COMM 101. The Mass Media
First- and second-year students. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (4). (SS). May not be repeated for credit.
This course provides an introduction to the history and impact of mass media on American culture through advertising, news, radio, television programming, the Internet, and popular music. It reviews ideological, technological, and regulatory developments that produced our existing media system; and analytical tools and techniques that enhance media literacy. Topics include: media's role in shaping attitudes towards race, gender, sexuality and class; relationship between media and society; and language and skills for critically evaluating media's assumptions and techniques.

COMM 102. Media Processes and Effects
First- and second-year students. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (4). (SS). May not be repeated for credit.
Americans are immersed in the media like fish in water. The average adult spends two-thirds of his or her waking time consuming media, often more than one type at a time. Many people believe the media have little effect, but research shows they are wrong. This course describes the effects of media on thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and behaviors, and reasons why the media affect us. It includes review and evaluation of media research articles and participation in media research studies.

COMM 121. Quantitative Skills for Communication Studies
First- and second-year students. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (4). (SS) (QR-1). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores basic principles of scientific research. Students explore different ways scientific studies are designed, quantitative data collection methods, and data analysis related to mass communication. We explore a variety of techniques and assess assumptions researchers make in these techniques. Students learn to recognize what can and cannot be concluded in our examinations. These skills will also help when encountering scientific information in real world settings.

COMM 122. Media Analysis: Concepts and Methods
(4). (SS). May not be repeated for credit.
This course surveys critical and qualitative methods commonly used to study media. Students explore both the practical aspects of developing studies using various methods as well as examine the strengths and weaknesses of specific methods for answering particular questions.

COMM 159. First Year Seminar in Media Issues
First Year Students. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (3). (SS). May not be repeated for credit. Credits do not count toward the Communication Studies major requirements.
Investigates issues and topics relevant to study of media and communication. Topics presented may include introduction and overview of media and culture, media and identity, media effects, and new, emerging media. Topics vary by section.

COMM 251/SAC 324. Understanding Media Industries
(4). (SS). May not be repeated for credit.
Understanding Media Industries examines the influence of media industry organization and practices on society while offering a comprehensive overview of how the industries work, why they work as they do, and the broader theoretical and practical implications of media industry operation.

COMM 261. Views on the News: What Shapes our Media Content
COMM 102 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) Comm 121 or 211 strongly recommended. (4). (SS). May not be repeated for credit.
This course examines how various aspects of society shape the news. It is designed to offer a framework for thoughtful understanding of processes involved in the production, dissemination, and reception of mediated news content.

COMM 271. Communication Revolutions
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (4). (HU). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores the central role of technology in our culture, and the tension between technological devices and human users and developers; the link between communication, politics and power; the role of communications processes and technologies in marking the changing boundaries separating the public and private realms of life; the deep ties between trade, labor, transport, and communication technologies; the role of governmental and corporate institutions in influencing the uses of mediated communication in our society.

COMM 281. Media Psychology
COMM 102 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (4). (SS). May not be repeated for credit.
We discuss media effects research and theory with an emphasis on the social psychological processes that facilitate or inhibit media effects on individuals' attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and behaviors. We examine topics such as violence, advertising, stereotypes, news and politics, and fan culture, keeping in mind the role individual differences play in selective exposure to and reception of media messages. Outcomes include both positive and negative effects. Throughout, we will focus on the complexities of developing and executing media effects research.
COMM 305. Survey of Media Topics  
COMM 101 or COMM 102 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisite enforced at registration.) COMM 251, 261, 271 OR 281 strongly recommended. (3-4). May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. May be elected more than once in the same term.  
Investigates the theoretical, analytical and historical aspects of media. Topics presented may include introduction and overview of media industries, media and culture, media and identity, media effects and new, emerging media. Topics vary by section.

