Courses

Communication (COMM)

COMM 1150 Intro To Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
Historical survey of international cinema focusing on political, social, economic, technological, and aesthetic factors. Major film movements and historical developments from 1895 to the present are covered including U.S. silent cinema, Soviet montage, German expressionism, French impressionism and surrealism, the transition to sound, classical Hollywood cinema, the impact of WWII, Italian neorealism, the French New Wave, art cinema, new German cinema, and new Hollywood cinema.

COMM 2010 Public Opinion and the Media (3 Credit Hours)
Polls are considered important for the democratic system. Governments are elected for a certain period of time, and public opinion polls are often seen as necessary tools for public officials to measure the public's pulse in the period between elections and to address their policy concerns. For generations of citizens who grew up with opinion polls, the notion of public opinion is seen as a naturally existing phenomenon. But what actually is public opinion? Is there such a thing as public opinion in the first place? How is public opinion produced and used by the media and the political elite? Who influences public opinion and how? What is the media's role in shaping public opinion polls? The purpose of this course is to critically examine the ways in which public opinion is 1) measured, 2) constructed and 3) used in politics.

COMM 2220 New Media & Internet Studies (3 Credit Hours)
An investigation of the histories and theories associated with the Internet and other forms of new media. The main course objectives are to learn how to analyze Internet settings and employ new media methods. Conceptions of new technologies and newness will be theorized and examined. We consider how new media technologies are identified as tools and the ways they are critiqued for producing gendered, racial, and sexual identities. Topics include Afrofuturism, cyber feminism, science fiction, the web, social networking, fan fiction, hypertext, Internet authorship, and surveillance.

COMM 2230 Interpersonal Communicat (3 Credit Hours)
Introduction to theories and models of interpersonal communication, which enhance understanding, and development of interpersonal relationships. Course content covers topics such as listening behavior, intrapersonal processing, dyadic interaction, conflict management, intercultural, intimate and nonverbal communication.

COMM 2300 Political Communication (3 Credit Hours)
A survey of theories, empirical research, and critical analysis of contemporary political communication processes in the United States. Topics may include the role of the media in electoral campaigns, strategies of presidential communication, as well as the relationship between media and political institutions, including Congress and the Courts. News coverage of social movements and political protest will also be discussed. The course covers a variety of political communication genres, such as journalism, political advertising, talk shows and political websites.

COMM 2350 Media and Criminal Justice (3 Credit Hours)
This class examines the interrelationships between crime, criminal justice, and Media. Television, film, newspaper and electronic/internet media intersect with crime and the criminal justice system in a number of important ways. The point of this course is to explore how the media represents influences, distorts, and/or filters crime and justice issues. Also, the media is used as a mechanism to explore issues (e.g., political ideology, corrections policy, causes of crime) that are central to the study of crime. The impact of media images of crime and violence on individuals, groups, and public policy will be considered. Issues regarding the future of crime, criminal justice, and mass media also will be discussed. In addition, the course requires 20 hours of service learning. Students will work with local community organizations involved with criminal justice.

COMM 2400 Topics in Int'l Film Movements (3 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on specific film movements in international cinema, with an emphasis on understanding stylistic and aesthetic innovations in their social-historical context. Topics may include European film movements, Chinese cinemas and others. Notes: May be repeated for credit up to 2 times if different topic with the permission of the Film Studies Director.
COMM 2450 Gender and Media (3 Credit Hours)
This course introduces students to the field of gender and media studies. Media are part of the ways in which we understand and talk about gender, and the ways in which we make sense of what it means to be a "man" and a "woman." We encounter countless media messages in advertisements, newspapers, magazines, films, movies, television and the Internet, depicting ideal models for men and women every day. We are so accustomed to living in a media saturated world that problematic representations escape our attention and remain taken for granted. This course is an attempt to step back and critically reflect on the media representations of gender. Throughout the course, we will focus on the main issues and controversies in this field by examining a broad range of examples.

COMM 2500 Film and Society (3 Credit Hours)
This class investigates various social issues that emerge from an examination of films produced in the United States, Europe and the developing world. Students consider societal forces such as class, race, gender, youth, family, prejudice, education and homelessness. The cinematic depiction of these factors as well as the connection between cinematic language, syntax, structure and a film's ultimate meaning or message are explored.

