

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL SEMESTER, 2008

(All courses carry 3-credits unless otherwise indicated)

\*Course Eligibilities are as of April 2008 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**

**Philips 406 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 (Students who are already COMM majors)=100, LEC 2 (Freshmen & Sophomores who are **not** COMM majors)=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 who are **not** COMM majors; if a student will be a Junior in the Spring 2008 and has taken or is now taking COMM 118 that student will be able to register for COMM 121.

**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\*:** Open to COMM & Undeclared majors, or to students who have already taken COMM 118 or 121.

#### **231: FILM & 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\*:** Open to COMM & Undeclared majors, or to students who have already taken COMM 118 or 121.

**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 410 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 125)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Seniors, Juniors & Sophomores 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 75 Total/3 sections @ 25)

**Course Eligibility\*:** For Non-Communication majors only.

**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 150 Total/6 sections @ 25)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Communication majors & Senior Non-majors

## **265: DEMOCRACY AND DISCOURSE**

**Gencarella 414 Machmer**

Lecture. This course examines democracy as a lived experience and a communicative practice, not simply a system of government. Democracy is conceptualized as a performance and achievement of rhetoric, acts of artistry with social and political consequences. Draws from discourse on democracy from ancient Greece, contemporary America (including the media), and other societies throughout the world. We critically examine several sites of tension within democratic performances. Course formerly numbered COMM 297C. (Course capacity is 200)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Communication majors only

## **287: ADVERTISING AS SOCIAL COMMUNICATION**

**Jhally 302 Machmer**

ON-LINE. This course 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 800)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Any student

**Course Notes:** COMM 287 is being taught principally in an online format. All lectures will be available as streaming video on the internet. A high-speed connection is required. There will be two in-class exams and a final exam that students have to attend on the UMass-Amherst campus. Once the course shows up on your SPARK account, all materials can be accessed on-line. Watch the introductory video and read the syllabus on the course home page on SPARK. 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 Arab Cinema Panorama series. 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

**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 capacity is 150)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to COMM & Undeclared majors or to students who have already taken COMM 118 or COMM 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 only.

**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 (@12 students) 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: FILM HISTORY 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 160 Total/8 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. It is divided into three sections. (1) Gender and Identity. (2) Advertising and the Structure of Media. (3) Public Relations, Propaganda and War. (Course capacity is 500)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Any student

**Course Prerequisite:** COMM 287

**Course Notes:** COMM 387 is being taught principally in an online format. All lectures will be available as streaming video on the internet. A high-speed connection is required. There will be three in-class exams and a final exam that students have to attend on the UMass-Amherst campus. There is also an on-line exam that students will take. Once the course shows up on your SPARK account, all materials can be accessed on-line. Watch the introductory video and read the syllabus on the course home page on SPARK. 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.

**397A: SPECIAL TOPIC-MEDIA, CULTURE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

**Henderson 312 Machmer & O'Connell/Amherst College**

Lecture. Millions of people in this century have given and lost their lives in the name of nations and national identities. It is assumed that all individuals have a national identity and that such identities are essential and mutually exclusive. What makes the idea of the nation so compelling? This course examines different forms of belonging in the modern nation state, and the range of symbolic modes and genres for expressing (and refusing) belonging. What does it mean to be a national? What is the difference between nationality and citizenship? What rights and obligations does citizenship entail? The First Amendment guarantees the right of citizens to freedom of expression, at the same time that a range of institutions and strategies limit those rights. We will explore those limits, along with the literacies demanded by citizenship (including those which normative models of citizenship ignore). We will also consider the ways in which new communication technologies have affected how people imagine the communities to which they belong. (Course capacity is 50)

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

**397AB: SPECIAL TOPIC- Convergent Media for Social & Political Mobilization**

**Fuentes-Bautista 308 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. An increasing number of activist organizations around the world are using convergent media to communicate, collaborate, and demonstrate. This course focuses on the use of traditional and emerging media technologies for social and political organizing and mobilization, from cell-phone coordinated protest to the use of social networking spaces for campaigns. Drawing on technology studies, social movement research, and alternative media literature, we will examine national and international cases that illustrate how activist groups combine second generation, Internet-based applications (social networking, peer-to-peer networks, social tagging, vblogging) with traditional media to build their communication repertoires. We interrogate the concept, historical roots and participatory potential of convergent media, reflecting on their relation to larger social forces. As a part of the overall course, we will assess and discuss how activist organizations in the Pioneer Valley use new and old media in their advocacy efforts. The course can be taken for Honors credit or as a Community Service Learning component. This course offers a combination of theory, reflection, and experiences for students who are engaged in projects or are considering careers in non-profit, communal and public interest organizations. (Course capacity is 25)

**Course Prerequisite(s):** COMM 222

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors and others by permission of instructor.