COMM 313. Behind the Digital Screen  
(4). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course provides a look inside the technologies and infrastructures that make digital media function. Students investigate and manipulate code, formats, platforms, and networks in order to consider the relationship between these structures and the audio, visual, and interactive media representations that are possible. This includes material about search engines; audio, still, and motion picture formats; recommendation systems, bots, advertising and content distribution networks, and personalization algorithms. Although some topics will be technical, no previous technical experience is required or expected.

COMM 315. Critical Approaches to the Internet  
COMM 121 or COMM 211 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course examines the rise of the Internet from its Cold War origins to contemporary social media practices. We focus on the social, political, cultural, and industrial contexts of networked computing and address key themes such as participation, community, identity, convergence, privacy, and activism.

COMM 317. Designing Persuasive Communication  
COMM 261 or COMM 281 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course investigates the changes in business, technology, and design that are reshaping the words and images, the form and content of persuasive mass communication. It investigates emerging strategies for reaching global and regional audiences, discusses the impact of new technologies and media convergence, and examines the social and ethical issues that underlie persuasive strategies.

COMM 318/PSYCH 318. Media and Violence  
COMM 281 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course examines the psychological causes of aggressive violent behavior and the theoretical and empirical connections between violence in society and portrayals of violence in the mass media. It surveys the research on the physiological, psychological, and environmental factors implicated in the development of habitual aggressive and violent behavior and examines the theories that explain how exposure to violence in the mass media adds to the effects of these other factors causing aggressive and violent behavior.

COMM 321. Undergraduate Internship  
Consent of instructor required. Junior standing, major in Communication Studies, and permission of instructor. Internship credit is not retroactive and must be prearranged. (1 - 3). (EXPERIENTIAL). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. May not be used to satisfy Communication Studies electives in a Communication Studies plan. Offered mandatory credit/no credit.  
Provides limited credit for appropriate practical work experience. Student evaluation is based on satisfactory completion of the internship and written recommendation of the internship sponsor.

COMM 322. Faculty Directed Undergraduate Research Practicum  
Consent of instructor required. (1 - 3). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Maximum of 3 credits from COMM 322 and/or COMM 441/442 may be used toward the Communication Studies major requirements.  
This research practicum offers an opportunity to apply academic knowledge in mass communication or mass media within the context of a research setting. It provides experience and education in research techniques by having students conduct research with a faculty member on the faculty research projects. In the process, students learn the skills needed to conduct research, various research techniques, and the overall experience of analyzing outcomes. This course is intended as an intermediate step in the research educational process prior to students' own independently designed research in COMM 442 or honors research under COMM 491/492.

COMM 325. Media and Globalization  
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (4). Comm 251 strongly recommended. May not be repeated for credit.  
This course offers students a framework for exploring the media's role in processes of globalization and how the globalization of media shapes the socio-cultural, political, economic, ethical and moral dimensions of our lives in this world.
(4). (HU)
This class examines past and present magazines in the United States, and explores the way in which they provide a window into American history and the development of communications media. It includes both direct study of magazines themselves and secondary readings.

COMM 327. Media Economics
COMM 251 or COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
Examines economic theory and its applications to media systems. Focuses on problems in the economics of the information industry, including market structure, concentration of ownership, pricing policies, product differentiation, advertising behavior, and economic performance. Attention given to the interaction of economics, media practices, and technologies.

COMM 329/POLSCI 329. Media and Political Behavior
(4). May not be repeated for credit.
Focuses on the role and importance of mass media in the political process. Topics include: how news is made; political advertising; relations between Congress, the President and the media; and the role of mass media in political campaigns. These topics are examined through a systematic review of research in both mass communication and political science.

COMM/AMCULT/SAC 334. Race, U.S. Culture and Digital Games
(4). May not be repeated for credit.
This course examines how video games function as a window into U.S. race relations. We will study the history, theory, and practice of video games in the U.S. with particular attention to racial stereotyping, user demographics, diversity of the industry, and racial conflict in shared world and social games.

