

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

as of Friday, November 06, 2009

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING SEMESTER, 2010

(All courses carry 3-credits unless otherwise indicated)

\*Course Eligibilities are as of November 2009 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=Open to Communication majors only. LEC 2=Open to Sophomores & Freshmen only.

**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

Yousman 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=300--Lecture 1 and Lecture 2 meet at the same time in the same room.

**Course Eligibility\*:** LEC 1=Open to Communication majors only. LEC 2=Open to Sophomores & Freshmen only.

**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 317 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\*:** Any Student

#### 226: Social Impact of Mass Media

Yousman 312 Machmer

Lecture, discussion. This course explores the influence of the mass media on the social world, particularly the media's impact on audiences. We will investigate various approaches utilized to determine if, when, and how media influence viewers, listeners, and readers. We will examine this issue from both scientific and cultural studies perspectives. Some of the questions we will consider include: How does television violence impact society and individuals? Can watching sex on television and film lead to teenage promiscuity? Are political advertisements and news coverage creating a more or less informed voter? How do people make sense of the media in their lives? The focus of this course is to understand how these questions are studied and what, if any, conclusions can be drawn from such research. (Course capacity is 30)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Senior, Junior and Sophomore 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-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\*:** This course is open to Communication majors & Senior non-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 its relationship to: the construction of individual identity, the quest for happiness; the evolving environmental crisis based on depleting resources and climate change; the process of globalization; the commercialization of childhood; the definition of health and wellness; and the crisis of financial debt. This course is NOT a course in HOW to advertise. It does not approach advertising from a practitioner's viewpoint. (Course capacity is 800 Total/2 sections @ 400)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Any student

**Course Notes:** 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 exams and a final exam that students have to attend on the UMass-Amherst campus. **Please note that the two exams during the semester will take place on a Friday evening, and at least one of them will take place from 9-11pm.** Once the course shows up on your SPARK account at the start of the semester, 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.

**288: Special Topic-Gender, Sex and Representation  
Jhally 302 Machmer**

ON-LINE. This course will examine the relationship between commercialized systems of representation and the way that gender and sexuality are thought of and organized in the culture. In particular, we will look at how commercial imagery impacts upon gender identity and the process of gender socialization. Central to this discussion will be the related issues of sexuality and sexual representation (and the key role played by advertising). (Course capacity is 2 section @ 400 = Total 800).

**Course Eligibility\*:** Any student

**Course Notes:** 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 exams and a final exam that students have to attend on the UMass-Amherst campus. **Please note that the two exams during the semester will take place on a Friday evening, and at least one of them will take place from 9-11pm.** Once the course shows up on your SPARK account at the start of the semester, 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.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you have taken COMM 387: Advertising & Public Relations as Social Control after the Fall 2007 semester, or COMM 297X in the Fall 2009 Semester you should not take COMM 288.

**296F: INDSTU-FilmFestival**

**Ciecko 306 Machmer**

**This is a 1-credit Mandatory Pass/Fail course**

This is a 1-credit Mandatory Pass/Fail course

Film screening. This semester's festival colloquium will be held in conjunction with the Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival (MMFF). To earn 1 credit (pass/fail), students are required to attend a colloquium orientation during the first week of classes and at least 7 MMFF events throughout the semester, and to complete a survey at the end of each of the screenings attended. (Course capacity is 50)

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

**297P: Special Topic-Career Workshop**

**Joyner Career Services/Goodell Bldg.**

**This is a 1-credit Mandatory Pass/Fail course**

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior & Juniors in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

**297S: Special Topic-The Action Film**

**Shimpach 410 Machmer**

Lecture. Action speaks louder than words. It also may be easier to translate—across linguistic, cultural, national, and generational borders. So the Action Film has been and remains an important genre for film industries around the world, allowing them to showcase budgets, effects, stars, and even ideas in a popular and profitable format. At the same time, action films offer something essential to the *movies*: spectacular *movement*. This genre study course will trace a cultural history of the international action film while paying special attention to the balance between narrative and spectacle in textual analyses that also examine questions of nation, race, gender and ideology. (Course capacity is 300).