COMM 2550 Introduction to Television (3 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to the study of television as a unique audiovisual culture with its own history, aesthetics, and meaning production. Students will learn about the television industry, its audiences, and its programming. Examples from television programming from the 1950s to the present will supplement readings.

COMM 2600 Rhet Princ Media Writing (3 Credit Hours)
Applies principles of classical and contemporary rhetorical theory to problems of writing for news media. Incorporates grammar review. Writing requirements include major news story, major feature story and numerous smaller assignments. Emphasis on writing for print media, but stylistic techniques for broadcast media also covered.

COMM 2650 Mass Communication Law (3 Credit Hours)
Studies federal and state regulation of both print and broadcast media in the United States to understand how legal mandates and constraints have defined the roles of media in society. Historical and contemporary analyses include laws in areas such as libel, privacy, free press versus fair trial, access to government information, regulation of advertising and regulation of broadcasting.

COMM 2700 Visual Communication (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the history and theory of visual communication and its application in a variety of cultural contexts. Topics include the transition from print to visual media, the development of visual literacy and the role of emerging technology. Students will complete applied projects using photography, video and electronic media, digital imaging, and web-based visual technology.

COMM 2720 Media & Reproductive Rights (3 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on the relationships between reproductive politics, popular and social media, and movements for reproductive rights and justice in the United States. Students will learn key concepts and theories related to reproductive rights and justice, as well as media studies and analysis. The course covers historical and contemporary portrayals of reproduction within popular and alternative media with a focus on their racial, sexual, class, and gendered dimensions. Students will also learn about various ways in which television, film, and new media technologies function within government and nonprofit advocacy around reproductive issues. In sum, this course maps the intersections between reproductive politics and media technologies, while helping students develop their analytical prowess, communication skills, and knowledge of media, culture, and social inequity in the United States.

COMM 2750 Latin American Icons (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the rise of political icons in modern and contemporary Latin American societies. In particular, it highlights the intersections between historical context, individual biographies and mass media. The course emphasizes how symbolic representations have been mobilized to construct and challenge the iconic status of political actors and explores some of the most important political movements and conflicts that have shaped Latin America’s history, including nationalism, populism, and revolution.

COMM 2810 Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)
A detailed study of particular issues, problems and developments in the history, theory and criticism of communication. Topics may be drawn from any of the departmental areas of concentration, for example, the concept of invention, the rhetoric of religion, non-verbal communication, mass media and culture and similar themes. May be taken twice for credit on different topics.

COMM 2811 Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 2812 Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 2813 Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 2820 Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)
A detailed study of particular issues, problems and developments in the history, theory and criticism of communication. Topics may be drawn from any of the departmental areas of concentration, for example, the concept of invention, the rhetoric of religion, non-verbal communication, mass media and culture and similar themes. May be taken twice for credit on different topics.
COMM 2890 Service Learning: COMM 2350 (0-1 Credit Hours)
Credit attached to courses with a 40-hour service learning component.

COMM 2900 Communication Studies (3 Credit Hours)
Communication Studies introduces students to the theoretical underpinnings of the Department of Communication. The course explores communication through its tri-part focus on relationships and identities (individuals), texts, and industries and structures (contexts). The course introduces key concepts and keywords for continuing in the major.

COMM 3140 Cross-Cultural Analysis (3 Credit Hours)
A critical examination of communication in intercultural, interethnic and international contexts. An overview of models and approaches designed to explain cultural differences in communication with emphasis on the dimensions of symbolization, acculturation, prejudice, stereotyping and ideology. Conceptual frameworks are applied and tested within a range of cultural populations as defined by race, ethnicity, gender, physical disability, sexuality, socio-economic class and geographic location.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900.

COMM 3150 Film Analysis (4 Credit Hours)
Introduction to film analysis designed to help students develop a visual literacy with regard to film and a critical understanding of how films produce meanings. Focus is on formal analysis of film including elements such as narrative, mise-en-scene, editing, camera movement, sound and on key critical and theoretical approaches such as neoformalism and psychoanalysis. Classical Hollywood cinema and avant-garde and independent filmmaking traditions are studied in order to focus on the politics of form required film journal helps students develop analytical and critical skills. Required course for the film studies minor.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900.