COMM 335. History of Broadcasting
COMM 251 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.
This course traces the history of electronic media from the development of radio, through the rise of television, to the "narrowcasting" achieved by cable and newer digital technologies. The course intertwines historical analysis of programming and institutional elements such as industrial, regulatory, and economic aspects of broadcast history.

COMM 347. Advertising and the New Media Environment
COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course addresses an overview of the history, current developments and future scenarios of digital media and marketing. Advertising and marketing are being reinvented as audio, print and video move online and social media and search technologies change the relationship between the audience and the media.

COMM 350. Rise and Demise of Mass Culture
ALL SECTIONS satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. COMM 101 or COMM 102 with grades of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) COMM 121 or COMM 211 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores the ascent of commercial, mass-mediated culture in the United States from the late nineteenth century to the present. It uses a historical approach to trace the development of modern communication forms and technologies and their dynamic relationship to social, cultural, and political struggle and change.

COMM 362: Digital Media Foundations
ALL SECTIONS satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. Comm 121 or 211 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.
This class is for those interested in practical skills and critical intellectual foundations relevant to the Internet and new media. Using context of Web-based applications, mobile applications, online multimedia, social media, and gaming, this course covers topics fundamental to understanding digital media forms, including an introduction to operation of the Web, Internet, Web development, search engines, digital formats, online media distribution platforms and networks, online communities, audiences, online advertising and user interfaces.

COMM 365. Visual Culture and Visual Literacy
ALL SECTIONS satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. COMM 101 with grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) COMM 102 and (121 or COMM 211) strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.
This course examines contemporary media, imaging technologies, and viewing practices through the lens of visual cultural studies. A wide range of media including television, film, photography, graphic design, advertising, video games, and websites are critically analyzed using approaches that draw from semiotics, psychoanalysis, feminist theory, and cultural studies.
COMM 371. Media, Culture and Society
ALL SECTIONS satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement.  COMM 101 or 102 with grades of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) COMM 121 or COMM 211 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores the historical rise of mass media and the impact on modern society and culture. It considers the dynamic impact of radio and television broadcasting on the rise of urban industrial mass society and popular commercial culture through music, print and electronic advertising, consumerism, and emergence of affluent society. The course also studies modern media institutions, politics, and forms and processes of social change and identity formation, such as class, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexuality.

COMM 380. Persuasion, Communication and Campaigns
ALL SECTIONS satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement.  COMM 102 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) COMM 121 or COMM 211 strongly recommended. (4). May not be repeated for credit.
This course covers theories of persuasion, how to evaluate the effects of persuasive communication on individuals and groups, as well as the design and evaluation of persuasive communications. As an ULWR, the course also focuses heavily on developing strong, evidence-based arguments, and communicating those arguments clearly in writing.

COMM 404. Special Topics in Mass Media and Mass Communication
COMM 251 or 271 strongly recommended. (3). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits under different topic titles. May be elected more than once in the same term.
Investigates topics dealing with mass media and mass communication, media and culture, communication processes, media industries and new and emerging media. Topics vary by section.

COMM 405. Seminar in Mass Media and Mass Communication
COMM 251 or 271 strongly recommended. (3). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits under different topic titles. May be elected more than once in the same term.
Investigates topics dealing with mass media and mass communication, media and culture, communication processes, media industries and new and emerging media. Topics vary by section.

COMM 408. Special Topics in Mass Media Effects
COMM 261 or 281 strongly recommended. (3). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits under different topic titles. May be elected more than once in the same term.
Investigates topics relating to research on the effects of mass communication. Topics vary by section.

COMM 411/SOC 411. Mass Communication and Public Opinion
COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores enduring research questions concerning mass communication and public opinion. Emphasis is given to recent research dealing with the impact of the media on public opinion.

