DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

http://communication.tamu.edu

Head: J. Kevin Barge
Graduate Adviser: Kristan Poirot

The Department of Communication offers two graduate degrees: the Doctor of Philosophy and the Master of Arts. Graduate students may create an individualized program of study, selecting coursework from the department's four areas of specialization: (1) health communication, (2) organizational communication, (3) rhetoric and public affairs, and (4) telecommunication and media studies.

Faculty

Altenhofen, Brian J, Lecturer
Communication
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2016

Andreas, Dorothy C, Lecturer
Communication
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2010

Barge, James K, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Kansas, 1985

Blanton, Hart, Professor
Communication
PHD, Princeton University, 1994

Braman, Sandra, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 1988

Burkart, Patrick C, Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2000

Campbell, Heidi A, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Edinburgh, 2002

Conrad, Charles R, Professor
Communication
PHD, Kansas University, 1980

Coombs, William T, Professor
Communication
PHD, Purdue University, 1990

Crick, Nathan A, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Pittsburgh, 2005

Dorsey, Leroy G, Professor
Communication
PHD, Indiana University, 1993

Dubrowny, Tasha N, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Georgia, 2005

Dunaway, Johanna L, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, Rice University, 2006

Goidel, Robert K, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1993

Heuman, Joshua M, Instructional Assistant Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2006

Holladay, Sherry J, Professor
Communication
PHD, Purdue University, 1992

Kluver, Alan R, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Southern California, 1993

La Pastina, Antonio C, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1999

Lueck, Jennifer A, Assistant Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2016

May, Matthew S, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2009

Mercieca, Jennifer R, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2003

Miller, Jeremy R, Lecturer
Communication
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2012

Poirot, Kristan A, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Georgia, 2004

Rauscher, Emily A, Assistant Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Missouri - Columbia, 2012

Stephenson, Michael, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1999

Street, Richard L, Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1980

Sumpter, Randall S, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1996
Tang, Lu, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Southern California, 2007

Tarvin, David T, Lecturer
Communication
PHD, Louisiana State University, 2013

Wallis, Cara J, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Southern California, 2008

Wesner, Kylene J, Lecturer
Communication
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2014

Wolfe, Anna W, Assistant Professor
Communication
PHD, Ohio University, 2013

Masters
• Master of Arts in Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/communication/ma)

Doctoral
• Doctor of Philosophy in Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/communication/phd)

Certificates
• International Communication and Public Diplomacy Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/communication/international-communication-public-diplomacy-certificate)

Courses

COMM 610 Social Science Methods in Communication Research
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Quantitative research methods in communication, including design, measurement and analysis for descriptive and experimental research; practice in evaluating and conducting research projects.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

COMM 615 Interpretive Methods in Communication Research
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to interpretive and qualitative methods in communication research; underlying epistemologies, design issues, and explanation of knowledge claims; methods including participant observation and interviewing.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 620 Communication Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The nature and role of communication theory; systems of ontology and epistemology in theory development; critical review of current theories concerning communication codes, functions and processes in various contexts.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

COMM 625 International Communication and Public Diplomacy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Exploration of the intersections of culture, media and communication; emphasis on the role of communication in public diplomacy; examination of global media, international relations and globalization and media technologies on issues of cultural identity and geopolitics and the policy discussions emerging from that impact.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 630 Interpersonal Communication
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Major theories in interpersonal communication; critical examination of current research programs on communication in interpersonal influence, relational development and conflict management.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 631 Group Communication
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Major concepts and theories of communicative processes in task-oriented groups from a social scientific perspective; the role of group communication in (1) group decision processes, (2) decision development, (3) decision-making agendas, and (4) conflict and performance quality.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 632 Communication and Conflict
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Elements and central features of conflict theories and different approaches to communication in conflict management; analysis of communication research in interpersonal, family/marital, group, organizational, and public conflicts and the role of the media in social and international disputes.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 633 Communication and Gender
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Gender considered as a complex phenomenon constituted through communication; topics include femininities, masculinities, language, power, nonverbal behavior, gender in media, organizations, interpersonal relationships, and social movements.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 636 Survey of Organizational Communication
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical and empirical literature on human communication and complex organizations; the study of messages, interaction, and meaning in the process of organizing; topics include superior-subordinate communication, communication networks, and technologies, language, message flow, symbols and organizational culture, negotiation and conflict, and power and politics.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 637 Organizational Communication Seminar
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of a subject important to the understanding of organizational communication, such as communication and organizational decision-making, group communication within organizations, communication and organizational culture, and organizational rhetoric and issue management. May be repeated for credit with different content up to a total of four times.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
COMM 640 Rhetorical Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Close reading of classical and contemporary systems of rhetoric; survey of principal applications to communication theory and research.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

COMM 645 Rhetorical and Textual Methods in Communication Research
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Comparative study of traditional and contemporary perspectives on the description, interpretation, and evaluation of public discourse, including textual analysis, neo-classical analysis, Burkean criticism, quantitative and qualitative approaches to content analysis, fantasy theme analysis, and semiotic analysis.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

