

COMMUNICATION STUDIES (COMM-ST)

Courses

COMM-ST 110 Fundamentals Of Effective Speaking And Listening Credits: 3

An introduction to the dimensions of effective platform speaking with special emphasis on developing critical listening skills. Lecture, performance, and discussion.

COMM-ST 110 - MOTR COMM 110: Fundamentals of Public Speaking



COMM-ST 140 Principles Of Communication Credits: 3

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of contemporary communication studies including a consideration of intrapersonal, interpersonal and public communication.

COMM-ST 140 - MOTR COMM 100: Introduction to Communications



COMM-ST 203 Introduction to Journalism Credits: 3

Introduction to the styles and techniques of reporting and writing basic news through assignments in straight news, features and in-depth stories. Exposure to the history and principles of American journalism. Practical application in writing news and news feature articles.

COMM-ST 212 Argumentation And Debate Credits: 3

A study of the nature of logical discourse generated through the preparation and presentation of oral argument within the framework of the debate format. Lecture, performance and discussion.

COMM-ST 212 - MOTR COMM 220: Argumentation Debate



COMM-ST 220 Introduction: Modern Communications Media Credits: 3

A comprehensive survey of the content, structure and control of the communications media in American society--newspaper, motion pictures, radio and television; providing an informational frame of reference that will enable discerning students to formulate and apply useful critical concepts in evaluating America's media environment.

COMM-ST 220 - MOTR SBSC 100: Intro to Mass Communications



COMM-ST 230 Introduction to Film Studies Credits: 3

The course is an introduction to the study of film as an art form and industrial practice. Students will study the basics of film analysis, cinematic formal elements, genre, narrative structure and the cultural functions of cinema.

COMM-ST 230 - MOTR FILM 100: Introduction to Film Studies



COMM-ST 250 Introduction to Film and Video Production Credits: 3

This course teaches the fundamentals of media making using digital video. Students will learn techniques in pre-production planning, camera, sound, and editing by creating a series of short videos. Students will also learn to think analytically about film, and to apply insights about what gives an image impact and meaning to their own work. It is the foundation and prerequisite for all film and video production courses in the department.

COMM-ST 260P Introduction To Web Communications Credits: 4

This four credit hour web-based multimedia course will examine the process of critically evaluating information delivered on the Internet. It is designed as an introduction for adults and students who use Internet information for work and/or school. The process of critically evaluating Internet information will be described in four modules: traditional evaluation techniques; searching and researching strategies; Internet evaluation techniques and Internet evaluation resources.

COMM-ST 270 Introduction to Digital and Mobile Journalism Credits: 3

An introduction to the practices and principles of creating video, combined with audio, graphics, and data information, by newsgathering in the field, for both current and emerging mobile, non-broadcast, digital and social media platforms.

COMM-ST 277 Interpersonal Communication Credits: 3

An intensive analysis of the dimensions of intrapersonal and interpersonal communication designed to identify the philosophies and methods which underwrite effective human communication.

COMM-ST 277 - MOTR COMM 120: Interpersonal Communication



COMM-ST 300CY Ancient World in Cinema Credits: 3

This course will explore the tradition of depicting the ancient Mediterranean world in film from the early silent era to the present. Topics to be covered include the ways that filmmakers respond to literary and historical sources from the ancient world, interact with the artistic tradition of films about the ancient world, the relation of these films to other works by the same creative personnel (directors, actors, writers, producers, etc.), and the political and cultural contexts in which the films were released.

COMM-ST 308 Introduction To The Study Of Human Communication Credits: 3

This course serves to introduce students to the basic theories, perspectives and methodologies used (historically and currently) in the study of speech, interpersonal and mass communication.

COMM-ST 311 Radio & Television Performance Credits: 3

A study of the specialized radio and television performing and operating situations and techniques simulated and evaluated in studio sessions. Lecture, discussion and performance.

COMM-ST 312 Advanced Public Speaking Credits: 3

Advanced study of rhetorical theory and its application to the presentation and criticism of public discourse.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 110.

COMM-ST 317 Persuasion Credits: 3

A study of the rhetorical, psychological and ethical principles of influencing and controlling individuals and groups, and of the methods of adapting to various attitudes and audiences through the preparation, presentation and evaluation of persuasive speeches. Lecture, discussion and performance.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 110.

COMM-ST 323 Concepts of the Hero in Ancient Literature and World Cinema Credits: 3

This course explores how concepts of heroism are related to the principles of values and civic duty in a wide range of ancient world cultures and contemporary world cinemas. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of how these values impact individual heroes and their interactions with others in their society.

COMM-ST 324 Data Journalism Credits: 3

This course introduces students to the skills used in data journalism -- telling stories using datasets. This includes methods of collecting data, processing and manipulating datasets, understanding machine learning, analyzing and visualizing data in creative ways, and journalistic methods of reporting data and storytelling.