COMM 413/Environ 413. Environmental Communications
COMM 261, COMM 281 or ENVIRON 211 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course serves as an introduction to the theory and practice of environmental and science communication. Topics include media depictions of environmental issues, the role of the media in influencing public opinion and policy actions, expert environmental communication by scientists and policy-makers, and theories that guide effective strategic environmental communication. We will engage with many of the critical environmental issues of our day, including climate change, fracking, support for renewable energy initiatives, and many more.

COMM 415. Communication, Identity and the Public Sphere
COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3).
This course explores how communication constitutes group identity and community, and how publics -- groups formed through communication and around a common goal or identity -- operate in culture and politics. Through an examination of the "public sphere," the course addresses questions of democratic self-government, identity formation and the inclusion/exclusion of minorities.

COMM 418. Designing Web Research
COMM 271 or 315 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course trains you to design research projects that employ web applications and tools to study digitally-mediated social phenomena. We examine adaptations of social research methods to study online phenomena, and the development of new methods and tools that correspond with the particular capacities and characteristics of Internet applications.
COMM 419. Seminar in Research Methods  
(COMM 121 and 122) or COMM 211 strongly recommended. (3). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits under different topic titles. May be elected more than once in the same term.  
Investigates advanced topics in research design, measurement, or analysis. Topics will vary by section and may focus on qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.

COMM 421. Media Law and Policy  
COMM 251 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course covers the basic principles of the First Amendment and how they apply to media policy, practice, and regulation. Topics include First Amendment theory, hate speech, prior restraints and media censorship, defamation, indecency, obscenity, and advertising regulation.

COMM 422. Social Media and Politics  
COMM 261 or COMM 271 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
How have new social media changed the political landscape? Are they a democratizing force or a tool for repression? In what ways do they differ from previous media? These questions anchor our exploration of new media both in American politics and for democratic movements abroad.

COMM 423. Computer Mediated Communication  
COMM 101, 102 and (122 or COMM 211) strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course investigates the role of computer-mediated communication (CMC) in modern life. The course explores various social contexts in which CMC plays a role. In addition, it reviews various branches of social theory that can be applied as lenses for viewing the social implications of CMC in our lives.

COMM 424. Race, Gender, and New Media  
(COMM 271 and COMM 315 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course critically examines how ideology shapes the uses and design of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The readings have been selected to encourage reflection on ICTs in Western culture; particularly the influence and creation of racialized, gendered, sexualized, and class-based uses of new media.

COMM 425. Internet, Society and the Law  
COMM 251 or COMM 271 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course examines the development, regulation and impact of the Internet in American society. It focuses on the expanding legal implications of new technology and how judicial and political apparatus keep pace with the Internet's ever-expanding influence.

COMM 426. Gender Issues and the Media  
COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course examines the connections between gender and mass communication. Feminist theories and their applications to the study of media are examined in detail.

COMM 428. Gender, Media and the Law  
COMM 251 or COMM 271 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course examines the legal system's treatment of gender through court cases and various theoretical lenses. The aim is to understand the role American jurisprudence plays in shaping society's views and ideas on gender, as well as society's influence on how the legal system frames these gender issues. The course also considers media and society responses to some of the most important decisions rendered in the gender equality arena, while weighing whether the court system is the most effective structure through which to pursue gender equality.

COMM 430. The Media in U.S. History  
COMM 271 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This course places the development of American mass media in historical perspective. It surveys the evolution of the mass media from colonial times to the present, focusing on the development of contemporary forms: the newspaper, magazine, broadcasting, and motion picture. Changes in the structure of the media are examined in connection with historical and economic trends in American society. While there are no specific prerequisites, a general grounding in American history is recommended.

COMM 431. Supreme Court News  
COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.  
This seminar evaluates media coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court in the context of long-range factors affecting the ability of news media to function in a democracy, examining the scope and content of print, broadcast, and new-media news reporting on major cases before the court. In addition to gaining a broad overview of media coverage of current and recent cases, each student is expected to select one case from the current or past court term and study its media coverage in detail.
COMM 432. Foreign News Coverage
COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course investigates coverage of foreign news as a reflection of the structure and function of media systems. What factors influence media decisions on event coverage? What criteria do the media use for deciding which to report? How successfully do the media make foreign news relevant to American audiences? What special problems do foreign correspondents face?

