
Comm 611 | Introduction to Theories and Concepts of Human Communication**M | 4:00pm – 6:45pm****Gonen Dori-Hacohen****3 credits**

Process of theory construction, theory testing, and paradigmatic change in communication. Theory relationships among normative and scientific studies. Theory types and their causal mechanisms, units of analysis, and research methodologies. Major theories compared in terms of their theoretical and metatheoretical bases. Required of all Communication graduate students; taught in fall.

Students who do not meet the eligibility may seek permission of the instructor to enroll (gonen@comm.umass.edu).

Comm 620 | Qualitative Methods in Research Culture**T | 4:00pm – 6:45pm****Seyram Avle****3 credits**

Qualitative approaches to research, conceptualizations of problems, questions, and methodologies for the field of communication. Emphasis on, interpretive, feminist, critical, and cultural approaches. Introduction to methodological specialties of departmental faculty. Required of all Communication graduate students.

Students who do not meet the eligibility may seek permission of the instructor to enroll (savle@umass.edu).

Comm 794B | Critical Pedagogy**Th | 4:00pm – 6:45pm****Leda Cooks****3 credits**

Critical pedagogy uses critique of traditional modes of education in the US as a starting point for theoretical and practical resistance in schools. Most work on critical pedagogy has emphasized the ideological consequences of power, authority, identity and disabling effects on students, teachers and societies--and has identified points of struggle, failure and performing other-wise as opportunities for learning. This critique has occasionally 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 interdisciplinary curricula and/or community-based projects that bring together the concepts discussed in class.

Comm 794CC | Consumer Culture**W | 4:00pm – 6:45pm****Emily West****3 credits**

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 term "consumer culture" and what particular kinds of social arrangements and ideologies this term attempts to capture for analysis or critique. We will aim for empirical and theoretical comparison across historical, cross-cultural, and disciplinary perspectives. Topics that will be considered include: consumerism and/as citizenship, media and promotional culture, 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.

Students who do not meet the eligibility may seek permission of the instructor to enroll (ewest@umass.edu).

Comm 795M | Performance Ethnography**M | 7:00pm – 9:45pm****Claudio Moreira****3 credits**

What is Ethnography? What is Performance (auto) Ethnography? How can we think about Performing Ethnography? This performance-based seminar will focus on the implications of decolonizing emancipatory epistemologies for critical, interpretive inquiry. 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.

Comm 797NM | Narrative and Mediated Storytelling**T | 7:00pm – 9:45pm****Anne Ciecko****3 credits**

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar combines theory, analytical methods, and critical creative practice in an exploration of the interconnections between words and images (and words as images), textuality and audiovisuality in storytelling. Topics, concepts, readings, and/or approaches to be considered are grounded in and drawn from film and media studies, aesthetics and other branches of philosophy, visual culture studies and art history, critical fashion studies, history, linguistics, and anthropology. These include ekphrasis; iconography and symbolism; point of view/perspective; genre (including blending, bending, and hybridity); dialogism; reality and representation; character, voice, and identity; prosody and syntax; memory and sensation; time, space, and place; human and nonhuman agency; folklore and orality; and the politics and practices of mediation and citation. Our central emphasis will be on diverse short-format personal digital storytelling across media platforms, although we may also consider a wide range of forms and expressions from fiction feature films and documentaries, painting, poetry, literary fiction, photography and photojournalism, public art and installation art, performance art and theater, published memoir and autobiography, advertisements, illuminated manuscripts/illustrated books, comics and graphic novels, memes and games, and more. Projects can be customized to student interests and needs, and experimentation is encouraged.

This course counts toward the Graduate Film Certificate. Likely fall 2021 format: virtual with synchronous weekly meetings.

Comm 891A | Pro-Seminar: Graduate Introduction to Communication**M | 12:20pm – 1:10pm****Instructor TBD****1 credit**

This proseminar is designed for new graduate students (although all are welcome) has three broad foci: (1) teaching/instructional development; (2) professional development for graduate students; and (3) topics of scholarly expertise in the Department. A variety of speakers, workshops and panels will cover topics ranging from instructional techniques and pedagogical concerns, to building expertise and networks toward a professional career, to discussion of various approaches among faculty in the department to common topics (e.g., culture, media, power, identity/ies, publics/citizenships). The proseminar will extend through the fall and spring semesters, and students are required to attend 8 sessions over the academic year.

This 1-credit Communication course is required of all new Communication incoming doctoral students in Fall 2021.
