

Communication Arts (COMM)

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The purpose of the Communication Arts Department is to enable students to learn the theory, analysis and practice of human communication in a variety of contexts. Concentrations in Communication Studies, Media Studies, and Theatre and Performance Studies develop an understanding of interpersonal and intercultural relationships, conflict, the role of media and performance in society, the spiritual roots of communication, and the role of communication in social transformation. All three concentrations develop students' ability to think, speak and write clearly.

Students choose one of three concentrations to prepare for a variety of careers in teaching, law, human resources, theatre and performance, film, video, new media, journalism, ministry, conflict transformation, and business. Students are encouraged to enhance their preparation through one of the many internship possibilities offered in Chicago.

Major requirements for the B.A. degree in Communication Arts

Required semester hours

36 sh of which 2 sh (COMM 2110, 2140, or 2250) fulfills the General Education requirement in Fine Arts and 4sh (COMM 2350) fulfills the General Education requirement in Cross-Cultural studies.

Required core courses

Communication Studies: 1910, 2010, 2030, 2150, 2350, 2810, 2070 or 3070, 3490, 3910, 4010 (2 times).

Media Studies: 2150, 2250; either 1910, 2110 and 2130, or 2140; 3450, 3910; 16 sh of writing and production courses including a minimum 4 hours in writing and a minimum 2 hours in production from 2155, 2175, 2355, 3310, 3320, 3321, 3330, 3331, or 3355; 4010 (2 times).

Theater and Performance Studies: 1610, 2110, 2130, 2140; 2330, 2340, either 3230 or 3240, 3320, 3410, 3430, 3910, and 4010 (2 times)

Notes and restrictions

Students will choose a concentration in Communication Studies, Theater & Performance Studies, or Media Studies. To be accepted into the major, students must pass the appropriate introductory class with a grade of "C" or better. Students must also pass the appropriate introductory class with a grade of "C" or better to enroll in courses beyond the introductory level. Students in all concentrations will take at least two semesters of COMM 4010, Professional Seminar.

Honors

For Departmental Honors in Communication Arts, the prospective student's proposal must be submitted by May 1 of the student's third year, with the work commencing in the fall semester of the fourth year. Students should enroll in COMM 4000 for 8 sh: 4 sh fall semester and 4 sh spring semester. For general Departmental Honors requirements and description of COMM 4000, see appropriate sections of this catalog.

Special programs

Internships: Outstanding internships are available every year in media, theater, public relations, and other areas. Students are urged to

arrange an internship with the department and the Career Planning Office.

Music Theater: Students wishing to receive a Certificate in Music Theater should plan to major in Communication Arts (Theater Concentration) with a minor in the Music Department, or take a major in Music with a minor in Communication Arts. Students taking the minor in Communication Arts must take the following: 1610, 2110 or 2130, 2410, 3410, 3430, and 2 sh electives in the Communication Arts Department (20 sh). To complete this program in four years, students are urged to apply to both departments before or during their first year.

Los Angeles Film Center: Offered through the Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities, the LAFSC is located in Hollywood, Calif., and offers a one-semester program for upper-division students who are interested in the work and workings of the mainstream Hollywood film industry. Includes 10 sh of course work and 6 sh of internship. Students must apply both to North Park and LAFSC. See the department chair for further information.

International Communication: North Park University and the University of Tampere, Finland, participate in a reciprocal exchange agreement. Students enrolled at North Park University are eligible to study for one or two semesters at the International School for Social Sciences (ISSS) at the University of Tampere. Communication Arts majors may take courses in mass communication, journalism, and related fields offered in English at ISSS. For further information, please contact the Executive Director, Center for Scandinavian Studies.

Minor requirements in Communication Arts

Required semester hours

20 sh in one of three departmental concentrations.

Required core courses

Introductory course for the concentration (COMM 2010, 2140, or 2150)

Electives

16 sh of electives, including at least 8 sh at the 3000 level

Notes and Restrictions

- Students must complete a form listing the courses they have taken to complete the minor, to be obtained from the department and on the department website.
- Students must turn in a simple portfolio to the chair of the department containing the following:
 1. A statement of their specific goals upon entering the program
 2. A self-assessment of the achievement of those goals-including what educational experiences most enhanced their learning, curricular and extracurricular.
 3. Two samples of student work from each course: completed: projects essays or exams.

GE Designates a course that fulfills all or part of a General Education (G.E.) requirement; see the General Education Program section of the catalog for more information.