COMM 435. Ethics Issues in Journalism
COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course focuses on problems in journalistic ethics and provides an historic overview of traditional journalistic ethics coupled with a detailed study of changing values in news coverage. It studies journalists' responsibilities to their profession and to the public, and examines proposed solutions to the problems of ethics violations.

COMM 439. Seminar in Journalistic Performance
COMM 261 strongly recommended. (3). May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits under different topic titles. May be elected more than once in the same term.
Investigates long-range factors affecting the ability of the news media to perform their functions in a democratic society. Topics vary by section.

COMM 440. Global Iconic Events
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) (3). COMM 371 strongly recommended. May not be repeated for credit.
This course examines the media coverage of new events that have attracted large international audiences. These exceptional events interrupt the flow of time, and provide us with uplifting or traumatic experiences. The case studies include the Royal Wedding, The Beijing Olympic Games, the September 11 attacks, and others.

COMM 441. Independent Reading
Consent of instructor required. Permission of department. (3 - 4). (INDEPENDENT). May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. A maximum of three credits of COMM 322, COMM 441 and 442 may be included in a Communications Studies major. Offered mandatory credit/no credit.
Intended for individualized instruction in subject areas not covered by scheduled courses. Must be arranged with the faculty member and approved by the department.

COMM 442. Independent Research
Consent of instructor required. Permission of department. (3 - 4). (INDEPENDENT). May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. A maximum of three credits of COMM 322, COMM 441 and 442 may be included in a Communications Studies major. Offered mandatory credit/no credit.
Intended for individualized instruction in subject areas not covered by scheduled courses. Must be arranged with the faculty member and approved by the department.

COMM 443. LA, Bombay, Hong Kong: Cultural Industries in Transition
COMM 325 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
During the last three decades, media industries have undergone important changes, transforming the production, promotion, and circulation of films, television programs, and music. Under the impact of new technological advances and transnational flows of people, culture, and capital, media artifacts routinely move across national borders with audiences playing an increasingly participatory role. This course focuses attention on the operations, discourses, and logics that drive contemporary media industries in three major media capitals: L.A., Hong Kong and Mumbai (Bombay). Taking a historical approach, we will examine economic, political, and socio-cultural factors that shape developments in the media industries, relationships between powerful centers of cultural production, and the ways in which industry professionals respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization. In doing so, we will reflect on the methods and frameworks that scholars have developed in their studies of cultural industries.

COMM 444. Race, Representation and the Media
COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). (R&E). May not be repeated for credit.
Race is a master category of representation that influences how minority groups perceived, and shapes state policy, social justice and cultural politics. This course explores how minorities are represented in news media and popular culture. "Minority" groups are defined as groups that experience structural inequality in society, economy and politics.

COMM 445. Music and Mediated Identities
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. (Prerequisites enforced at registration.) COMM 350 or 371 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
Can the analysis of music help us better understand the modern world, consumerism, technology, and mediated communication? To answer this question, this course draws on social and cultural history, theory, and media studies to examine popular music and identity formation in America from the late nineteenth century to the present.

COMM 446. Reality and Television
COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
The course explores what is meant by the ‘real world’, ‘real life’, and ‘real people’ and the ways in which they are presented in different genres of TV output. How does television work to produce effects of ‘the real’? Can we, do we believe what we see--and why?

COMM 447. Women and Islam: The Politics of Representation
COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores past and present constructions of women in Islam, including study of the foundations of contemporary thinking around Islam and gender, the sociology of religious and gender identity, and the political stakes of representations of the Muslim woman, with attention to the consequences of media representation and stereotyping.