**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.*

**397BB: SPECIAL TOPIC-ART, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

**Ciecko 306 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course offers a practical and theoretical overview of the fundamentals of local arts agencies and programs, media coverage of the arts, and multiculturalism. It also serves as an introduction to basic written professional communication in the arts and journalistic approaches to art-writing, as well as modes of media analysis and relevant cultural studies issues. Topics to be considered include the following: community planning, identity politics, local/state/national organizational structures and institutions, audience development, labor (paid personnel and volunteers), education and outreach, fund-raising, advocacy, public art, control/support of the arts, and controversies. There is a community-based learning dimension central to this course. (Course capacity is 25)

**Course Eligibility\*:** all majors; no prerequisites

### **397L: SPECIAL TOPIC-CONSUMER CULTURE**

**West 303 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. The mass media are frequently criticized for their role in creating or perpetuating materialism and a consumer culture. This course will consider different theoretical and disciplinary approaches to understanding our consumer culture and the mass media's place in it. Topics will include the influence of advertisers on a media environment that promotes consumption; the experience of shopping; the exercise of taste through consumption; the relationship between consumerism, citizenship, and patriotism; consumer rights; and the meaning of consumption for economically disadvantaged groups. (Course capacity is 43)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only

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

**Shabazz 408 Machmer**

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

### **397UU: SPECIAL TOPIC-WOMEN IN DOCUMENTARIES**

**Ades 406 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course examines women in documentary film--as subjects and as storytellers. How does gender influence filmmaking? How and why are particular stories told? Why are women drawn to non-fiction filmmaking? How does documentary film provide a voice for marginalized topics? With these questions in mind, we explore the history of women in non-fiction film, methods and approaches to documentary filmmaking, and how social, political and cultural movements have shaped and been shaped by women's storytelling. Among the issues and themes addressed by the films screened in this course are: health and environment, beauty and body image, sexuality, popular culture, coming of age, mothers and daughters, war and human rights. Film selections range from Leni Riefenstahl's *Olympiad* to Kate Davis's *Southern Comfort* to Barbara Kopple's *Dixie Chicks: Shut Up and Sing*. (Course capacity is 25)

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

**Course Notes:** Other students may take the course with the permission of the instructor.

### **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) 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. Students are cautioned that the workload for this course is very heavy and deadline driven. (Course capacity is 12).

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

**Course Prerequisites:** COMM 297D/231 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 Communication majors only.

**491S: SEMINAR-INTRODUCTION TO SEMIOTICS**

**Chang 310 Machmer**

Lecture, Discussion. Semiotics is the study of meaning within society. It deepens our understanding of culture, communication and philosophy, and provides us with a theoretical and practical framework for analyzing the world. The course will introduce and develop the semiotic approach, using literature, politics, film, TV, music, and our everyday surroundings and conversations. (Course capacity is 20)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Senior Communication majors only.

**493E/1: SEMINAR-SCREENWRITING**

**Norden 409 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 only.

**493E/2: 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 only.

**493F: SEMINAR-FILM DOCUMENTARY**

**Geisler 411 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course combines critical analysis with a hands-on introduction to producing a documentary. Students will view, analyze, and critique all or part of fifteen works by filmmakers from Robert Flaherty ("Nanook of the North") to Morgan Spurlock ("Supersize Me"), to further their understanding of the documentarian's craft and art. Students will also do pre-production (research and scripting) on their own short documentary, along with shorter hands-on exercises in writing narration, interview techniques, use of archival sources, etc. (Course capacity is 20)

**Course Prerequisite:** COMM 240 or COMM 297D/231 or COMM 340 or COMM 342 or COMM 493E or consent of instructor.

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior & Junior Communication majors

**497BH: SPECIAL TOPIC-MEDIA LITERACY AND COMMUNAL MEDIA**

**Cooks 315 Machmer and Shabazz 408 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. In this course you will learn how to help build civic engagement using non-mainstream community media by teaching media literacy and production skills to youth in local middle schools in Holyoke. The course is intended for students who are interested in connecting ideas of democracy, and alternative-participatory media to issues of civic engagement through the creation of a more literate and critically minded young viewer. We will take what we learn beyond the classroom by teaching and learning from kids about representations of race, ethnicity, and nationality within the media and how it impacts society. In addition we will help guide and prepare the middle-school students to create their own short programs for broadcast on Amherst Community Television. Permission and admission to enroll will be granted on the basis of instructor consent. Students should speak with instructors prior to the end of Fall registration. (Course capacity is 25)

