

# COM - COMMUNICATION (COM)

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## **COM 133. Cinema Appreciation. (3 Credits)**

A study of movie production as a technical and dramatic art form, illustrated by means of viewings and readings. Designed to enhance a better understanding and enjoyment of motion pictures. Course fee: \$50.00 (Fall, Spring, Summer).  
Course Fees: \$50

## **COM 201. Fundamentals of Speech. (3 Credits)**

Communication theory and practice for public speaking with emphasis on content, research, organization, delivery, adaptation to the audience as well as listening and speaker evaluation. Prerequisite: minimum English ACT score of 16, or satisfactory completion of EN 099 or higher. (Fall, Spring, Summer).

## **COM 201H. Fundamental of Speech, Honors. (3 Credits)**

Accelerated training in public speaking, with emphasis on the evolution of rhetoric and speaking to a variety of audiences. This course utilizes class discussion and written responses to further encourage critical thinking skills. This course is open to students in the Honors College and other qualified students with prior departmental approval. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 205. Communication in a Global Age. (3 Credits)**

Foundation course in communication, placing U.S. media in a global perspective and examining both human and technological impact on communication. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 211. Business and Professional Speaking. (3 Credits)**

Communication and critical thinking skills as applied to presentations, interviews and organizational interactions in business contexts. Emphasis on needs analysis and strategies for effective research, organization, audience adaptation, delivery and use of visual elements to formulate presentations. Prerequisite: minimum English ACT score of 16 or satisfactory completion of EN 099 or higher. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 215. Media Writing. (3 Credits)**

Writing applications across multiple media platforms including print, broadcast, social media, news releases and scripts, for traditional and new media. Grammar and language skills are refined, and Associated Press style is introduced. Prerequisites EN 111, 112 or EN 121, 122. (Fall, Spring)  
Course Fees: \$30

## **COM 220. Basic Reporting. (3 Credits)**

Fundamentals of news gathering and news writing. Prerequisite: COM 215. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 221. Human Communication. (3 Credits)**

Students develop effective communication skills by studying how people interact in a variety of situations, including groups settings, interpersonal communication and speaking before the public. Prerequisite: minimum English ACT score of 16 or satisfactory completion of EN 099 or higher. (Fall)

## **COM 230. Foundations of Public Relations. (3 Credits)**

The history, development, and professional practices of public relations in society, including the public relations process and standards. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 243. Aural-Visual Production. (3 Credits)**

Hands on experience in familiarizing students with the foundation of aesthetic values, current professional standards and technical tools of creation. Introduction to individual elements of all three phases of production. Prerequisite: COM 205. (Fall, Spring)  
Course Fees: \$50

## **COM 253. Introduction to Film Production. (3 Credits)**

An introduction to digital film production and the skills necessary to produce, shoot, and edit a film, including the role of aesthetics, industry standards, and capital resources available to students for use in the production. Prerequisite: COM 133. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 303W. Communications Research Methods. (3 Credits)**

A class centering on understanding the relationships between philosophy, theory, and research methods used in the study of communication. The class focuses on experimental, survey, textual analyses, and naturalistic inquiries. Students will develop a working knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative data analyses procedures as well as being able to critically appraise communication research. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 306. Interpersonal Communication. (3 Credits)**

Provides a functional interpretation of interpersonal communication in societal, educational, and vocational relationships. Appropriate readings and research regarding the influence of communication between two individuals is a primary focus of the course. (Spring)

## **COM 308. Nonverbal Communication. (3 Credits)**

This course studies the use of symbolic transmissions outside verbal contexts. Specific topics include the influences of gestures, dress, posture, and facial expressions on both senders and receivers. (Spring)

## **COM 310. Foundations and Ethics. (3 Credits)**

Classical foundations of communication study, including study of representative Philosophers and Sophists. Examination of the ethical responsibilities of the communicator. (Fall, odd years)