COMM 3160 Technology Analysis (3,4 Credit Hours)
The study of technology as material culture through its production, dissemination and uses. Theorizes ways of approaching technology as symbolic tools, as material goods and as part of a cultural geography. Contextualizes digitalization in terms of social, political and economic discourses. Includes research methods for analyzing technology.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900, 2900, 2900 or 2900.

COMM 3200 Media Literacy/Media Educ I (3 Credit Hours)
This course introduces the study of media literacy, media education, and basic media pedagogy. Students will learn the many different definitions of media literacy; grapple with the ideological and political underpinnings of literacy in general and media literacy in particular; and become familiar with the key theorists, methodologies and methodological practices.

COMM 3240 Interaction Analysis (3 Credit Hours)
Focus on the investigation, interpretation and critical assessment of human interaction. Emphasis is given to interaction occurring in the relational contexts of marriage, friendship and the organization. Study includes the cultural and ideological elements, the models of communication used to explain interaction and the analysis of everyday communication phenomena in each context.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900, 2900, 2900 or 2900.

COMM 3250 Rhetorical Criticism (3 Credit Hours)
The description, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of persuasive uses of language. Emphasis on classical, situational, generic, dramatistic and ideological methods of criticism. Judgments about aesthetic, pragmatic, logical and ethical dimensions of rhetoric.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900, 2900, 2900, 2900 or 1000.

COMM 3260 Media Analysis (3,4 Credit Hours)
The study of the structure of media industries and their contents based on humanistic and social science approaches. Theorizes major trends in industry ownership and practices; the effects of political economy on textual symbols, discourses and genres; the function of media programming in reinforcing or altering perceptions of ideas, events, and people. Familiarizes students with research methods for analyzing media.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900, 2900, 2900 or 2900.

COMM 3270 Topics in Authors and Genres (3 Credit Hours)
Questions of authorship and of genre are two key paradigms of film criticism. This course examines the aesthetic and theoretical bases for notions of authorship and genre in the cinema including romantic theories of art, auteur criticism, structuralism and post-structuralism. It also considers the historical development of the oeuvre of individual directors as author e.g. Hitchcock) and of particular film genres both in Hollywood cinema (e.g. film noir) and in non-mainstream and non-U.S. cinema. Genres and directors studied will change. May be repeated up to two times on different topics with approval of the Film Studies Director.
COMM 3280 Media Histories (3 Credit Hours)
This course looks at media histories, with a focus on the different kinds of stories we tell about media, its contents and contexts. The course explores historical trends, the nature of historiography (the study of history) and some fundamentals of historical research.

COMM 3300 Comparative Political Comm (3 Credit Hours)
Examination of the links between media and political systems, based on a comparative approach. Offers a detailed comparison of political communication processes in different regions of the world and identifies how social, cultural and economic contexts are central to understanding the role of the media in political processes.

COMM 3320 Politics of Popular Culture (3 Credit Hours)
This course will introduce students to critical thinking through the theories of cultural studies, ranging from culturalism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, gender and sexuality, and postcolonialism to postmodernism. Theories of cultural studies critically contextualize, examine and theorize culture as it influences and shapes our everyday lives and social structures. Students will learn about the various approaches to analyzing culture based on the canonical works of cultural study theorists and how to apply their critical theories to contemporary examples.

COMM 3350 New Media Analysis (3 Credit Hours)
In this course, we study key issues in contemporary new media studies and engage in close textual analysis. We focus on the multi-layered textual aspects of the Internet and computer. These texts are some combination of images.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2900, 2900, 2900 or 2900.

COMM 3400 Comm & Leadership Groups (3 Credit Hours)
Group and organizational communication analyzes how the actions of people are coordinated and controlled to achieve collective outcomes. It is also concerned with the way individuals are shaped by their interactions with the groups and organizations around them. This seminar will help you learn how communication is key to understanding how groups and organizations work.

COMM 3410 Reality TV (3 Credit Hours)
This course is a critical examination of the ever-growing roster of reality television programs. It is impossible for us to consume and analyze every reality television show or sub-genre this term. Instead, we will study the contours of the genre and critically engage with a sample platter of reality televisual offerings. Through scholarly readings, lectures, group discussions, in-class and at-home episode screenings, and creative projects, we will study reality television's history; its deep ties to neoliberalism and surveillance culture; its role as a celebrity-making apparatus; and the voyeuristic experience of watching and being watched. Moreover, we will pay particular attention to the intersection of gender, race, class, sexuality, and citizenship in reality TV representations and reception, as well as depictions of New Orleans and Louisiana culture on reality TV.

