

## FALL 2023 COMMUNICATION GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **COMM 611: Introduction to Theories and Concepts of Human Communication**      **Mon 4:00PM-6:45PM**

**Dori-Hacohen**

**Lecture.** This course explores communication theory through reading, discussion, and written assignments on the theories and concepts that underlie faculty research. This course is a core requirement for graduate study in the program. **(Course capacity is 10)**

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Doctoral Communication Graduate Students, others by permission of instructor

### **COMM 620: Qualitative Methods in Research**

**Wed 4:00PM-6:45PM**

**Avle**

**Lecture.** This course is designed to a) introduce you to the ontological and epistemological underpinnings of qualitative methods, including relationships among research questions, theory, methods, and findings, and b) expose you to practical issues in using qualitative methods. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to: textual analysis, participant observation, interviewing, focus groups, visual analysis, discourse and conversation analysis, case studies, and research ethics. We will divide our focus between familiarizing ourselves with discussions of “how to,” reading and evaluating examples of qualitative research that demonstrate different methodological approaches, and getting our feet wet by trying out some different qualitative methods in relation to a topic or research question that interests you. **(Course capacity is 10)**

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Doctoral Communication Graduate Students, others by permission of instructor.

### **Comm 690E: Ethnography of the Digital**

**Thurs 4:00PM-6:45PM**

**Baykurt**

**Lecture.** This course is a practice-intensive seminar to rethink ethnographic methods as our social lives are increasingly mediated by digital technologies. What does fieldwork entail when we center digital technologies in our research? How should ethnographers negotiate access, trust, and proximity as they vacillate between the online and the offline? How should we retool ethnographic tools and techniques (e.g., fieldnotes, participant observation, interviewing, and multimodal ethnography) as we navigate the materiality and politics of digital media? We will explore these questions while paying attention to the ways digital technologies complicate dilemmas that arise due to gender, race, class, and other power relations in the field. Readings draw on an interdisciplinary corpus from communication and media studies, sociology, anthropology, and information science. Participants will craft and conduct a digital ethnographic project related to their areas of interest. This seminar is ideal for students planning to conduct independent fieldwork for their Ph.D. research, but those interested in the epistemological and political consequences of studying digital media ethnographically are also welcome. **(Course capacity is 10)**

**Course Eligibility\*:** Open to Masters and Doctoral Graduate Students

### **COMM 705: Race, Media, and Politics**

**Tues 4:00PM-6:45PM**

**Goldman**

**Lecture.** This course examines the intersection of race, media, and politics, with an emphasis on: 1) conceptualizing race and ethnicity in social science research; 2) different approaches to analyzing mediated representations around race and ethnicity; 3) public opinion around race and ethnicity, including identities, perceptions, and attitudes; and 4) the reception of mass media portrayals of racial and ethnic groups among varied audiences, with consequences for intergroup attitudes, policy views, and electoral behavior.

**(Course capacity is 10) Course Eligibility:** Open to Masters and Doctoral Graduate Students

## FALL 2023 COMMUNICATION GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **COMM 724: Audience Research and Cultural Studies**

**Tues 4:00pm-6:45PM**

**Shimpach**

**Seminar.** An interest and concern for the audience is at the foundation of much media and communication research. Beginning with a discussion of what characterizes cultural studies, this course will then focus on the approaches to audience research that inspired and became associated with cultural studies traditions. Topics will include the active audience and debates about audience power and resistance; taste and cultural hierarchies; fandom and participatory culture; audience pleasure and identity; audience labor; and audience interaction with changing media technologies. Readings will reflect research on audiences that are diverse in terms of nationality, race and ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class background, and the type of media being consumed. While not a class devoted solely to the discussion of method, we will attend to the methodological tools that have been used in this audience research tradition, as well as how best to proceed methodologically in your own audience research projects. **(Course Capacity is 10)**

***Course Eligibility\** Open to Masters and Doctoral Graduate Students.**

### **COMM 795M: Performance Ethnography**

**Mon 7:00PM-9:45PM**

**Moreira**

**Seminar.** 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. **(Course capacity is 10)**

***Course Eligibility\*:* Open to Masters and Doctoral Graduate students**

### **COMM 891 A: Pro-Seminar Graduate Introduction to Communication (1 credit)**

**Mon. 12:20PM-1:10PM**

**West**

**Seminar.** The Proseminar is a 1-credit class spread across the Fall and Spring semesters. Over 15 class meetings, this class will introduce you to many of the people, knowledge, and tools that the department feels you need to start you on a successful path in the Communication PhD Program. Our meetings focus on professional development and training in the areas of pedagogy, research, and career planning.

**(Course capacity is 10)**

**Course Eligibility: This course is required for first year graduate students.**