- 1610 Theatre Production (2 sh)**
An introduction to principles and skills for building and painting stage scenery and props, and for creating effective stage lighting.
- 1910 Public Speaking (4 sh)**
An introduction to the theory and practice of public speaking. Topics include types of speeches, types and uses of source material, organization, performance, and speech criticism.
- 2010 Introduction to Communication Studies (4 sh)**
Introduction to theories of verbal and nonverbal human communication. Topics include intra- and interpersonal communication, communication in small groups, in organizations, and at the levels of public and mass communication. Required for admission to the Communication Studies concentration, and a prerequisite for most upper-level courses in that concentration.
- 2030 Interpersonal Communication (4 sh)**
The theory, analysis, and practice of communication in the development, maintenance, and decay of interpersonal relationships. Topics include verbal and nonverbal communication, perceptual accuracy, and effective listening. Prerequisite: COMM 2010.
- 2070 Group Communication (4 sh)**
An investigation of the principles and methods of small group communication, emphasizing decision making, problem solving, group structure, leadership, group dynamics, and effective group process. Prerequisite: COMM 2010.
- 2110 Performance of Literature (2 sh)**
An introduction to presentational approaches to interpreting texts through performance, with an emphasis on the analysis and staging of fiction.
- 2130 Storytelling (2 sh)**
An introduction to storytelling as a crucial way of knowing, and as a central means of creating personal and social realities. Emphasis on the solo performance of folktales, everyday stories, personal narratives, and ethnographic stories from various cultural groups in Chicago.
- 2140 Introduction to Theatre (4 sh) GE**
An introduction to theater as an art form with an emphasis on acting, directing, play analysis, and the collaborative process of theater production. Required for admission to the Theatre and Performance Studies concentration, and a prerequisite for most upper level courses in that concentration.
- 2150 Introduction to Media Studies (4 sh)**
A study of the history of the various media of mass communications. The course includes the development of print, radio, television, film, and internet. Will include a fieldtrip to the Museum of Broadcast Communication. Required for admission to the Media Studies concentration, and a prerequisite for most upper-level courses in that concentration.
- 2155 Audio Production I (2 sh)**
The course will teach the basic skills for producing, recording, and editing a variety of material(music, voice) using a Pro Tools digital audio workstation. The course also covers basic principles of acoustics, and the basic laws of physics that affect sound. Prerequisite: COMM 2150.
- 2175 Audio Production II (2 sh)**
Advance problems in audio production. Prerequisite: COMM 2150, 2155.
- 2250 Film Studies (4 sh) GE**
An introduction to film as art, business, and cultural force. It examines the Hollywood paradigm as the dominant form of storytelling in Western movies; explores the artistic elements involved in film-making; and examines major cultural issues reflected in film narratives. Students attend a major international film festival in Chicago.
- 2330 Acting I (4 sh)**
Establishes the foundation of acting technique through the genre of realism. Prerequisite: COMM 2140.
- 2340 Directing I (4 sh)**
Introduction to staging a play. Students conceive, workshop, and execute a short one-act play. Prerequisite: COMM 2140.
- 2350 Intercultural Communication (4 sh) GE**
An introduction to major topics, major theories and direct experience of inter-cultural communication. Through readings, discussion, exercises and field trips, students prepare for encounters with different cultures.
- 2355 Video Production 1 (Field Production) (4 sh)**
The production of documentary videotape programs using techniques of field production and linear video editing. Prerequisite: COMM 2155.
- 2650 Scandinavian Film (2 sh)**
A survey of films from Denmark, Norway and Sweden, with a critical analysis of actors and directors, narrative style, structure and content, social context and history. COMM 2250 is strongly recommended.
- 2750 Latin America on Film (2 sh)**
A study of recent films about Latin American experience, the influence from and resistance to the Hollywood model of filmmaking by Latin American directors, and other critical issues concerning cultural diversity, national identity, class, gender, religion, and politics. Films will be shown with original languages and English subtitles. COMM 2250 is strongly recommended.
- 2810 Critical Reading, Writing and Analysis (4 sh)**
A writing course open only to students in the department, providing a review of writing basics, such as sentence structure and grammar, and emphasizing critical thinking and analysis. Prerequisite: COMM 2010.
- 3070 Communication in the Workplace (4 sh)**
An investigation of the structure and function of communication in groups and organizations, including decision-making, leadership, conflict resolution, networks, building a resume, and interviewing. Highly recommended as preparation for COMM 4970. Prerequisite: COMM 2010.
- 3090 Shakespeare (4 sh)**
A study of Shakespearean drama, including selected comedies, tragedies, and romances. Cross-listed with ENG 3090.