COMM 3420 Disability & Reality TV (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the ever-growing roster of reality television programs focused on the disabled body and mind. Bridging critical disability studies of reality television together we will explore the politics of ability in reality televisual texts with emphasis on representations of disability and their intersection with gender, race, class, sexuality, and citizenship. This course contextualizes our analysis in a broader history of disability as a site of public spectacle and the emergency of reality television as a genre. Students will interrogate the social function and consequences of these televisual texts as well as critically consider their own relationships to them.

COMM 3440 Critical Race Theory (3 Credit Hours)
Critical race theory was a term that was coined to refer to an area of legal studies developed by African American, Latino, and Asian American scholars to address questions of racial injustice. However, the broader field of critical race theory today incorporates multi-disciplinary scholarship that works to create critical knowledge about social inequalities and racialized power relations.

COMM 3500 British Cultural Studies (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines British contemporary multicultural society through the field and method known as cultural studies, which also has its intellectual roots in Britain. This course will introduce students to the terms, analytical techniques, and interpretive strategies commonly employed in cultural studies. Emphasis is on interdisciplinary approaches to exploring how everyday cultural processes and cultural artifacts are produced and how meaning is shaped through contestations of race, class and gender, and national identity. Through discussion, research, and writing, class members investigate these varied dimensions of British multiculture; learn to understand them in their broader historical, aesthetic, and political contexts.

COMM 3510 Environmental Comm (3 Credit Hours)
The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding and analysis of communication processes used in defining environmental issues and shaping environmental policies. Topics include defining nature and environment; diverse audiences and environmental messages; developing strategies for risk communication; and creating effective environmental campaigns. Case studies of successful and unsuccessful environmental communication will be examined.
COMM 3520 Topics in Cinema and Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on the relationship between cinema and politics as it pertains to formal, historical, and institutional ways of analyzing film. Topics will include environmentalism and contemporary eco cinema, sexual representation and pornography, and social problem films during the progressive Era in the United States Hollywood, silent cinema, global and national cinemas will be included as they are relevant to the topic covered.

COMM 3550 Third World Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
This course surveys the cinematic practices of the developing nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. The filmic practice, at once revolutionary and ideological, has not only produced some of the world is most striking filmic innovations, but is now recognized as having initiated a new phase and expanded definitions of the art of cinema. The issues to be addressed include: the development of a national cinema, the impact of politics on film style, video and television culture, the commonalities and differences in modes of production, the relationship of film to the societies’ values and cultures and the role of cinema as a mediation of history.

COMM 3560 History of Animation (3,4 Credit Hours)
This course examines the history of animation within the field of film studies. The shift to digital cinema has encouraged historians and theorists to revise distinctions between animation and film and to reckon with the pervasiveness of moving image media created through diverse techniques. To understand the implications of this shift and the significance of animation within media history, this course analyzes animation genres, techniques, and styles and investigates theories of animation as they developed from the late 19th century up to the present.

COMM 3600 Documentary Film (3 Credit Hours)
The films to be studied in this course are selected from the spectrum of documentary film practice from the 1920s to the present. Concentration will be on specific topics as well as an historical overview. Consideration placed on the developing and shifting conception of documentary film practice, social issues, political and propagandistic values, and documenting other.

COMM 3610 Alternative Journalism (3,4 Credit Hours)
This course balances the practical development of literary journalistic skills with academic inquiry into the theorizing and development of journalism that conceptualized itself as an alternative to mainstream news content, media and practices. It will also examine the changing meaning of the word alternative” in relation to journalistic genres.

COMM 3650 Feminist Doc & New Media (3 Credit Hours)
A service-learning, praxis-oriented course in which students develop analytical and reflective skills by critiquing and creating feminist documentation in various media. Study of history and theory of feminist documentary filmmaking and new media will be complemented with learning production and postproduction skills. Weekly volunteer work will be done with an organization serving women and girls in New Orleans.

COMM 3700 Digital Arc and Cult Memory (3 Credit Hours)
This course combines theory and methods in the study of media archives, cultural memory, and historiography. This course works with community partners to create digital stories and their archival repositories.