COMM 649 American Public Discourse to 1865
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Public discourse and political rhetoric in America in colonial and pre-Civil War years; historical, conceptual, and practical examination of political campaign rhetoric, legislative rhetoric, judicial rhetoric, and advocacy group rhetoric.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 650 American Public Discourse Since 1865
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Public discourse and political rhetoric in America in post-Civil War years; historical, conceptual, and practical examination of political campaign rhetoric, legislative rhetoric, judicial rhetoric, and advocacy group rhetoric.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 651 Presidential Rhetoric
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Rhetorical discourse of American presidents, including principal genres of presidential communication, speechwriting and media strategies; case studies of presidential communication ranging from campaign oratory, to crisis rhetoric, and ceremonial addresses.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 652 The Rhetoric of Social Movements
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Analysis of persuasive strategies used to build social identities and collectively agitate for social change; exploration of the history of social movements in the United States and abroad.

COMM 653 Rhetoric and Public Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of how artifacts of public culture function rhetorically to transform public attitudes, opinion and memory; analysis of documents, artworks, images and histories from a humanities and social science perspective.

COMM 654/ENGL 654 Classical Rhetoric
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Origins of rhetoric in classical Greece and Rome; exploration of the relationship between philosophy, rhetoric and democratic political culture; the contemporary relevance of classical thought to contemporary problems.
Cross Listing: ENGL 654/COMM 654.

COMM 655/ENGL 655 Contemporary Theories of Rhetoric
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of the major figures in rhetorical theory in the 20th and 21st centuries; analysis of the relationship between rhetoric and power; identifying new challenges for rhetoric in global, multicultural, technological age. May be repeated for credit.
Cross Listing: ENGL 655/COMM 655.

COMM 656/WGST 652 Feminism and Rhetoric
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Historical development of the ideology, theory and rhetorical practices of U.S. feminism; criticism of significant artifacts of women orators and writers from the 19th century to contemporary times.
Cross Listing: WGST 652/COMM 656.

COMM 658 Seminar in Communication and Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of the ways that culture, religion, identity, gender, popular culture, community, history, and related ideas are shaped through communication in order to understand the development of social norms, political values, and the human experience. May be repeated for credit with different content up to a total of three times.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 659 Communication and Citizenship in the Public Sphere
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical examination of communication within democratic, republican, and liberal conceptions of citizenship; consideration of the ideal of the public sphere, and communication in global civil society; specific attention to the practices of American citizenship within the global civil society.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 662 Survey of Telecommunication and Media Studies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of research and theory in media studies and telecommunication, review of literature on mass communication, media, culture, and society, media audiences, texts, industries, and technologies; provides an overview of the literature and theoretical orientation.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 663 Seminar in Telecommunication and Media Studies
Credits 3. 3 Other Hours.
Intensive work on selected topics of research in telecommunication and media studies; may address work in the areas of audience studies, media effects, industries, policy, international issues, media and culture, media history, or theory; may be repeated for credit with different content up to a total of three times.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

COMM 665 Communication and Technology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines the relationships between human communication and technology, investigating the social effects of communication technologies, the quality of messages, communicative practices, and rhetorical norms that typify effective communication in technological society.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
COMM 669 Survey of Health Communication  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theories and research in health communication considering functions and outcomes of communication processes in various health contexts, ranging from interpersonal settings to public campaigns; emphasis on providing a framework for synthesizing and critically evaluating health communication research.  
**Prerequisite:** Graduate classification.

COMM 670 Health Communication Seminar  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of a subject important to the understanding of health communication, such as persuasion and public health campaigns, physician-patient communication, or communication in health care organizations. May be repeated for credit with different content up to a total of three times.  
**Prerequisites:** Graduate classification and approval of instructor.

COMM 671 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Prevention Science  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Contemporary research programs that represent the interdisciplinary field of prevention science; strengths and limitations of diverse theoretical and conceptual bases of research in prevention science; application of research findings to issues related to the prevention of mental, emotional, and physical health problems and the promotion of well-being. May be taken 3 times for credit.  
**Prerequisite:** Graduate standing and enrollment in the interdisciplinary graduate certificate in prevention science or approval of instructor.  
**Cross Listing:** HLTH 671, RPTS 620 and SPSY 620.

COMM 681 Professional Seminar  
Credit 1. 1 Other Hour.
Provides socialization to the profession of communication, focusing on graduate students' roles as scholars and teachers; provides instruction on teaching communication, conducting and writing publishable research, and fulfilling responsibilities to one's organization and profession. May be repeated up to three times.  
**Prerequisite:** Graduate classification.

COMM 685 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 6 Other Hours.
Directed studies in specific problem areas in communication. Student may take up to two sections of directed studies in communication in the same semester, with a maximum of 6 credits.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of department head.

COMM 689 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of communication. May be repeated for credit.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor.

COMM 691 Research  
Credits 1 to 23. 1 to 23 Other Hours.
Research for thesis.