horror and thriller, sci-fi and fantasy (especially Japanese anime), urban gangster/action films, and "exploitation" genres. Critical and theoretical course readings from film studies and cultural studies will likely deal with questions of the national, transnational, and global; audience/reception studies; stardom and fan culture; feminism, gender studies, and queer theory; genre studies; auteur theory; Asia/Pacific/America studies; postcolonialism and issues of "hybridity"; theories of globalization and diaspora. (Course capacity is 10)

*Course Eligibility:* Doctoral, Masters COMM majors

#### **794B: SEMINAR-CRITICAL PEDAGOGY**

**Cooks 315 Machmer**

Critical pedagogy uses critique of traditional modes of education in the US as a starting point for theoretical and, some would

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argue, practical resistance in schools. Most work on critical pedagogy has emphasized the ideological consequences of power, authority, identity and disabling effects on students and teachers--and has identified points of struggle and resistance as opportunities for learning. This critique has occasionally even taken form through curriculum revision, performance studies and conjointly created (among teachers and students) programs for action on school campuses and in communities. The focus of this course is both on the *critiques offered by critical pedagogy* and on the *pedagogy* of the argument itself. Course work involves readings, discussion and the construction of curricula for the communication field that bring together the concepts discussed in class. (Course capacity is 10)

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

#### **794O: SEMINAR-CONSUMER CULTURE**

**West 303 Machmer**

The notion that contemporary times are characterized in part by a "consumer culture" permeates many vernacular as well as scholarly analyses. In this course we will examine what people mean by the label "consumer culture" and what particular kinds of social arrangements, or social pathologies, this term attempts to capture for analysis or critique. We will aim for empirical and theoretical comparison across historical, cross-cultural, and disciplinary perspectives. The course will examine theories that have been foundational in the analysis of consumer culture while also attending to emerging research in this area. Some of the subtopics that will be considered include: consumerism and/as citizenship, consumerism and media, globalization of consumerism, consumption and identity, ritual and consumption, and the commercialization of ostensibly non-market spheres. Students will undertake original research as one of the requirements for the course. (Course capacity is 10)

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

#### **794U: SEMINAR-POLITICS OF SEXUAL REPRESENTATION**

**Henderson 312 Machmer**

In The History of Sexuality (Part 1) Michel Foucault argues that part of the logic of sex in Western Capitalism is that it is at once denied by the culture of bourgeois propriety and everywhere purveyed as commodity. In Foucault's terms, sex is promoted, controlled and economically rationalized precisely by being deployed against the seductive grains of suppression and taboo. Foucault's insight suggests a complicated set of relations that bear untangling in a cultural analysis of sexual representation, for example between official and unofficial cultures, between representation and social structure, and between sexual pleasure and the discourse of the market. These are among the relationships this seminar will examine, as it moves through current theoretical debates and concrete studies in contemporary sexual politics. Though the course will address such conventionally "sexual" issues as popular, elite and underground images of sexual practice, students are also invited to consider how sexual politics animate other domains of social and cultural life, such as public debates about gay and lesbian people in the military, protective labor legislation which distinguishes between male and female workers, legal discourse on the constitution of the family, or the place of sexuality in constructions of nationhood. The course will draw broadly from the (related) literatures of media and cultural studies, feminism, and lesbian and gay studies, framing research and analysis at the intersections of gender, race, class, sexual identity and power. Among the authors the course will feature are Laren Berlant, Richard Dyer, Larry Gross, Gayle Rubin, Cindy Patton, Angela Davis, Catharine MacKinnon, Kimberle Crenshaw, Joan Nestle, Essex Memphill, Janice Irvine, Ella Shohat, Toni Morrison, Edward Said, Scott Tucker and Michael Warner. (Course capacity is 10)

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

#### **891Q: SEMINAR-MEDIA EFFECTS**

**Morgan 401 Machmer**

In this course, each student will define, develop, and conduct a study on media effects. The course consists of several "rounds" devoted to a different phase of the research process: review of literature, methodology/design, data collection, and analysis and interpretation. The final paper should be at least a first-draft version of a paper that would be suitable for submission to a conference or scholarly journal. (Course capacity is 10)

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