COMM 3720 Disability Media Studies (3 Credit Hours)
In this class, we will explore the relationship between disability and media. Our analyses will span film, television, advertisement, new media, social media, media technologies, and other cultural mediums across history and into the present. The beginning of the course will introduce students to the field of disability studies and its relevance to media studies. Through an interdisciplinary lens, students will consider how people with disabilities were and are represented in the media with particular attention to how disability intersects with gender, race, sexuality, and class identity. Beyond themes of representation, our course deeply interrogates disability media access. We will consider how people with disabilities have responded to inaccurate and inaccessible media and innovatively used media outlets to represent themselves and produce culture on their own terms.

COMM 3750 Digital Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
This course introduces students to the history of digital cinema and examines the cultural and political implications of our evolving digital media environment. The transition to the everyday use of digital technologies has been theorized as remediating, relocating, and converging earlier media forms. This course explores the place of film history and theory in this transition and it considers whether this transition marks the end of cinema.

COMM 3800 Cine Reception Cult Memo (3 Credit Hours)
This course investigates historical changes in film audiences, film exhibition and film reception from the silent to the contemporary period as well as the issue of cultural memory and cinema. Issues focusing on who the audience for cinema has been during different historical periods, that changes have taken place in the venues in which films have been shown and cinema reception as cultural history are explored. The course also theorizes questions of reception and memory in terms of psychoanalysis, oral history and the public sphere. This course includes an optional service learning component. COMM 3150, Film Analysis, is recommended but not required.

COMM 3810 Special Topics (3-4 Credit Hours)
A detailed study of particular issues, problems, and developments in the history, theory, and criticism of communication. Topics may be drawn from any area of communication, for example, the concept of invention, the rhetoric of religion, non-verbal communication, mass media and culture, and similar themes.
COMM 3811 Special Topics (3-4 Credit Hours)

COMM 3812 Special Topics (3-4 Credit Hours)

COMM 3813 Special Topics (3-4 Credit Hours)

COMM 3814 Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)

COMM 3820 Special Topics (3-4 Credit Hours)
A detailed study of particular issues, problems, and developments in the history, theory, and criticism of communication. Topics may be drawn from any area of communication, for example, the concept of invention, the rhetoric of religion, non-verbal communication, mass media and culture, and similar themes

COMM 3890 Service Learning: COMM 3200 (0-1 Credit Hours)
Students complete a service activity in the community in conjunction with the content of a three-credit co-requisite course.

COMM 3891 Service Learning: COMM 3810 (1 Credit Hour)

COMM 4150 Contemporary Hollywood Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on three key aspects of contemporary Hollywood cinema, namely, the film industry, film form and style, and the production, distribution, and reception of films in the digital age. Key topics include conglomeratization of the film industry, the blockbuster film, films as a franchises, the rise of independent cinema, and independent films, digital distribution, the role of film festivals, and ‘pop-up cinema. The course concludes with how the film experience is changing in the era of digital distribution and multiple screens.

COMM 4160 Contemporary Chinese Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
This course offers a survey of Chinese-language films made from mid-1980s to early 2000s. The class will focus on three aspects of contemporary Chinese cinema: its artistic features, historical context, and socio-political implications and tackle the following questions: What is a Chinese* cinema? How do contemporary Chinese filmmakers inherit

COMM 4170 U.S. Film History (3 Credit Hours)
This course covers major formal, industrial and cultural issues in the history of cinema in the United States from 1895 to the present Course topics include the formal distinctiveness of the early period, the emergence of continuity editing and the classical Hollywood style, post-classical cinema. Monopolistic industry practices, exhibition venues, the studio system, synchronized sound. Contemporary independent production, and the relationship between film and commodity culture. Case studies on censorship, the representation of race and black radical politics, and female spectatorship integrate formal, industrial and cultural analysis.

COMM 4180 African Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
This course will provide a critical and interdisciplinary look at the development of African cinema from its inception in the 1960s to the present. In looking at this period, we will move from the sociopolitical upheavals of late colonialism to the recent phase of introspection and diversification. The relationship of cinematic practices to transformation in the social and economic sphere will be examined, as well as the creation of distinctively African film styles based on oral traditions. In pursuing these topics, we will consider the impact of technology, history and culture, ties to the cinema of other developing nations and co-productions.