**297SS: Special Topic-Communication for Sustainable Social Change**

**Servaes 415 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. The purpose of this course is to explore the theories and practices of communication as applied to sustainable social change. In this course students will participate in an intense study of society and culture in formulating communication and media strategies, to explore ways that ensures target audiences are reached to more effectively enhance knowledge transfer and social change. This is particularly so, although not limited to, in developing countries where access to information supporting health, agriculture, HIV/AIDS, literacy and other initiatives, can be vital. Students will analyze how these phenomena are influenced by factors including new technologies, changing contexts of communities, public opinion, political, economic, environmental, societal and cultural imperatives, leading to policy decisions.

The course is based on the belief that robust and informed journalism contributes to cultural, economic, political and social development in all societies and by promoting wider public understanding of different cultures, serves the interest of international cooperation and peace. This course will focus on the variety of ways in which participatory communication has been and is being used to foster participatory democracy. Students will prepare a case study of a specific project addressing communication for sustainable social change and will write one article suitable for publication for the *Amherst.wire*/or *The Collegian*. (Course capacity is 40)

**Course Eligibility\*:** This course is open to Communication majors or by permission of instructor.

**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

**334: Media History and Public Policy**

**Hanson 301 Machmer**

Lecture. The purpose of this course is to examine media development and communication policies that have influenced their use. Students will: (1) Explore the technical, political, economic, and cultural approaches that have influenced the emergence and growth of electronic media, (2) Broadly examine their social force, and (3) Historically situate different electronic forms from the telegraph and telephone, to broadcast technologies, satellites, cell phones, and the Internet. (Course capacity is 150).

**Course Prerequisite(s):** COMM 121

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Senior & Junior Communication majors and IT minors, other student by permission of instructor

**342: History of Film II**  
**Norden 409 Machmer**

Lecture, lab (screening), discussions. A survey of key events and representative films that mark the history of worldwide cinema since 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. (Course capacity is 125)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Seniors, Juniors and Sophomore Communication majors and others by permission of instructor.

**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 140 Total/7 sections @ 20)

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

**Course Notes:** Restricted to **Communication** Seniors and Juniors only.

**397AG: Special Topic-Critical Folklore Studies**  
**Gencarella 414 Machmer**

**No course description available**

Lecture, discussion.

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

**397F: Special Topic-Media Ethics**  
**Yousman 312 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. In this course we will look at the ethical dilemmas those of us who are involved with mass media communication face on a regular basis. Students will learn various ways to evaluate ethical options, and various perspectives and factors to consider when making a decision. Students will also learn how to debunk myths and stereotypes, and how to detect various types of bias that influence news coverage. We will examine current events as they pertain to ethics, and explore such important issues as checkbook journalism, conflict of interest, media consolidation, and the right to privacy versus the public's right to know. (Course capacity is 25).

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

**397I: Special Topic-Communication, Culture and Social Identity**  
**Bailey 307A Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. In this course we explore a) ways in which everyday communicative practices and culture are intertwined, and b) the multiple ways in which social identities (particularly race/ethnicity, but also gender and socioeconomic status) are both reflected and reconstituted through communicative practices. We emphasize the ways in which cultural backgrounds and social identities affect how we interpret the world, and the ways in which historical relationships of inequality in the US shape communicative practices and social identities. (Course capacity is 43)

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

**Course Notes:** This course is NOT open to students who took Communication 212 with Professor Bailey during Spring 2007

**397LL: Special Topic-Health Communication**  
**Suopis**

Lecture, discussion. This course addresses how communication about health is co-created, transmitted, and constructed in a variety of contexts including physician/patient communication, health media images, shared decision making, behavioral change initiatives, mass media campaigns, intercultural contexts, and advocacy. A particular communication focus on cultural discourse, critical analysis, and biomedical informatics examines current communication issues and problems in the modern health care system. (Course capacity is 25)

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

**397M: Special Topic-New Media Technologies and Social Change**

**Fuentes 308 Machmer**

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 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

**397SS: Special Topic-Youth, Democracy and the Entertainment Industries**

**Saxe E32 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. The entertainment industries are inordinately focused on young people as they represent a tremendous market force. How do the imperatives of this **market-driven** media culture correspond with **principles of democracy**? Topics to be considered include commercialism & youth identity, culture jamming, media literacy, DIY grassroots media, web networks & activism, generational debt, urban youth, Hip-Hop, MTV, and strategies for organizing youth resistance - all with an eye towards visioning a media system truly guided by principle of democracy. Assignments will integrate arts and media making through projects in visual illustration, Zines, and other DIY media. (Course capacity is 30)