- 3230 **Acting II: Special Topics (2 sh)**
Extends acting techniques learned in Acting I with a focus on Shakespeare and other classical styles improvisation, and stage combat. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: COMM 2140, 2330.
- 3240 **Directing II: Special Topics (2 sh)**
Extends skills developed in Directing I and develops material for One-Act Festival. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: COMM 2140, 2330.
- 3310 **Media Writing (4 sh)**
The study and practice of writing in various television and video formats, including news, commercials, public service announcements, and documentary scripts. Emphasis on journalistic writing for televisual media. Prerequisite: COMM 2150.
- 3320 **Dramatic Writing I (4 sh)**
The study and practice of dramatic writing for theater and film. Focus on the writer's process, character development, story structure, and the completion of a one-act play or a short screenplay. Cross-listed with ENG 3320. Prerequisite: COMM 2140, 2150 or 2250.
- 3321 **Dramatic Writing II (4 sh)**
Advanced study in writing the full-length stage play or full-length screenplay. Prerequisite: COMM 2140, 2150 or 2250.
- 3330 **Journalism I (4 sh)**
The study and practice of various forms of journalistic writing. Prerequisite: COMM 2010 or 2150.
- 3331 **Journalism II (4 sh)**
A laboratory-oriented newspaper reporting and editing course that utilizes the student newspaper as a hands-on learning environment. Students will be assigned specific reporting beats and/or editing responsibilities for the newspaper. Field trips and outside speakers will provide direct exposure to the profession. Prerequisite: COMM 2010 or 3330.
- 3355 **Video Production II (New Media) (4 sh)**
Develops skills in the production of digital media for the internet and other new media. Prerequisite: COMM 2150, 2355.
- 3410 **World Theater and Drama I (4 sh)**
A study of the religious, political, and cultural sources of theatre; how theatre practice and dramatic literature developed in the Western tradition from the ancient Greeks through the medieval Christian, Renaissance and Neo-Classical periods, with a brief introduction to Asian and African performance traditions. Will attend performances in the Chicago area. Prerequisite: COMM 2140.
- 3430 **World Theater and Drama II (4 sh)**
A study of plays, theatrical practice, and theory from the nineteenth century to the present. Special emphasis on contemporary issues, postmodern and post-colonial forms, performance art and the theatricalization of news, politics, and other aspects of contemporary culture. Will attend performances in the Chicago area. Prerequisite: COMM 2140.
- 3450 **Media and Society (4 sh)**
A study of the interaction of mass communication and society. Emphasis on critical and cultural theory, the interplay of programming, business, politics and other aspects of American culture. May include field trips to television stations. Prerequisite: COMM 2150.
- 3490 **Rhetorical Theory and Analysis (4 sh)**
An introduction to the theory and practice of rhetorical criticism, from classical to contemporary perspectives, including the analysis of a variety of contemporary public discourses. Prerequisite: COMM 2010. Strongly recommend: COMM 1910.
- 3510 **Inside Hollywood (1-10 sh)**
Los Angeles Film Studies Center. Offered through the Christian College Coalition, the LAFSC is located in Hollywood, CA, and offers a one-semester program for upper-division students who are interested in the work and workings of the mainstream Hollywood film industry.
- 3550 **International Communication (4 sh)**
An examination of international mass media, including concentration of ownership, internationalization, diversification, New World Information Order, satellites, shortwave radio, film, and television. Prerequisite: COMM 2010, 2150 or consent of instructor.
- 3910 **Topics (4 sh)**
Advanced seminars which examine broad issues in communication, media and performance studies. Recent Topics courses include: International Conflict Transformation, Political Communication, Intercultural Theatre and Film and Social Movements. Students will be expected to synthesize and extend their earlier work in this department. Prerequisite: COMM 2010, 2140 or 2150.
- 4000 **Departmental Honors Communication Arts (4 sh)**
Honors students will write a major paper and/or produce a project at the honors level and make an oral presentation of the project at a Spring Honors Symposium.
- 4010 **Professional Seminar (0 sh)**
Occasional gatherings, approximately four each semester, will enable students to meet leaders in various fields of communication arts, complete departmental portfolios, and develop plans for post-graduate professional or educational work. Open to all students in the department. All upper-level students in the department must register for two semesters.
- 4910 **Independent Study in Communication Arts (1-4 sh)**
Available primarily to majors who seek to enhance course offerings with an in-depth study of a selected topic. Independent studies usually may not substitute for major requirements or departmental course offerings, but do count toward the total hours needed to graduate.
- 4970 **Internship in Communication Arts (1-4 sh)**
Students are urged to do an internship to enhance skills and develop their academic and professional interests. Internships may not substitute for major requirements or departmental course but do count toward the total hours needed to graduate. Please refer to the Internship section of the catalog for internship requirements and guidelines.