Communication and Culture

College of Arts and Sciences
Bloomington

Chairperson
Professor Gregory A. Waller*

Departmental E-mail
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Graduate Faculty
(An asterisk [*] denotes membership in the University Graduate School faculty with the endorsement to direct doctoral dissertations.)

Distinguished Professor
Richard Bauman* (Emeritus, Folklore and Ethnomusicology)

Chancellor’s Professor
James Naremore* (Emeritus)

Professors

Associate Professors

Assistant Professors
Karen Bowdre, Stephanie De Boer, Ilana Gershon, Mary Louise Gray*, Michael Alan Kaplan, Susan Lepselter, Joshua Malitsky, Ted George Striphas*

Adjunct Professors
Peter Bondanella* (Emeritus, French and Italian), Sumie Jones* (Emerita, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Comparative Literature), Darlene Sadlier* (Spanish and Portuguese), Beverly Stoeltje* (Anthropology)

Degrees Offered
Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. Students develop individualized programs of study in consultation with a plan of study committee consistent with the department’s interpretive focus on the relationship between communication and culture as manifested in and through the topics of rhetoric, media, performance, and ethnographic studies. Graduate students can also earn a Ph.D. minor that draws upon the department’s focus on communication and culture.

Special Departmental Requirements
(See also general University Graduate School requirements and the departmental Graduate Handbook for additional information and detailed list of special requirements for specific degree programs.)

Master of Arts Degree
Admission Requirements
Undergraduate major in a communication-related discipline (e.g., communication and culture, rhetoric, film, media studies, etc.) or other liberal arts (e.g., English, history, anthropology), with evidence of adequate academic background for graduate study. Admission decisions are also based upon scores on the Graduate Record Examination General Test, undergraduate courses taken and grades received, a scholarly writing sample, a personal statement, and letters of recommendation.

Course Requirements
A total of 30 credit hours including: 6 credit hours from among C501, C502, and C503; 3 credit hours from among C505, C506, and C507; and 3 credit hours of C700 dedicated to the independent study of the departmental M.A. reading list. A minimum of 15 credit hours must be taken in courses numbered 500 and above; a maximum of 8 hours can be taken outside of the Department of Communication and Culture. In years when C501 is not offered students may substitute C511, C512, or C513.

Examination
Written M.A. examination based on departmental reading list is taken during the second year of course work.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
Admission Requirements
M.A. degree in a communication-related discipline (e.g., rheto-
ric, communication and culture, film, media studies, etc.) or its equivalent in a related field such as anthropology, education, English, folklore, history, political science, psychology, or sociology. Admission decisions are based upon evidence such as scores on the Graduate Record Examination General Test, undergraduate and graduate courses taken and grades received, a scholarly writing sample, and letters of recommendation.

Course Requirements
A minimum of 90 credit hours, of which eight (3 or 4 credit hour) courses past the M.A. degree must be taken in the Department of Communication and Culture. Dissertation not to exceed 15 credit hours in C810. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be in courses numbered 500 and above.

Minor
Outside minor (typically 12–15 credit hours) required, which must be approved by the advisory committee. With approval of the advisory committee, a second minor may be taken.

Foreign Language Requirement
Reading proficiency in a foreign language. Demonstrated by course work or examination.

Qualifying Examination
Written and oral; may be taken twice only. Ph.D. Minor in Communication and Culture

Requirements
A minimum of 12 credit hours of course work in communication and culture, including one course from C501, C502, and C503. Course work must be completed with a grade average no lower than B (3.0). In years when C501 is not offered, students may substitute C511, C512, or C513. Students may transfer a maximum of 3 hours from another university toward this degree with the approval of the director of graduate studies in the Department of Communication and Culture.

To arrange for the minor in communication and culture, students should consult with the director of graduate studies, who will recommend a member of the faculty to serve as an advisor. In consultation with the advisor, a program of study will be outlined, and a copy of the plan filed with the director of graduate studies.