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

**397T: Special Topic-Contemporary World Cinema**

**Ciecko 306 Machmer**

Lecture. This course offers an overview of recent narrative feature filmmaking from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and global diasporas. Students will develop critical tools for watching, reading, and writing about international and intercultural cinema. The following types of questions will be addressed: What are the ways in which contemporary films construct images of nations and cultures? What kinds of audio-visual representational strategies are used, and what kinds of negotiations occur? How do social, political, and economic circumstances impact the production, exhibition, and marketing/distribution of films? How do films connect with different audiences (local and international markets for popular films, the arthouse and film festival circuit, video stores, the internet, pirates, etc.)? What are the functions of international film stars, auteurs, and genres? (Course capacity is 43)

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

**397VV: ST-WOMEN IN CINEMAS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA**

**Shabazz 408 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. What is an Afrocentric vision of woman and what does a woman's vision of Africa say about being African and Black around the world? These are some of the questions explored in this course on women, identity, and Afrocentric film practices. An objective of the course is to introduce students to the evolution of African women in all aspects of the cinema as image and as image makers. This course not only explores depictions of women, but especially women of color who direct, produce, and write films within the African Diasporic world. Specifically we look at discourses about women and works by filmmakers on and off the continent of Africa that take both an historical and global approach,

**397VV: ST-WOMEN IN CINEMAS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA [CONTINUED]**

in terms of issues of representation and film practice. We will study the different and parallel ways these filmmakers write their own sense of identity into their works about who they are as filmmakers speaking for and about issues that may be important to women of African descent. We will look at the various political, social and cultural roles of African women in the visual media of film, video, and television and engage in critical perspectives that examine how Black and African women explore subjectivity, the body, and positionality within the Diaspora. Some of the films we will study include films from Nigeria, Algeria, France, Great Britain, and the U.S. such as Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Everyone's Child*, *These Hands* by Flora Mbugu-Schelling; Ngozi Onwurah's *Monday's Girls*; *Euzhan Palcy's Rue cases nègres* or *Sugar Cane Alley*, *Daughter's of the Dust* by Julie Dash; *Compensation* by Zeinabu irene Davis. This course includes an evening lab and some of the films will be screened during the Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival as a part of the Interdepartmental Program in Film Studies at the University of Massachusetts. (Course capacity is 43).

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

**397WW: Special Topic-Sports, Culture and Advertising**

**Moreira 412 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. In this class, we are interested in analyzing the role that sports, as a modern social ritual, play in shaping people's interpretation of concepts such as competition and character. Sports have moved from Pierre de Coubertain's somewhat innocent amateur ideal of character building activity to a highly competitive cutthroat enterprise in the past century. As a ritual, sports have become a significant site of interaction between peoples and cultures; and as a site of interaction, organized sports are embedded in, and are carriers of, ideologies and politics. Through the examination of the cultures of everyday life and the cultural constructions of difference, displacement, and identity, this course will rely equally on examples from U.S. popular culture and media, as well as draw theoretically from advertising, marketing, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, and performance studies. It is this intersection of sports, advertising, and ideology that I would like for us to explore in this class. (Course capacity is 43)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior and Junior Communication majors or by permission of instructor

**433: Advanced Television Production/Direction**

**Maxcy 120 South College**

Lecture, Studio. Intensive workshop course in advanced concepts and techniques of studio-based television production, with a focus on the direction of live programs. Under the supervision of the instructor, each student will produce and direct 2 studio projects which will be aired live on HSCN Channel 15. (Course capacity is 10)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Any Student

**Course Prerequisite:** COMM 331 or COMM 397B

**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 only.

**Course Prerequisites:** COMM 231 or COMM 331 or permission of instructor.

**Course Notes:** Junior and Senior Communication majors who have completed either COMM 231 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 407A 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.

**491B: Seminar-Digital Media and the Built Environment**

**Castaneda 311 Machmer**

Seminar. This course aims to develop a better understanding of digital media in the context of the built environment. More specifically, we will examine the debate and transition towards digital television in and outside of the U.S. We will also investigate how digital media shapes space, and how space shapes digital media, and the ways in which political economy influences the development of material culture and the built environment in a new media context (Course capacity is 20)