COMM 448. Media and the Body
(3). May not be repeated for credit.
This course explores the way the human body is portrayed within, and influenced by, the mass media. It covers a wide range of issues including ability and disability, race, age, sexuality, social class, athletic prowess, and health. This course emphasizes research comprehension and critique.

COMM 455. Global Visual Cultures
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 371 or 365 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This CAPSTONE seminar examines the transnational flows of visual media. We survey the literature of visual culture in multiple disciplines, while considering how images travel across cultural boundaries. The course raises the questions of which visuals do and do not resonate with international audiences, and why certain visual resonate more than others.

COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 251 and 271 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This class explores changes in the television industry in recent decades, their consequences for television programming, and consequent adjustments in television as a cultural form. It addresses television's changing scope (multiplicity of networks), viewing practices altered by new recording devices, and its convergence with other technologies.

COMM 457. Citizenship after Television
COMM 251 or 271 with grades of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). (3). (R&E). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This course explores how television serves as a crucial site for struggles over citizenship and questions of inclusion (and exclusion) in the nation. We trace television's role in shaping post-war American culture by relating TV to broader debates surrounding class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and religion.

COMM 460. History of Technology and Modern Culture
COMM 271 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 350 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This interdisciplinary seminar explores the cultural history of technology and communication by tracing the emergence of, and reception to, selected technologies from the 19th century to the present. It pays critical attention to unique and recurring problems and opportunities associated with communication and technical innovation in the modern world.

COMM 461. Visuality and New Media
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 365 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This course explores the intersection between digital media and "the visual" from historical, theoretical, and industrial perspectives. We trace changes in how the "user" is imagined from 1960s mainframe computers to today's popular social apps, developing analytical techniques for the visual analysis of new media cultural forms.
COMM 463. Communication and Political Representation
COMM 122 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 261 and COMM 329 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

It is hard to imagine modern representative democracy without mass media. This capstone seminar looks at the roles that mass media play in citizen-government relations: as a source of information about policies and governments; as a representation of citizens’ attitudes and preferences; and as centerpiece of election campaigns. Discussions will focus on where mass media succeed and fail, and on the consequences of media performance for political decision-making and the functioning of representative democracy.

COMM 464. Social Consequences of Mobile Communication
Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 251 and 261 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

This course examines the social consequences of mobile communication and the role that mobile communication technology plays in the reformulation of everyday life. It explores adoption patterns, international perspectives on mobile communication, intersections between mass and interpersonal communication, and theoretical approaches.

COMM 465. Health Communication and Health Behavior Change
COMM 281 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 380 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

Examines principles related to health communication, including contemporary theories of health behavior change, approaches to the design and development of health communications, and principles and practices of outcome evaluation. Sample topics include: health promotion, social marketing, risk communication, fear appeals, entertainment-education, and health messages in the popular media.

COMM 466. Global Digital Politics
Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 325 and COMM 329 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

This CAPSTONE seminar explores important ways in which digital media and internet infrastructure are shaping and constraining participation and organizing in developing and emerging countries. The course introduces comparative politics and the comparative method to communication and media studies students, with rich case studies to understand new forms of collective action.

COMM 121 or COMM 211 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

This class explores how the public consumes science and how scientific findings translate into policy. Through issues like evolution, climate change, and vaccinations, we explore boundaries of scientific knowledge, challenges in science journalism, popular opinion, and policy challenges. What we know and how we know it lie in the balance.

COMM 468. Play and Technology
Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

This capstone seminar investigates competing social scientific and philosophical theories of play, the structure of games, and the consequences of technologically mediated play for both children and adults. It is organized around competing theoretical understandings of play and is illustrated with examples from computer games.

COMM 470. Telling our own Stories: Minority Self-Representation in the Media
Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). (R&E). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

This course explores media narratives and representations of identity and culture told from a minority point of view, considering questions of race/ethnicity, sexuality and gender. The course examines how these media stories are told, what topics/issues they address, and what alternative views of American identity and society they provide.

COMM 475. Mass Media in the World
COMM 271 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 325 or 350 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.