Courses

C501 Introduction to Rhetoric and Public Culture (3 cr.) A first course for students interested in exploring the relationship between rhetoric and public culture as manifest in modes of practical reasoning, the constitution and performance of self/society, and socio-political critique/judgment. Engages the connection between these modalities by focusing on the premodern and late or postmodern rhetorical theory as they implicate the problematics of contemporary social and political theory, including power, agency, ideology, hegemony, mediation, subjectivity, etc.

C502 Introduction to Performance in Communication and Culture (3 cr.) Introduction to various theories and methods of research in human communication studies. Includes theories of discursive and cultural, message production and reception, symbol systems, social constructionism, relational communication, conversation analysis, social influence, communication competence, and other topics.

C503 Introduction to Media Theory and Aesthetics (3 cr.) Study of classical and contemporary theoretical texts.

C505 Productive Criticism of Political Rhetoric (3 cr.) Conceptualizes rhetoric as a mode of social critique while focusing on the problem of the scapegoat in public culture. Critically examines constructions of the threatening Other as they foster alienation and victimization within and between polities. Draws on Kenneth Burke’s dramatism as a framework for rhetorical critique.

C506 Methods of Media Research (3 cr.) Introduction to research methods used in critical studies of media and culture.

C507 Methods of Ethnographic Research in Communication and Culture (3 cr.) Exploration of ethnographic research methods in the study of communication and culture, including the ethnography of performance, media, and public discourse. The emphasis is on qualitative methods; course work includes exercises in participant observation and interviewing.

C511 Premodern Rhetorical Theory (3 cr.) Survey of key texts, emphasizing rhetorical theory and practice, in the Greek and Latin traditions. Focus on contextualizing these materials within a continually developing intellectual history of rhetorical studies. Of particular interest is the potential for premodern theory to frame, interpret, and critique contemporary rhetorical practice.

C512 Rhetorical Theories of Cultural Production (3 cr.) Examines theories of rhetoric as a primary source of cultural production. Features Giambattista Vico on eloquence, tropes, and the poetic wisdom of culture; Friedrich Nietzsche on rhetoric, metaphor, and the will to power; Chaim Perelman on the realm of rhetoric and the problem of justice; and Kenneth Burke on rhetoric, identification, and the drama of human relations.

C513 Rhetoric and Sociopolitical Judgment (3 cr.) Exploration of the role that rhetoric plays in the production and performance of collective or socio-political judgment. The focus will be on the tension between modern and late or postmodern conceptions of judgment as they implicate the problems and possibilities of rhetorical praxis (i.e., negotiating the relationship between knowledge, understanding, and action) in contemporary democratic policy.

C545 Introduction to Pedagogy in Communication and Culture (3 cr.) Fundamentals of teaching as applied to communication. Focuses on teaching methods and culture, criticism, communication apprehension, textbook selection, test construction, gender in the classroom, and the place of communication and culture in the liberal arts and sciences.
C552 Media Institutions and the Production of Culture (3 cr.) Study of media institutions, work practices, products, and their relationships with their sociopolitical environment.

C560 Motion Picture Production (3-4 cr.) Introduction to 16mm film production including cinematography, editing, and sound.

C561 Intermediate Motion Picture Production (4 cr.) P: CMCL C560. Introduces students to the making of 16 mm sound films, including the recording and editing of synch sound. The various stages of production are explored in lectures, lab exercises, and discussions. Each student designs, directs, and edits a short synch sound film and participates as a crew member in the other students’ productions.

C562 The Screenplay (3 cr.) Terminology of screenwriting and form of the screenplay. Development of the screenplay from story outline and treatment to the shooting script. The original screenplay. Techniques of adaptation. Contributions of the screenwriter to the mise-en-scène. Exercises in screenwriting; culmination in the writing of a full-length original screenplay or adaptation.

C592 Media Genres (3 cr.) Topic varies: the evaluation of typical genres; problems of generic description of definition; themes, conventions, and iconography peculiar to given genres, etc. May be repeated for credit.

