COMM 610: Social Science Methods in Communication Research (Scherr)

This graduate class builds upon general design/science literacy classes previously taken and consists of two larger blocks.

The first block of the class will reactivate pre-existing knowledge and experiences with quantitative social science methods, data collection, data structures, and its statistical analysis. We will recap various empirical methods in communication research and discuss your own past, current and future research experiences and plans. We will use concrete examples of how data can be collected, yielding in different, possible data structures, and how such data can be analyzed using different statistical software packages.

The second block of the class will discuss the most recent theoretical conceptualizations in communication research, derive relevant research questions, and identify (usually multiple) ways to find a satisfying empirical answer to it. Thereby, we will gain experience about how research design and data analysis operate together. We will work hands-on and practical with all exercises following the motto "bring your own data" (possibly complemented with exemplary data). We will analyze your data together so that, after the class, everybody will have had their own methodological and data analytical experience including a better vision of their own graduate research and being prepared for future research projects.

Class assignments will cover the operationalization of concepts, the creation of viable and creative research designs, and the statistical analysis of quantitative data using different forms of evaluation (e.g., class commitment, short quizzes, exams, papers, oral presentations).

COMM 615: Interpretive Methods in Communication Research (LaPastina)

This course is designed as an introduction and overview of interpretive research. There will be three main kinds of activities in which we will be involved throughout the class: 1) Discussion of key terms and definitions, underlying epistemologies (ways of knowing), design issues, and a variety of qualitative methods. 2) Discussion and evaluation of a broad spectrum of exemplary studies, demonstrating various topics, designs, applications of theory, methods, and styles of writing. We will be continuously wrestling with the notion of what constitutes a text, so I have deliberatively included various types of texts to interpret. That said, *our emphasis will be on texts (written, auditory, and visual) that are created through field-based methods, i.e., within one or more live, ongoing contexts with human participants.* Also interspersed in our readings are issues of research ethics, social action research, and investigator identity. 3) Development of your own interpretive research project (and in the process, development of your own interpretive writing style) in the form of a written paper and oral presentation by the end of the seminar. For some or most of you, I expect the paper will take the form of a case study or focused investigation in which you've posed research questions, proposed a well thought-through design for investigating those questions, and used one or more forms of qualitative methods to gather and analyze data (e.g., in-depth interviewing, ethnographic research, participant observation, focus groups, examination of written or visual texts and/or other cultural artifacts). Our objective will be to produce papers of high quality that can be submitted for conference presentations or publication.

COMM 616: Topics in Methods: Social Network Analytics (Tang)

Are you curious about how misinformation spread on social media?

Do you want to find out the hidden messages in millions of tweets?

You need to learn social network analysis.

Social network analysis allows us to discover the hidden patterns, relationships, and meanings in big data such as Twitter, YouTube, as well as the content of traditional media. It can be applied in many areas of communication: health communication, media, political communication, popular culture, etc.

This course introduces students to the theory and method of social network analysis. The course's goal is to provide a working knowledge of the concepts and methods used to describe and analyze social networks so that professionals and researchers can understand the results and implications of this body of research. The course also provides the training necessary for scholars to conduct network analysis in their own research and practice careers. **(NOTE: *This course also counts towards International Communication & Public Diplomacy Graduate Certificate requirements.*)**

COMM 636: Survey in Organizational Communication (Wolfe)

This course provides an introduction and overview of major theories, themes, and key works in organizational communication. As a field of study, organizational communication analyzes how communication processes create, maintain, and transform organizations, as well as how people coordinate, control, and resist collective action. When we understand how *organizing* works we are better equipped to critique and change undesirable structures and consciously shape our own experiences with organizational life. As a survey course, this seminar is designed to provide a foundation on which to build rather than an exhaustive overview. As such, we will review the historical development of organizational communication as a research area, survey major topics of inquiry, and identify what it means to study organizing as a communication phenomenon.