As of 8/21/15

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New and expanding mass communication technologies and commercial culture shifted the "place" of the U.S. in the twentieth century. But the cultural patterns, uses, and meanings of U.S.-inflected global media exports were hardly unidirectional or hegemonic. We explore major issues in global media history and theory.

COMM 477. Media and Celebrity Culture
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This course examines the explosive rise of celebrity culture since the mid-1970s and its colonization of virtually every media form and genre, from niche cable channels to the news to the proliferation of celebrity journalism and magazines in the early 21st century. It explores the mass media's need for, and role in the manufacture, maintenance and expansion of celebrity culture in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and considers the consequences of that culture on the media themselves and American culture. Readings focus on theories of celebrity, the history of celebrity production, and the ideological work done by celebrity culture.

COMM 480. Strategic and Persuasive Communication
Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 281 and 380 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This interdisciplinary seminar investigates theories of persuasion, and how they are applied in a variety of contexts. Students learn skills for designing and evaluating persuasive messages through interactive exercises and group-based projects. Major topics include: social science research on influence, and issues in the design and evaluation of persuasive communication.

COMM 482. Children and the Media
COMM 261 or 281 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
Examines influences of the mass media on children in society. The course is designed to explore in-depth the literature on media effects, emphasizing the interaction of mass media, psychological development, and social behavior. Course readings examine both methodological and theoretical issues, drawing from work in communication, psychology, and policy studies.

COMM 483. Media and Intergroup Conflict
COMM 102 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 281 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This capstone seminar explores theory and research on mass media and its influence on intergroup relations. In the beginning of the semester, we will focus on a) basic social psychological explanations of intergroup biases and b) theories explaining how media can influence outgroup perceptions and attitudes. Next, we will explore media effects literature on how different outgroups are presented in the media and the consequences of these portrayals on intergroup relations. Finally, we will focus on how the media can be used to promote positive intergroup relations.

COMM 486. Afro-Asian Popular Culture
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). (R&E). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
How are distinctive identities - racial, ethnic, cultural, and geographic - formed, maintained, and represented in (popular) culture? This course draws upon diverse literatures to map the terrain of hybrid identity constructions of the AfroAsian in popular culture. By the course's end, we will be able to answer the questions: How is AfroAsian identity expressed, be it struggle, resistance, or coalition? How has this popular culture expression of identity developed over time? What are the possibilities of an Afro/Asian alliance beyond popular culture?

COMM 487. African Americans in Popular Culture
COMM 101 with a grade of C- or better. Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 371 strongly recommended. (3). (R&E). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This course draws upon diverse literatures as a blue-print to the construction of Black identity in (mediated) popular culture. We delve into debates of race, representation, and participation by examining how African American life and culture - "Blackness" - is presented in popular communication.
COMM 490. Capstone Seminar in Media Topics
Declared COMM Senior. (Prerequisites enforced at registration). COMM 251, 261, 271 or 281 strongly recommended. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 450-490 may be included in a communication studies plan.
Investigates advanced senior capstone topics relating to mass media and mass communication. Topics vary by section.

COMM 491. Senior Honors Seminar I
Consent of instructor required. STATS 250 (350) and admission to Honors. (3). May not be repeated for credit. This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. No more than 3 credits of COMM 491-492 may be included in a communication studies plan.
This is the first in a two-part honors seminar program and culminates in the composition of a senior honors thesis prospectus. Develops student's senior honors thesis topic, choice of research methods, and selection of faculty thesis adviser.

COMM 492. Senior Honors Thesis
Consent of instructor required. COMM 491 and permission of instructor. (3). This course fulfills the CAPSTONE requirement. May not be repeated for credit. No more than three credits of COMM 491-492 may be included in a communication studies plan.
The second in a two-part honors seminar program and culminates in the composition of a senior honors thesis. Students must have successfully completed COMM 491. Students work directly with their thesis advisers, and are expected to meet regularly with them for direction and assistance.