COMM 4190 Intro Latin Amer Film (3 Credit Hours)
The development of cinema in Latin American from its arrival as an imported technology to the present. Films studied in relation to the sociopolitical environment and emphasis placed on close analysis as well as a contextual understanding of the material. Topics include the struggle to create national Film industries, the art film and New Cinema movements, and recent trends in countries such as Mexico and Argentina.

COMM 4200 Media Literacy/Media Educ II (3 Credit Hours)
This is the second semester of a two-semester course that introduces students to media literacy—what it is, media education, and basic media pedagogy. in the second semester, students put to use the media literacy knowledge gained in the first semester by applying those pedagogical considerations in the classroom, assessing student outcomes, and effectively teaching media literacy concepts.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 3200.

COMM 4261 Feminism, Sci-Fi & Technology (3,4 Credit Hours)
This course considers how contemporary science fiction, new technologies and critical writings about feminism, gender, identity and the body interconnect. Topics under consideration include differently gendered worlds, horror, alien invasions, parasitical relationships, cyborg embodiment, and the gendering of computer and Internet settings.

COMM 4270 SciFi, Sex and Race (3 Credit Hours)
While science fiction forces us to see what is familiar in new and surprising ways, imagining the unfamiliar also builds upon the familiar. This makes sci-fi a good ‘venue’ to study the widespread assumptions about human nature in different settings. This course interrogates how we negotiate these basic human categories through various science fiction films and theoretical essays. Reflection on these topics will hopefully provoke fascinating and difficult philosophical questions about the nature of reality, the limits of human knowledge, the notions of personal (racial, ethnic, sexual) identity, and the nature and foundations of universality of these categories.
COMM 4280 Race, Ethnicity & Television (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines race and ethnicity in American television from the 1950s to the present. More specifically, it explores the social, political, historical and institutional contexts that have shaped representations of Asian/Americans, Latino/as, and African Americans on television. By analyzing racial and ethnic images within the development of television, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex histories that shaped the formation of each ethnic group. While the focus of the course centers on the politics of representation, it moves the discussion beyond the question of stereotypes to explore how concepts such as Orientalism, whiteness, multiculturalism, and post-race contribute to our understanding of racial politics in the United States.

COMM 4300 Cultural Politics & Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the relationship between media, society, and political discourse as they manifest in the complexities of cultural production beyond US borders. As such, it will be framed around issues pertaining to historical formation and broader political dynamics. This course presumes familiarity with methods of film or media analysis. May repeat under a different topic (COMM 4301, 4302) for credit. Notes: Fulfills capstone requirement for FMST. For capstone credit, students should register for FMST 5110 with 0 credits.

COMM 4301 Media & Democracy in Latin Am (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the role of the mass media in contemporary Latin American democracies. In particular, it investigates whether communication institutions and practices have contributed to promote or to curb the regions’ process of democratization, especially in terms of the quality of political representation and political accountability. The course also examine the impact of social and political democratization on the region’s media systems.

COMM 4302 Immig Discourse in Europe (3 Credit Hours)
The course explores how immigration was conceptualized in different historical periods and the relationship between immigration debate and political discourse in particular historical contexts. The course then examines how recent immigration patterns have been conceptualized and how this conceptualization is related to the emergence of the extreme right in Western Europe.

COMM 4303 Globalization & Malaysian Film (3-4 Credit Hours)
This course engages students in cross-cultural analysis and introduces the unique postcolonial and multicultural context of Malaysian cinema. We will examine historical and current globalizations through the lens of the new and acclaimed wave of independent and experimental films that have been earning accolades in international festivals around the world. The course will examine key issues pertaining to gender, ethnoracial, religious and national identities in Malaysia, as well as the cultural geopolitics of the relationship between the “West” and “East.”

COMM 4350 Gender and The Cinema (3 Credit Hours)
Explores the position of women in Hollywood and other cinemas by studying the evolution of women’s cinema and of feminist film theories from the 1920s to the present. The history of feminist film analysis, focusing on theoretical sociological, psychoanalytic, semiotic underpinning of feminist critiques of both commercial and independent avant-garde film practices.