## **COM 314. Communication Theory and the Public Interest. (3 Credits)**

An introduction to modern communication theories, communication effects and ethical issues associated with communication in a contemporary mediated environment. (Fall, Spring)

## **COM 317. Digital and Social Media. (3 Credits)**

The blending of text, sounds and images in a converged media environment. Basic computer literacy is required. Students learn aural and visual aesthetics and web content production. Prerequisite: COM 243. (Fall, Spring)  
Course Fees: \$50

## **COM 320. Political Communication. (3 Credits)**

Current topics in political communication and political campaign, including appropriate research and readings. (Fall, even years)

## **COM 326. Broadcast News Writing and Producing. (3 Credits)**

Techniques of news gathering, writing and producing for television, radio and new media. Prerequisites: COM 220, COM 243. (Fall)  
Course Fees: \$50

## **COM 330. Group Communication. (3 Credits)**

Deals with communication theory and its applications to small groups within a variety of settings. Attention is given to the roles of the discussants and the emergence of group leaders as well as the influence communication variables have on each. (Fall)

**COM 331. Argumentation and Debate. (3 Credits)**

An introduction to the theory and practice of argumentation and debate as they are employed in our society. This course includes a study of basic argumentative theory, burden of proof, and reasoning within both public address and debate contexts for issue resolution. Prerequisite: minimum English ACT score of 16 or satisfactory completion of EN 099 or higher. (Fall, even years)

**COM 340. Media Criticism. (3 Credits)**

Fundamentals of criticism with emphasis on content, visual literacy, programming genres, and social impact. Coursework will involve viewing and analysis of various types of media content. Prerequisite: COM 205. (Fall)

**COM 341. Radio Prod & Performance. (3 Credits)**

The basic techniques of operation, production, and performance of radio and audio media. (Fall)  
Course Fees: \$50

**COM 342. Television Production and Performance. (3 Credits)**

Studio and field television production techniques including production, equipment operation and on-camera performance. Prerequisite COM 243 (Fall, Spring)  
Course Fees: \$50

**COM 356. Advanced Reporting. (3 Credits)**

A continuation of COM 220 with emphasis on the development of reportorial skills necessary for advanced news gathering and news writing. May include field trip. Prerequisite: COM 220. (Spring)  
Course Fees: \$30

**COM 363. Media and Modern Myth. (3 Credits)**

An exploration of mythical narrative as a basic form of storytelling in modern film, television, news, advertising, and gaming with the goal of enhancing media literacy and critical thinking.

**COM 368. Copy Editing. (3 Credits)**

The processes of copy editing, proofreading, headline writing, and newspaper layout. Prerequisite: COM 215. (Fall)  
Course Fees: \$30

**COM 370. Feature Writing. (3 Credits)**

Theories, techniques, and practice in writing feature articles for newspapers and magazines. Prerequisite: COM 220. (Fall)  
Course Fees: \$30

**COM 374. Public Relations Cases. (3 Credits)**

Study of individual cases in the practice of public relations. May include field trip. Prerequisites: COM 230, 240. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 383W. Screenwriting Fundamentals. (3 Credits)**

An introduction to core storytelling concepts as a strategy for formulating proficient screenplays. Emphasis is placed on theme, character, and action. Projects culminate with the writing of a short adaptation. Also listed as EN 383W but creditable only in field for which registered. Prerequisite: EN 111, 112 or EN 111 H, 112H Course fee: \$50 .00. (Spring)  
Course Fees: \$50

**COM 386. Gender Communication. (3 Credits)**

Examines multiple relationships between communication and gender. Emphasizes how communication creates gender and power roles and how communicative patterns reflect, sustain, and alter social conceptions of gender. Also listed as WS 386 but creditable only in field for which registered. (Fall, odd-numbered years)