COMM-ST 339 Introduction to Film Theory Credits: 3

A survey of the history of theoretical and critical approaches to film theory/philosophy. Students will be introduced to major foundational and contemporary theoretical approaches to cinema that may include but are not limited to formalism, realism, auteurism, psychoanalysis, genre studies, structuralism, feminism, semiotics, cultural studies, post-structuralism, queer theory and digital studies.

COMM-ST 341WI Rhetorical Theory And Criticism Credits: 3

Writing intensive. An analysis of significant public discourse within the context of social protest and political rhetoric with attention to applying methods of communication criticism in evaluating the effectiveness of persuasive advocacy aimed at social change.

COMM-ST 343 Group Dynamics Credits: 3

This course studies communication theories, strategies, and relationships integral to effective communication within small groups and teams.

COMM-ST 344 Organizational Communication Credits: 3

This course examines major theories and strategies necessary for understanding communication interactions and processes within organizations.

COMM-ST 344WI Communication In Organizational Settings Credits: 3

An examination of the major elements of interpersonal, group, and oral communication competence essential to human interaction in organizational settings. The course focuses on developing communication competencies and increasing theoretical understanding.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 110 or COMM-ST 308.

COMM-ST 345 German Film Credits: 3

This course introduces students to the important contributions of German films to the development of movies as a unique literary art form. The class will cover important terms and concepts in film theory, the specifically German context of film, and important themes and periods in German film history. Taught in English with subtitled films.

COMM-ST 346 Art of the Short Film Credits: 3

Art of the Short Film examines the social, economic and aesthetic histories of narrative, documentary and experimental short form films from the birth of cinema to today.

COMM-ST 347 Topics in Film Genre Credits: 3

A topics course that examines the history and theory of film genres. Repeatable up to six hours when the topic changes.

COMM-ST 348 The Art of the Interview Credits: 3

This course will introduce students to the styles and techniques of conducting professional interviews with the goal of eliciting insightful, thoughtful answers fit for print or broadcast. Students will prepare QA interviews and articles for publication while gaining the confidence needed to work in professional newsrooms or office settings.

COMM-ST 351WI Fundamentals Of Writing For The Media Credits: 3

Analysis of individual differences and common characteristics of copy for eye and ear, with emphasis on the application of both verbal and visual imagery in the process of communicating the writer's ideas and intentions. Weekly written assignments and critical analysis of the student's work.

COMM-ST 353 Covering Urban Latinx Communities Credits: 3

This course focuses on journalistic methods of reporting Latinx communities in urban areas and bringing the voice of the Latinx communities into news stories. It covers topics on immigration, health care, policy, cultural diversity, race, legal issues, and education. Skills taught in this course will prepare students to cover the Latinx communities in urban areas and beyond.

COMM-ST 354 Introduction to Screenwriting Credits: 3

An introduction to the form and language of the motion picture screenplay. Students will learn to create a workable blueprint for a movie and undertake an in-depth examination of visual storytelling. This will include understanding the basics of dramatic structure, scene and sequence construction and the role of dialogue. Emphasis will be placed on students mastering the accepted movie industry format of the screenplay. They will also adapt a short story and revise it after giving and receiving feedback in small groups.

COMM-ST 355WI The New Feature Writing Credits: 3

An intensive practicum in the art of writing feature stories with a special emphasis on shorter stories that will grab reader interest in an era of short-attention spans.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 203 or ENGLISH 203.

COMM-ST 356 U News Practicum Credits: 3

This course is workshop-based for students producing UMKC's weekly newspaper, U News. It also focuses on contemporary issues in American journalism and engaging with the university community.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 203 or ENGLISH 203.

COMM-ST 363 Radio Production I Credits: 3

A study of the techniques of producing audio material for use in radio, in concerts, on film, on television and in the recording studio.

COMM-ST 373 Intermediate Media Production Credits: 3

An intermediate-level production course emphasizing hands-on skills in cinematography and lighting, sound, and editing.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 250.

COMM-ST 376 History Of The Film Industry Credits: 3

A history of the development of the American film industry from 1900 to the end of the studio era. The course will stress such issues as studio production, censorship, the economics of production and the selling of mass culture through the film medium. Term paper required.

COMM-ST 379 African American Images in Film Credits: 3

This course examines the historical and social evolution of African Americans in film from the early 1900's to the present. The course will provide an overview of contributions from African Americans in cinema and trace their impact in Hollywood through critical analysis. Films show what a society accepts and rejects, therefore the course will consider major themes, historical movements, and how films capture societal issues. Most of the discussions will focus on images in front of the camera, although works from African Americans behind the camera may be explored as well.