COMM 4400 Media and the Public Sphere (3,4 Credit Hours)
This course explores theories of and debates about the public sphere, with a particular focus on the role of media in shaping power and democracy. Taking canonical theorists such as Hannah Arendt and Jürgen Habermas as our starting point, we explore the rich potential and the limitations of classic conceptualizations of the public sphere for understanding contemporary politics. We consider the role played by dynamics such as public debate, gender, sexuality, race, crowds, mass culture, political paranoia, and fake news in shaping twentieth and twenty-first century political ideals and practices, examining the similarities and difference in how these dynamics work in global contexts from capitalism to state socialism, in the Global North and in the Global South. We also consider what insights might be gained by an interdisciplinary approach to questions of the public sphere.

COMM 4553 Brazilian TV & Culture (3,4 Credit Hours)
This course analyzes the dynamic interactions between television, culture and power in Brazil. It emphasizes the role of television as one of the central institutions that mediate the constitution of hegemonic values and meanings in Brazilian society, with an emphasis on the dominant media company (TV Globo) and on the most popular TV genre (telenovelas).

COMM 4560 Internship Studies (3 Credit Hours)
This course will challenge the student to apply intelligently the principles, methods, and skills that they have learned in academic settings to the practical experience of an internship with a nonprofit, social service organization. Topics include learning about communication within a complicated political and cultural context, how context affects rhetorical strategies, adaptive communication among diverse social groups, and how these experiences work to prepare the student for a career in a communication field. Provides combination of academic work, and practical experiences in communication with specific service learning organizations.

COMM 4570 Internship Studies (3 Credit Hours)
This course will challenge the student to apply intelligently the principles, methods, and skills that they have learned in academic settings to the practical experience of an internship with a nonprofit, social service organization. Topics include learning about communication within a complicated political and cultural context, how context affects rhetorical strategies, adaptive communication among diverse social groups, and how these experiences work to prepare the student for a career in a communication field. Provides combination of academic work, and practical experiences in communication with specific service learning organizations.
COMM 4580  Media Moral Panics & Crisis  (3 Credit Hours)
This course will focus primarily on how fears spread, become a major public concern, and turn into a social and political crisis. We will look at controversies, panics around issues such as pedophilia, drugs and terrorism, and analyze the processes that elicit alarm about perceived threats to society and produce 'folk devils' (enemies of society).

COMM 4610  National Cinema Latin Am  (3 Credit Hours)
A detailed historical, thematic, and stylistic analysis of individual national cinemas in Latin America (Cuban cinema, Brazilian cinema, Mexican cinema, for example). Emphasis will be placed on understanding the development of national cinema industries and movements in the context of other social, economic, political, and aesthetic forces. Notes: May be repeated for credit if the national cinema studied is different. COMM 4190, Intro to Latin American Cinema, is highly recommended, although not a prerequisite.

COMM 4670  Creative Econ Topics  (3 Credit Hours)
This course explores the intersections between political economy and culture in the formation and sustainability of creative economies and creative production. Topics to be covered in this course may include: creative and cultural policy, creative classes, cultural labor, specific cultural industries, and film and media economies.

COMM 4750  New Media Theory  (3 Credit Hours)
This course will explore the conceptual frameworks and theories that are essential to an understanding of modern media, a succession of new media including photography, film and digital media. We will focus on theories of semiotics, ideology, psychoanalysis, narrative, modernism, and postmodernism, which have formed the bases for analyzing forms of reproduction from the mechanical to the digital. We will consider the interrelationships, linkages and ruptures, between different media and the process of remediation in which the content of a new medium is the older medium that it has replaced. We will end by examining digital media in the context of social/cultural/political formations, gender, race, community, public sphere and global flows.

COMM 4770  Theories of Consum &Prod  (3 Credit Hours)
This course analyzes theoretical construction of media audiences and media producers historically and in contemporary contexts. Liberal, Marxist and feminist paradigms will be explored along with a variety of research methods used in audience and producer studies.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 3260.

COMM 4810  Special Topics  (3,4 Credit Hours)
A detailed study of particular issues, problems and developments in the history, theory and criticism of communication. Topics may be drawn from any of the departmental areas of concentration, for example, the concept of invention, the rhetoric of religion, non-verbal communication, mass media and culture and similar themes. May be taken twice for credit on different topics.

COMM 4811  Special Topics  (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 4812  Special Topics  (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 4813  Special Topics  (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 4814  Special Topics  (3 Credit Hours)
COMM 4820  Special Topics  (3 Credit Hours)
A detailed study of particular issues, problems and developments in the history, theory and criticism of communication. Topics may be drawn from any of the departmental areas of concentration, for example, the concept of invention, the rhetoric of religion, non-verbal communication, mass media and culture and similar themes. May be taken twice for credit on different topics. This course satisfies the capstone requirement.