**COM 390. Public Relations Writing. (3 Credits)**

Theories, techniques, and practice in advanced writing for public relations. Coursework will include the writing of mission statements, position statements, advertorials, appeal letters, video news releases, speeches, and opinion pieces for a variety of media outlets and platforms. Prerequisites: COM 220, 230. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 393W. Short Screenplay Writing. (3 Credits)**

Workshops in the craft's most effective conventions and an induction to constructing effective visual narratives. Exercises guide to mastery of essentials, which culminate in conceptualizing and composing an authentic work. Prerequisite: COM 293W. (Fall)  
Course Fees: \$50

**COM 400W. Communication Law and Ethics. (3 Credits)**

An introduction to legal and ethical responsibilities related to communication in the United States. This course distinguishes between forms of communication that have constitutional protection and those which have limits (libel, privacy, copyright, intellectual property, censorship, commercial speech, broadcast licensing, access to information) on freedom of expression. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 402. Persuasion. (3 Credits)**

An analysis of the principles and techniques used in all forms of persuasive communication. The course includes both theoretical and applied work concerning the use of communication to produce specific attitudes within receivers. (Spring, even years)

**COM 410. Layout and Design I. (3 Credits)**

Preparation of newsletters, brochures, and small publications using current desktop publishing software. Prerequisite: junior or senior classification. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 411. Layout and Design II. (3 Credits)**

This course is a continuation of the skills learned in Layout and Design I and includes preparation of printed/digital documents, publications and infographics, designing websites and social media platforms and editing images, using current desktop publishing and design software. Prerequisite: COM 410. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 417. Intercultural Communication. (3 Credits)**

This course provides an introduction to communication among people from different cultural and co-cultural groups. It focuses on intercultural communication theories and research and their application to multi-cultural contexts (Spring even years)

**COM 420. Portfolio Preparation. (1 Credit)**

Issues faced by graduates upon entering graduate school or the professional world. Topics include preparation of the professional portfolio, current market trends, and long-term professional prospects. Should be completed by all departmental majors in the last semester prior to graduation. Also listed as TH 420 but creditable only in field for which registered. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 423. Intermediate Film Production. (3 Credits)**

Understanding of industry areas such as existing/emerging technologies structure, regulation, operation, management, economics, or other anterior and posterior interests corresponding to film and digital media productions. Prerequisites: COM 253, COM 383W. Course fee: \$75.00. (Fall)  
Course Fees: \$75

**COM 440. Organizational Communication. (3 Credits)**

An analysis of communication within complex organizations. Areas covered include communication auditing, interviews, decision-making, communication networks, and problem solving. Three class periods; one 2-hour laboratory period per week. Also listed as MG 440 but creditable only in field for which registered. (Spring, odd years)

**COM 441. Creative Audio Production. (3 Credits)**

including digital multi-track recording, mixing, signal processing, live remote recording, digital editing, creative sound production, and sound design for the Internet, podcasting and over-the-air broadcasting. Prerequisites: COM 241 or COM 317 or consent of instructor. (Spring) Course Fees: \$30

**COM 442. Public Relations Campaigns. (3 Credits)**

Research, planning, management and evaluation of public relations campaigns. Prerequisites: COM 215, COM 240, COM 374 and COM 390. (Fall, Spring)

**COM 443. Advanced Film Production. (3 Credits)**

Competent and consistent application of theoretical concept comprehension and principles of professional standards to the individual elements of all three phases of production through utilization of current tools in projects. Prerequisite: COM 423. Special Fee: \$50.00 (Spring) Course Fees: \$50

**COM 453W. Screenwriting Artistry I. (3 Credits)**

In a symposium atmosphere students familiar will practice core processes in developing and refining screenplays. This methodical process requires diligence, but leads to successful stories. Permission needed from instructor. (Upon Sufficient Demand) Course Fees: \$50

**COM 455. Mass Media History. (3 Credits)**

A survey of media and their influence from colonial times to the present, with attention to the personalities who shaped journalism and mass communication. Includes an introduction to historiography and historical research methods. (Spring, even years)