COMM-ST 380 Contemporary Media Topics Credits: 3**COMM-ST 381 Narrative Production Credits: 3**

This course covers the creative, technical, and practical aspects of short-form narrative film production.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 250.

COMM-ST 383 Cross-Cultural Journalism & Mass Media Credits: 3

Cross-Cultural Journalism Mass Media provides journalistic tools for mass media, social media and digital news coverage of diverse social, ethnic, gender, ability and religious communities in the United States and abroad. Students will be introduced to methods in effective communication that are inclusive of diverse U.S. and global cultures.

COMM-ST 384 Documentary Film History Credits: 3

Documentary Film History is an overview of the history and theory of documentary cinema. The course surveys the documentary tradition with special attention to the relationship between content and style and the issues central to documentary film making, including ethical and legal questions, the relationship between representation and power and the ways in which film speaks to notions of truth and truth telling.

COMM-ST 385 Documentary Production Credits: 3

This course is designed to familiarize students with the basics of documentary production from an artistic, ethical, and practical results-oriented perspective.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 250.

COMM-ST 386 Animation Credits: 3

This course provides an introduction to animation production techniques and an overview of the history of American animation arts. We will address both stop-motion and computer animation using industry standard software.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 250.

COMM-ST 387 Strategic Communication Research Credits: 3

This course will examine different research methods and research stages in advertising and public relations, including quantitative and qualitative research methods. Students will learn how to plan, conduct, and evaluate strategic communication research. Students are also expected to develop a greater appreciation for the role that research plays in effective campaigns.

COMM-ST 388 Media Ethics Credits: 3

A study of moral principles and values critical to sound ethical decision-making in the mass media, digital news media and social media. An analysis of the kinds of ethical issues and dilemmas that students who seeks careers in all media professions are likely to encounter.

COMM-ST 390 Forensic Activities Credits: 1-4

Participation in the intercollegiate forensic program. A practicum in debate, discussion, oratory and other forensic activities.

COMM-ST 392 Topics in World Cinema Credits: 3

A variable topics course focused on the histories and theories of international cinemas. Repeatable up to 6 hours when the topic changes.

COMM-ST 393 Topics in Sound & Cinema Credits: 3

A variable topics course that focuses on the histories and aesthetics of sound in cinema. Repeatable up to 6 hours when the topic changes.

COMM-ST 394 Topics in Gender and Cinema Credits: 3

A course focused on the relationship between popular culture, film history and the construction of gender and sexuality. Repeatable up to 6 hours when the topic changes.

COMM-ST 400 Special Studies Credits: 1-3

(A-N) This is an upper-level course on a subject which is not a part of the regular department offering. The course results from one or more of the following: (1) the expressed desire of students (2) the broadened or refocused scholarship of a member of the communication studies faculty (3) the temporary presence of a scholar whose specialization is not reflected in the department's regular offerings (4) the conclusion by the department that the course meets a community need (5) the effort of the Communication Studies faculty to provide an interdisciplinary approach to an era or topic.

COMM-ST 406CD CC: Film Adaptation Credits: 3

The class will explore the process of adapting both fiction and non-fiction literary works into motion pictures. Students will examine the original literary source, then the interim screenplay and finally the completed motion picture.

COMM-ST 411 Seminar in Film and Media Arts Credit: 1

This course covers special topics and professional practices within Film and Media Arts. Course is repeatable. Required of B.A. in Film and Media Arts majors for every semester enrolled.

Prerequisites: B.A. in Film and Media Arts Major.

COMM-ST 415 Global Journalism: Cultures, Trends, & Conflicts Credits: 3

This course examines media coverage of international issues including the dissemination of news and information throughout the world. The course has both a practical and academic focus. It introduces students to best practices of global journalism and to the enormous challenges of covering world events and issues. Research on global media trends are applied to current reporting methods and include diverse international perspectives. The course assists students who plan to pursue careers in global journalism and allied fields like international non-profit agencies or non-governmental organizations. The course also prepares students to become effective communicators in global communities.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 314.

COMM-ST 431 Colloquium In Interpersonal Dynamics Credits: 3

This course examines practical applications of communication principles and theories within a specialized area or sub-field, such as (but not limited to) Health, Nonverbal, or Crisis Communication, Conflict Management, etc.

COMM-ST 432 Press, Politics And Public Policy Credits: 3

An advanced course in the study of the press and political establishments in the formation of public policy.

COMM-ST 439 Egghead: Student Advertising Agency Credits: 3

This course operates as a faculty-supervised advertising/design agency that works with clients to produce visual marketing materials.

Prerequisites: ART 337.