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

**491GS: Seminar-Media and Politics in the Global South**

**Chakravarty 303 Machmer**

Seminar. In the last 20 years, there has been a dramatic explosion in access to television, mobile phones and to a lesser extent, access to computers and the Internet, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. In this seminar, we will select specific local and transnational case studies to examine the complex relationship between growing access to media and information technologies and political transformation. We will focus on a range of theoretical approaches to the question of media/technology and social change in the global South. These will include, among other areas, debates about electronic public cultures and democracy, debates about popular culture and populism, debates about technology and poverty, and debates about mobile and digital media and social movements. This course will be conducted as a seminar and students will be expected to present on the readings on a regular basis. Students will also be expected to write a final research paper based on topics covered during the semester. Although not a requirement, background and interest in global or international studies is strongly recommended. (Course capacity is 20)

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

**493J: Seminar-Avant Garde and Experimental Film**

**Anderson, K. E32 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. This course explores the genre of Avant-Garde and Experimental Film with a critical eye toward the history and current articulations of this form of film/video production. The course begins with an introduction to the genre, then explores Experimental Film/Video according to three different categories: Experimentation with Narrative, Experimentation with Structure/Form, and Experimentation with the line between Fact and Fiction. Students will emerge from this course with a solid foundation in the history and theory of avant-garde and experimental film/video as evidenced by writing projects, research papers, and student-produced experimental media projects. Student work is expected to demonstrate not only a comprehension of course materials but also reflect and expand upon filmic examples of this highly creative and challenging form of cinematic communication, art, and expression. (Course capacity is 20)

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

**493K: Seminar-Television in Transition**

**Shimpach 410 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. Television as we know it is changing fast. The business, the technology, the production, and the shows themselves all seem to look different than they did even a few years ago. We no longer think of three networks in the living room when we think of TV. As audiences fragment in both time and space (enabled by new channels, new technologies, new regulations, and new forms of distribution), television is scrambling to hold on and keep up. Focusing primarily on the U.S. context, this course will look at how the television industry currently understands its own business and then step back to consider what this means for the programming that appears on our (various) screens. The course will continually combine economic, institutional, cultural, and textual analyses of television to better understand the role it plays as a still-significant cultural institution. (Course capacity is 20)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior and Junior Communication majors or by permission of instructor

**495A: Seminar-Performance Ethnography**

**Moreira 412 Machmer**

Lecture, discussion. What is Ethnography? What is Performance (auto) Ethnography? How can we think about Performing Ethnography? Drawing heavily in the works of Dwight Conquergood, Norman Denzin, and D. Soyini Madison, we give a rest to traditional forms of qualitative inquiry as we disrupt the notion of "business as usual" in the academic space. We will examine the interpenetrating relationships among performance, ethnography, and culture. The readings and assignments forefront localized critical pedagogy, critical personal narratives, decolonizing and interpretive inquiry as moral, political discourse. From the everyday space where gender, race, class, and performances intersect, we will examine how the practices of critical inquiry can be used to imagine, write and perform a free democratic society. (Course capacity is 20)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior and Junior Communication majors or by permission of instructor

**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.

**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 only

**499D: CAPSTONE COURSE-Part II/Topic-Video Games: Theory & Research**

**Scharrer 309 Machmer**

Seminar. This is the second semester of a two-semester, six-credit Communication Honors Capstone course on Video Games: Theory and Research. The second semester (Spring 2010) will be devoted to the implementation of the individual research projects that were begun in Fall 2009. We will be collecting and analyzing our data, writing up our findings, discussing our limitations and the implications of our studies, and presenting our work. The class session will largely be used as a workshop to advance the original research studies. Each independent research project will culminate in an archivable Honors Thesis. (Course capacity is 12)

**Course Prerequisite(s):** Honors students who took COMM 499C in Fall 2009

**Course Eligibility\*:** Honors students who took COMM 499C in Fall 2009.

**593D: Seminar-Advanced Screenwriting**

**Geisler 411 Machmer**

Seminar. Building upon the concepts learned in the introductory course (COMM 493E - Screenwriting Seminar), this class will involve an intensive workshop environment where students receive continuing, in-depth feedback on their work in progress, as they strive for professional competence in feature-length theatrical screenwriting or writing for episodic television. Two professional screenplays and the films or TV shows produced from them will also be analyzed as students delve deeper into the writer's art and craft. Students will complete either 60 pages of a feature length motion picture screenplay or a complete episode for an existing dramatic TV show, or two episodes for a current sitcom. (Course capacity is 20)

**Course Eligibility\*:** Senior & Junior Communication majors or permission of the instructor

**Course prerequisite:** COMM 493E or another college-level screenwriting course or permission of the instructor.