

Department of Communication and Sociology Requested Changes Memo

The Department of Communication and Sociology requests the following changes be made to courses and degree plans in Communication.

Change to a Course

Course Description Changes

1. Change prefix for all courses, both graduate and undergraduate, from COMS to COMM.
2. COMS 236 General Communication Theory: Change course description to clarify.
Content of course remains the same:
COMS 236 General Communication Theory (3-0-3), spring. ~~Introduces results of communication research dealing with intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, small group, and intercultural communication as well as source, message, and receiver variables. Introduces students to the essential features of current communication theories dealing with interpersonal, organizational, small group, public, intercultural, and gender, to establish a framework that will provide a context for each theory and show interrelationships among them.~~
3. COMS 331 Small Group Communication: Change semester offered from Fall to Spring to allow for other changes to occur in course sequencing.
4. COMS 345/545 Intercultural Communication: Change offering from Fall, Summer to Fall, Spring, Summer to allow for student demand.
5. COMS 375/575 Persuasion: Change the semester offered from Fall to Spring to allow for other changes to occur in course sequencing.
6. COMS 430: Conflict Management. Change offering to fall, spring, summer to allow for student demand.
7. COMS 436/536: Nonverbal Communication. Change offering to spring, summer to allow for student demand.
8. COMS 450/550: Gender Communication. Change course description to the following.
Content of course remains the same:
COMS 450 Gender Communication (3-0-3), spring. ~~Explores the role of gender in communication processes. Communication differences between men and women in contexts of family, school, and work organizations; the influence of media in gender stereotypes. Graduate students will design and conduct research to examine various questions/hypotheses. Explores the role of gender in communication processes including both physical and psychological dimensions. Topics include sex roles; perceived/actual differences in verbal/nonverbal communication behaviors; influence of gender in contexts such as family, school, and work organizations; and a discussion of media influence in creating/maintaining gender stereotypes.~~ Prerequisite: advanced standing.
9. COMS 483 Advanced Public Speaking. Change offering to fall only to allow for student demand.
10. COMS 491 Rhetorical Theory. Change to offering spring each year and delete "odd years" to allow for student demand.
11. COMS 631 Leading Organizational Change. Change semester offered from fall to "spring" and course description to the following because the Heritage Institute training

was a certificate that was to be offered through the Conflict Resolution Department but was never implemented:

COMS 631 Leading Organizational Change (3-0-3), ~~fall-spring~~ only. This course introduces students to the concept of the learning organization, equipping them with skills to create educational strategies for organizational change, and preparing them to reflect ethically on the implications of organizational change. ~~This course is specifically aimed toward meeting the professional and continuing education needs of certified wealth counselors who completed the Heritage Institute training.~~

12. COMS 641 Seminar in Interpersonal Communication. Change to "on demand" to allow for student demand.
13. COMS 683 Cultural Case Studies. Change to "on demand" to allow for student demand.
14. COMS 686 Communication Consulting and Assessment. Change to "on demand" to allow for student demand.
15. COMS 687 Principles of Rhetorical Criticism. Change to spring to accommodate other scheduling changes.

Change to Course Description & Content

COMS 408/508 Crisis Management in Organizations: Course objectives and description have been revised (see COMS 408 and 508 requested changes document for rationale and old/revised course objectives). Delete "even years" because this course is offered every year and change semester offered from Spring to Fall to allow for research projects to more easily be submitted and presented to our national conference and the ACU Undergraduate Research Festival.

COMS 408/508 Crisis Management in Organizations (3-0-3), ~~springfall, even years.~~

Examines the theory and practice of crisis management in organizations communication strategies in corporate and legal advocacy processes from both social science and rhetorical perspectives. ~~Legal advocacy emphasizes attorney courtroom communication and juror decision making, while corporate advocacy emphasizes crisis communication and reputational management in organizations. Using a case study approach and best practices for crisis management, students explore how to use communication to prevent, mitigate, and learn from crises in a way that benefits both organizations and stakeholders.~~

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Change to Course Description and/or Prerequisites

1. COMS 222 Discussion, Dissent and Debate: Add to description "Prerequisite: COMS 211 or permission of instructor"
2. COMS 384 Interview Communication: Change semester offered from Spring to Fall to allow for students to more easily apply for summer internships. Add to description "Prerequisite: COMS 211."

Remove Cross Listing

COMS 620 Quantitative Methods. Remove cross listing with COMP 620. This course used to be shared. However, it is now taught separately by each department in a more discipline-specific manner (see email from Dr. Baggs agreeing to removal of cross listing).

Close courses

1. COMS 286 Speech Activities in Elementary School. This is no longer required by education department and is no longer taught.
2. COMS 407 Communication in Society. This course is being reconceptualized as COMS 392 Rhetoric of Pop Culture and is being brought through councils as a new course.

3. COMS 576 Family Communication. This is no longer taught as a graduate course.
4. COMS 591 Rhetorical Theory. This is no longer taught as a graduate course.

New Course

392 Rhetoric of Pop Culture and is being brought through councils (see attached documents).

Degree plan changes

General education requirements

The department is clarifying the wording of some of its course competencies for COMS 211 and adding two competencies related to global and civic engagement (see COMS 211 competencies attachment). Eric Gumm requested that 211 be put on the general education chart to fulfill the civic engagement objective (see attached email). Both global and civic engagement competencies simply codify what we have been doing in the course since its inception. However, competencies were simply not articulated.

Revision of undergraduate majors (B.S. and B.A.)

1. Add the following courses to the major requirements of the communication core in degree plans. These changes improve departmental outcomes, giving students skills necessary for employment (COMS 343, 384) and enhancing research literacy and skills (COMS 392):
 - a. COMS 343 Business and Professional Communication
 - b. COMS 384 Interview Communication
 - c. COMS 392 Rhetoric in Pop Culture. This is a new course that was taught as special topics course in Fall 2014.
2. Remove COMS 407 Communication in Society. This course is being reconceptualized as COMS 392 Rhetoric of Pop Culture and will be brought through councils as a new course.
3. Change the names of areas of emphasis (see degree plans). These changes clarify the content of the emphases.
4. Add courses to and remove courses from areas of emphasis (see degree plans). These changes reflect moving some courses from areas of emphasis into the communication core and adding courses to provide students with needed knowledge/skills in these areas of emphasis.
5. The addition of hours to degree plans decreases the number of electives in the undergraduate degree plans.

Revision of Graduate Degree

1. Add COMS 621 Qualitative Research Methods to the core of required courses. Making this course required rather than recommended will enhance research literacy and skills. Note that this increases the number of hours in the communication core and reduces the number of hours in the concentration (see graduate degree plan).
2. Remove the following courses as they are being closed:
 - a. COMS 576 Family Communication. This is no longer taught as a graduate course.
 - b. COMS 591 Rhetorical Theory. This is no longer taught as a graduate course.
3. Add COMS 631 Leading Organizational Change into the relevant areas of concentration in the graduate degree (see graduate degree plan).