COMM 652: Rhetoric of Social Movements (Black Freedom Movements) (Poirot)

This course examines the rhetorics of and about post-Reconstruction Black Freedom Movement(s). The course is designed to acquaint students with histories and analyses of racial stratification and traditions of Black protest with concentrated efforts to examine anti-lynching, racial uplift, nonviolent resistance, Black nationalism, Black Power, and Black Lives Matter. The course seeks to enable *critical and historical dexterity* as readings will traverse a number of time periods and engage a variety of "texts" (e.g., , speeches, images, performances, manifestoes, protests, built environments etc.), offering students less of definitive chronological narrative and more of a series of in-depth portraitures of resistance and the contexts through which protests and movements emerge over time. Students will have the option to write/revise a rhetorical analysis or write smaller response papers towards a project proposal that is suitable for their research program. **(NOTE: *This course also counts towards Africana Studies Graduate Certificate requirements.*)**

COMM 658: Communication & Culture (De/coloniality) (Wanzer-Serrano)

For some time, the disciplines of communication studies in general, and rhetorical studies in particular, have done a respectable job at addressing issues of colonialism in various forms of public discourse. In the golden era of public address studies, for example, numerous scholars engaged issues of US imperialism and the establishment and cultivation of the colonies in the 19th century. In the last few decades, others have moved beyond historical studies to explore the ways in which so-called postcolonial critical perspectives can alter the heuristics through which we engage in critical praxis. In slight contradistinction to both the historical and postcolonial approaches, this class has a different starting point: the local and embodied thought/action of the colonized as a resource for decolonial thought/practice. As such, this course explores the emergence, circulations, functions, and critical perspectives of modern/coloniality. We will engage such key scholars as Wallerstein, Quijano, Mignolo, Grosfoguel, Maldonado-Torres, Schiwy, Lugones, and others. Additionally, we will put these authors in conversation with significant contemporary rhetorical theorists in an effort to ask some difficult questions about the discipline's complicity with modern/coloniality and ways we might approach rhetorical theory Otherwise. In the process, we will interrogate key questions about race, capital, gender, sexuality, antisystemic movements, border thinking, and various role(s) and style(s) of decolonial critique. **NOTE:** *This course also counts towards International Communication & Public Diplomacy and Latino/a & Mexican American Studies Graduate Certificates requirements.*)

COMM 665: Communication & Technology (Burkart)

COMM 665 offers an historical perspective on the communication technologies that contributed to the first Industrial Revolution and to the so-called, second Industrial Revolution. We research key sectors of mass media including television, radio, telephony, cable, wireless technologies, and new media industries designed for the Internet. We consider the social and cultural forces shaping the innovation, prototyping, and commercialization phases of selected technologies, and consider factors contributing to their emergence and diffusion. We also read new literature on technological cultures, communication-based approaches to hacking and cybersecurity, and ICTs for Development. The course is conducted as a conference, and its success depends on regular participation by all students. **(NOTE:** *This course also counts towards Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate requirements.***)**

COMM 667: Media and Health (Street)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, health care organizations have been forced to shift away from providing care in person at clinics to offering telehealth services to address patients' health care needs. These mediated interactions, both synchronous or asynchronous, are delivered via a number of media platforms—videoconferencing, patient portals, smart phones, text messaging, social media, telephone—all of which require health care providers and patients to effectively use the technology to access and provide services. The upshot of the transition to telehealth is that quality of health care delivery is as much about *relationships with technology* as it is *relationships between patients and health care providers*. This course should appeal to students interested in health communication, organizational communication, and media technology.This course will examine how technology affects communication among health care organizations, clinicians, and patients in ways that affect quality of care. We will pursue two lines of analysis—(a) the constraints imposed by technology compared to traditional face-to-face modes of clinician-patient communication and communication among the health care team and, conversely, (b) how use of the technology transforms these interactions in ways that offer a new ways that can actually improve health care communication in the digital age. In addition to readings (provided by the instructor), assignments will include two short papers and a term paper, the latter being a research proposal for future data collection or a stand-alone conceptual paper, both of which could be developed for a future conference or journal submission.