**COM 457. Storytelling. (3 Credits)**

Study of and practice in storytelling Uses of storytelling in various settings including classrooms, libraries, churches, and public events. Students will gain experiences by telling a variety of stories (i.e. Personal Narrative, Mentor, Myths), developing vocal characterizations, using effective body language and creating imagery through spoken language. (Upon Sufficient Demand)

**COM 460. Advanced Radio-Television Production. (3 Credits)**

Theories and practical application of production of programs in the broadcast and digital media industries. Final product(s) suitable to the focus of the course will be required. Prerequisites: COM 241, 256, 340, and 342. (Fall, Spring) Course Fees: \$30

**COM 465. Global Media Systems. (3 Credits)**

Media systems differ substantially around the world. This course examines world mass media: history, development, economic and social influence, theories of control, international news agencies and new technologies. (Spring, odd years)

**COM 470. Media Management and Diversity. (3 Credits)**

Management responsibilities of digital, electronic and print media managers, including the social, legal, and economic responsibilities of the professional manager. May include field trip. Prerequisite: COM 205, or consent of instructor for non-majors. (Spring, odd years) Course Fees: \$30

**COM 472W. Rhetoric: Argument and Style. (3 Credits)**

An examination of the ideas in writing and speech from classical Greek origins to modern times, with a focus on composition and on analysis of essays and speeches. Also listed as EN 472W but creditable only in field for which registered. (Upon Sufficient Demand)

**COM 475. Crisis Management and Community Relations. (3 Credits)**

An examination of communication principles and the spectrum of forces that are involved in community and media relations. Students will learn the implementation of descriptive, analytic, assessment, communications and application skills. Course is taught online. (Summer)

**COM 480. Topics in Communication. (3 Credits)**

Detailed examination of a specific topic in the field of communication. Topic will be announced prior to scheduling of the class. May include field trip. A \$30.00 special fee may be required according to the topic. (Upon Sufficient Demand) Course Fees: \$30

**COM 483. Film Practicum Pre-Production. (3 Credits)**

An intensive workshop designed to help students develop a thesis screenplay that best demonstrates their unique voice and professional excellence. Students may work in teams and are required to complete various pre-production tasks, including research in order to prepare them for the demands of principal photography as well as ensure a more efficient production. Prerequisite: COM 443 (Fall)

**COM 485. Agency Public Relations. (3 Credits)**

Accelerated training in agency public relations. This course will utilize class discussion and written responses to further encourage critical thinking skills. May require a field trip. Prerequisite: departmental approval required. (Upon Sufficient Demand)

**COM 493. Film Production Practicum. (3 Credits)**

Under the supervision and direction of the instructor, specialized field experience in production roles and the communication of community initiated projects through the integration of personal performance and collaborative contributions. Prerequisite: COM 483 (Spring) Course Fees: \$25

**COM 497. Prin of Publ Relations Cert. (0 Credits)**

Certification training program for the Universal Accreditation Board's Certificate in Principles of Public Relations. This is neither a required nor an elective course within the Communication of Arts or Mass Communication majors. Enrollment is restricted to seniors and recent graduates who plan to seek UAB certification. A training course fee is paid directly to UAB. (Upon Sufficient Demand)

**COM 498. Independent Study. (1-3 Credits)**

Independent study and research in an area of communication arts or mass communication under departmental guidance and supervision. The length of time and amount of study will determine credit earned. May be repeated but not to exceed a maximum of three credit hours. Prerequisite: departmental approval required prior to registration. (Upon Sufficient Demand)

**COM 499. Internship. (1-3 Credits)**

Special field experience under departmental guidance and evaluation. The length of time and amount of study will determine credit earned. May be repeated but not to exceed a maximum of six (6) credit hours. Prerequisite: departmental approval required prior to registration. (Fall, Spring, Summer)