**Course Prerequisite(s):** Consent of Instructor

**Course Eligibility\*:** Consent of instructor

**Course Notes:** The Fall 2008 course will be taught by Professors Leda Cooks and Demetria Shabazz and can be taken for Honors and as a Community Service Learning course. You can apply for the course by contacting Dr. Cooks at [leda@comm.umass.edu](mailto:leda@comm.umass.edu) or Dr. Shabazz at [dshabazz@comm.umass.edu](mailto:dshabazz@comm.umass.edu)

#### **497C: SPECIAL TOPIC-FIELD RESEARCH IN EVERYDAY TALK AND INTERACTION**

**Bailey 307A Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course combines reading and discussion with hands-on application of theoretically informed methods for studying social interaction. We will practice ethnographic observation, audio-visual recording, transcription of interaction, interviewing, and presentation of analyses of socially situated interaction. Students will be trained in the use of a computer to organize, analyze, and present videotaped data on social interaction. (Course capacity if 25)

**Prerequisites:** COMM 212 or 312 or 297I or 397EE or 497E or 497CC or 497M.

**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. An Honors Colloquium will be offered through special arrangement. In the colloquium, students will work on an oral history project involving local Latina/o media producers. Although Spanish fluency is not required, some 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 Communication majors and with instructor's permission Spanish/Portuguese majors, and Center for Latin American/Caribbean/Latino Studies certificate students.

#### **497I: SPECIAL TOPIC-MEDIA AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

**Romantan 412 Machmer**

**Course Description not available at this time.**

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

#### **497K: SPECIAL TOPIC-COMMUNICATION AND NATURE**

**Carbaugh 314 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course explores the relationship between communication practices and environments, both man-made and natural. How does one's communication about place influence how one lives in that place? In turn, do places themselves dictate what we say about them? The course will provide a series of readings that address these questions, while also sensitizing us to various cultural ways of communicating about place. (Course capacity is 25)

**Prerequisite:** COMM 212 or COMM 297I or COMM 312 or permission of instructor.

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

**Course Notes:** If you have already taken COMM 497M: Communication & Nature you cannot take this course.

#### **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\*:** Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors only

**49700: SPECIAL TOPIC-ARAB CINEMA**

**Ciecko 306 Machmer**

Lecture, lab, discussion. This film studies course focuses on diverse cinematic productions from Arab states and communities—including Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and diasporic Arab filmmaking in North America and Europe. Readings and lecture material will address historical background and development of Arab cinemas with emphasis on contemporary trends; aesthetics and formal strategies of narrative filmmaking (including the important relationships between cinema and other cultural forms such as music, literature, visual arts, and oral storytelling); and modes of production, exhibition, distribution, and audience/reception. Topics to be discussed also include cultural politics and state policies; multiethnicity, religion, and language/dialect; national and pan-Arab/transnational identities; gender issues; Orientalism and media stereotypes; colonialism, postcolonialism and neocolonialism; film financing, international co-productions, regional film markets, cross-over audiences, and international film festivals as showcases for Arab cinema. The emphasis in this course will be on Arab feature films (a sampling of vintage classics, and numerous commercially-produced and independent contemporary features), but we will also examine some narrative and experimental shorts and documentary work. (Course capacity is 25)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Seniors & Juniors

**497S: SPECIAL TOPIC-RELIGION, GLOBAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION**

**Romantan 412 Machmer**

**Course Description not available at this time.**

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Senior Communication Majors only

**497X: SPECIAL TOPIC-FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

**West 303 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course examines the theoretical and historical underpinnings of how we think about freedom of speech and the press and its importance to societies organized around the idea of democracy. Focusing on classical liberal and romantic approaches to the role of expression in society, the course will explore the historical development of ideas about freedom of expression, including landmark cases, and will challenge students to apply these systems of logic to contemporary speech controversies. In addition to written work, students will be expected to actively contribute to class debate and discussion. (Course capacity is 25)

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

**499C: CAPSTONE COURSE/Topic-Media and the Family**

**Morgan 317 Machmer**

Seminar. Over the years, the family has gradually given up many of its functions and much of its authority to outside institutions. Unique among these are electronic media, which come *inside* the home; television in particular shapes family interaction patterns as it spreads the dominant images and values of society. Newer media such as video games and the Internet are further restructuring the physical environment of the home as they introduce new elements into family relationships. (Course capacity is 12)

This two-semester, 6-credit Capstone Course will explore the intersections of families and media from a wide variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. In the fall, we will examine existing theory and research in order to assess what we know about the images of families presented in the media and how those images contribute to our beliefs about families, the ways in which media influence family interaction, how families can and do mediate the effects of television, and numerous related questions. Course requirements will include brief written commentaries and oral presentations based on the readings. Students will develop (in several stages) a full proposal to conduct an original thesis research project on some aspect of media and the family. The second semester will be devoted to the execution of the thesis research projects, including design, data collection, analysis, and write-up.

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior COMM Honors students with consent of instructor.