COMM 4830  Spectacular Cinema  (4 Credit Hours)
This course investigates the spectacular nature of cinema and the function of spectacle and visual/special effects in the history of cinema. Filmic expressions of spectacle are studied in dialogue with philosophers and theorists equally interested in spectacular aesthetics and concepts ranging from the sublime and uncanny to commodity fetishism and attention economy.

COMM 4840  Cinema, History, Archive  (3,4 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on cinema as a site for interrogating historical, textual, institutional and theoretical issues about the archive. Topics include tropes of archive, the media/ted archive, films as cultural memory, histories of cinema archives, the electronic archive, theories of the archive, and archives in relation to power and knowledge. Film examples are drawn from contemporary Hollywood cinema, silent cinema, classical Hollywood cinema, experimental documentary, and independent and avant-garde cinema.

COMM 4850  Cinema Technol Modernity  (3 Credit Hours)
Focus on cinema as a cultural practice during the early and late periods especially as it has shaped perception and experience. Films are assessed for the way they reenact the logic of key technologies and for the way they represent technologies. Cinema is also viewed as a technology of vision in its own right. In particular, 19th century optical toys, the railroad, photography, the computer and cinema are assessed in relation to shifting conceptions of space and time, modes of experience, the terms of everyday life, and the status of mass culture and reproduction in the modern and postmodern periods.
COMM 4860 Film Theory (4 Credit Hours)
An advanced course focusing on contemporary French, British and U.S. film theory. Topics include realism and phenomenology, Russian Formalism, neoformalism, structuralism, narratology, Marxism and ideology, psychoanalysis, cinema semiotics, feminism and poststructuralism. Debates covered assess film as a text; the relationship between film and the spectator, and the implications of cinema as a historical phenomenon, including the status of digital cinema. Early, classical Hollywood, contemporary, and avant-garde films screened. A required film journal helps students develop analytical skills. Required for the Film Studies major or minor.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 3150.

COMM 4910 Independent Study (1-3 Credit Hours)
Open to qualified juniors and seniors only.

COMM 4920 Independent Study (1-3 Credit Hours)
Open to qualified juniors and seniors only.

COMM 4990 Honors Thesis (3 Credit Hours)
This course will enable students to integrate knowledge about the specific nature of film as a medium and the history of theoretical debates that have shaped the study of film and of cinema. It will also provide students with an opportunity to apply the formal and theoretical knowledge gained from the two required courses for the major to consider new theoretical problems about cinema, revisions, and reassessments of earlier debates in film studies and related fields, questions of national cinema, and/or new developments in filmmaking. Fulfills capstone requirement for FMST when approved as film topic. In this case, students should also register for FMST 5110 with 0 credits.

COMM 5000 Honors Thesis (4 Credit Hours)
This course will enable students to integrate knowledge about the specific nature of film as a medium and the history of theoretical debates that have shaped the study of film and of cinema. It will also provide students with an opportunity to apply the formal and theoretical knowledge gained from the two required courses for the major to consider new theoretical problems about cinema, revisions, and reassessments of earlier debates in film studies and related fields, questions of national cinema, and/or new developments in filmmaking. Fulfills capstone requirement for FMST when approved as film topic. In this case, students should also register for FMST 5110 with 0 credits.

COMM 6210 Seminar In Comm Studies (3 Credit Hours)
An intensive study of a specific issue or set of issues in rhetoric and public address, interpersonal communication, or mass communication (e.g. propaganda, legal communication research), or of an individual theorist (e.g. Aristotle, Kenneth Burke), or genre of discourse (e.g. ideological argumentation, the rhetoric of social movements). May be taken twice for credit on different topics.

COMM 6220 Seminar In Comm Studies (3 Credit Hours)
An intensive study of a specific issue or set of issues in rhetoric and public address, interpersonal communication, or mass communication (e.g. propaganda, legal communication research), or of an individual theorist (e.g. Aristotle, Kenneth Burke), or genre of discourse (e.g. ideological argumentation, the rhetoric of social movements). May be taken twice for credit on different topics. This course satisfies the capstone requirement.