COMM-ST 441 Applications of Interpersonal Communication Theory Credits: 3

This course examines interpersonal communication theory as it pertains to a variety of interpersonal relationships. The course employs class discussions of theory and assignments that apply those theories to real life interactions.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 277.

COMM-ST 444 Intercultural Communication Credits: 3

A consideration of communication phenomena in multicultural settings. A study of the public forum with an emphasis on the interpersonal aspects of international, intercultural, and co-cultural communication.

COMM-ST 444WI Intercultural Communication Credits: 3

A consideration of communication phenomena in multicultural settings. A study of the public forum with an emphasis on the interpersonal aspects of international, intercultural, and co-cultural communication.

Prerequisites: Junior standing.

COMM-ST 446 Principles Of Advertising Credits: 3

A survey of advertising as an industry and a career field, examining its history and development in America, and its application in mass and special media. Specific procedures are studied for linking the development of advertising strategies, messages and campaigns to the marketing process, and for evaluation and selection of appropriate media to carry the advertising message.

COMM-ST 447 Interactive and Social Media Advertising Credits: 3

This course examines advertising on the Internet as a form of interactive communication, with a special focus on social media and search engines. It addresses basic concepts, current issues, and the development of interactive advertising strategies and plans. The coverage includes interactivity, pricing models, online targeting strategies, search engine optimization and advertising, social media advertising, and online video advertising.

COMM-ST 448 Principles Of Public Relations Credits: 3

An overview, presenting the function, purposes, procedures and practices of public relations, its role in society, industry, government and politics, and its potential as a career field. This is a survey course with primary emphasis on theory, supplemented with applied techniques.

COMM-ST 453 Urban Journalism Practicum Credits: 4

This course engages student journalists to produce stories with an urban focus across radio, online, and television platforms. By practicing convergence journalism, students gain practical story-telling experience for professional news organizations.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 203 or ENGLISH 203.

COMM-ST 454 Advanced Screenwriting Credits: 3

This course provides students with advanced theory in narrative screenwriting, training in industry standard script analysis (called "coverage") and story editing. Students will be required to draft, revise and workshop a short film screenplay or will focus on a feature screenplay, delivering a draft and revision of the first act and a detailed outline for the rest of the script. Students will workshop feature screenplays in small groups, emphasizing the art of constructive story editing.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 354.

COMM-ST 456 Electronic Journalism Credits: 3

A practical approach to the practices and principles of broadcasting news media, including preparing copy for microphone and camera, editing wire copy, reporting public affairs and public relations, and an intensive scrutiny of the concepts of freedom and responsibility as they apply to the press and current legislation.

COMM-ST 457 Client-Based Media Production Credits: 3

This course teaches the process of creating media for a professional client. Students will take on specialized crew positions and work together to plan, write, direct, shoot, edit, and distribute a short video for a local non-profit client.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 250.

COMM-ST 466 Advanced Electronic Journalism Credits: 3

An advanced study of television and Internet news gathering, field production and performance for electronic media.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 456.

COMM-ST 471 Advanced Media Production Credits: 3

An advanced course in media production techniques focused on the creation of a significant individual media work and professional development.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 373.

COMM-ST 473 Directing Actors and Scenes Credits: 3

This intensive workshop class seeks to deepen the student director's understanding of the acting process and provide ways of clearly and creatively communicating with actors. The course will deepen students' understanding of blocking scenes and designing camera coverage. It will explore the role of the director as a guiding creative force in the making of a film through collaboration and provide techniques for scene analysis and preparation. Students will cast, rehearse and present a live performance for their final project and design appropriate camera coverage.

Prerequisites: COMM-ST 250.

COMM-ST 483 Research Seminar In Communication Studies Credits: 3

This is the departmental capstone course and is required for majors in their last semester of their senior year. The course summarizes and extends student's theoretical and applied understanding of the role of communication competence in the work place and beyond. The course also focuses on refining student's research competencies and their appreciation of the cultural role of modern communication methods.

Prerequisites: Senior standing.

COMM-ST 484 Internship Credits: 1-4

Internships opportunities for advanced students involved in community and campus activities. Student must receive approval of advising professor in semester prior to enrollment. No more than four hours with any one project.

COMM-ST 492 Advertising Campaigns Credits: 3

The course content focuses on branding, re-branding or development of an identity program, and combines advertising planning with creative execution. Students will learn how to develop advertising/marketing/creative campaign plans for a specific client(s), conceptualize, design and develop all creative aspects including but not limited to logo/identity, copy, advertising, website development, app design, etc., and complete a presentation of the plans/briefs and final creative developments of the plans/briefs and creative to the client(s).

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing.

COMM-ST 498 Independent Study Credits: 1-3

Research and/or projects for advanced upper class students. Student must receive approval of advising professor in semester prior to enrollment. No more than three hours with any one instructor.