C593 History of European and American Films I (3 cr.) Survey of the development of cinema 1895-1926 (silent film era). Particular attention on representative work of leading filmmakers, emergence of film movements and development of national trends, growth of film industry, and impact of television. May be repeated once for credit with a different topic.

C594 Media History (3 cr.) Media historiography, topics in national history, national and international movements and trends. Topic varies. May be repeated once for credit with different topic.

C596 National Cinemas (3 cr.) Topic varies: historical survey of major national cinemas. Topics may include Brazilian cinema, French national cinema, German film culture, Italian cinema, Indian cinema, and others. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

C604 Topical Seminar in Mass Communication and Culture (1-3 cr.) P: Consent of instructor.

C606 Media Criticism (3 cr.) Study of the main schools and methods of media criticism. Course may be repeated once for credit with a different topic.

C608 Images and Critique in Public Culture (3 cr.) This course examines and assesses some contemporary critical thought about visual and non-visual images, especially the role of images in politics. As well as pursuing various strategies for the ideology critique of images, the course explores the possibility of thinking critically through images. It studies different types of images through a variety of theoretical approaches and thematic questions.

C610 Identity and Difference (3 cr.) Political, social, and cultural dimensions of identity and difference. Interrogates the production of marginal and dominant identities (e.g., racial, sexual, colonial) and the emergence of new forms of identification.

C611 Topics in Rhetoric and Public Culture (3 cr.) Systematic review of research related to a specific issue or area in rhetoric and public culture. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

C612 Constituting Democracy in Rhetorical Discourse (3 cr.) Compares the role of rhetoric in liberal, deliberative democracy to its function in radical, participatory, and agonistic democracy. Considers problematic constructions of democracy in U.S. political culture and their relationship to exaggerated perceptions of national vulnerability. Explores the rhetorical potential of myth and metaphor for reconstituting the image of democracy from a diseased to a healthy political practice.

C614 Rhetoric, Ideology, and Hegemony (3 cr.) Examination of the relationship between rhetoric, ideology, and hegemony in contemporary social and political thought. The emphasis will be on conceptions of hegemony as a site of praxis for negotiating the tensions between rhetoric and ideology in the production of social and political change (or permanence) in late or post-modernity. Primary readings will draw from twentieth-century rhetorical theory, Marxism, critical theory, and psychoanalysis.

C615 Rhetoric of Protest in America (3 cr.) Presents key instances of protest discourse both in their historical contexts and through the lenses of rhetorical theories of dissent. The focus is on illuminating the problematic and constitutive role of protest in the public culture of the United States, as manifested across a range of electronic and print media. The American Revolution, southern secession, feminisms, black liberation, and gay/lesbian rights will receive particular attention.

C616 Rhetorical Critiques of War (3 cr.) Rhetoric as an heuristic for critically engaging discourses of war and transforming the legitimization of war into a cultural problematic. Focuses on the problem of war in U.S. political culture.

C617 Rhetoric and Visual Culture (3 cr.) Examination of the relationship between rhetoric and visual culture. Key topics to be considered include: the relationship between visual rhetoric and collective memory, social and political controversy and dissent, political style and representation, postmodern media communities, race, gender, identity politics, etc.

C619 Feminism and Rhetorical Theory (3 cr.) This seminar explores the relationship between feminism and rhetoric by examining advocacy by/for women, patriarchal patterns of oppression, and the development of critical perspectives that have arisen out of desires to politically reevaluate contemporary gendered norms. It may be structured as a survey of a wide range of intersections between feminisms and rhetorical theory; or as an in-depth critical engagement with a specific tension, theme, or trajectory, such as “the body.”
C620 Media, Politics, and Power (3 cr.) Examination of media institutions (including new media) through various schools of thought. May be repeated once for credit with a different topic.

C622 Advanced Pedagogy (3 cr.) P: C545 or equivalent. This advanced pedagogy seminar will investigate theories of learning and academic practice. Topics will vary by semester.

C626 Studies in Contemporary Communication (3 cr.) Systematic review of research related to contemporary problems in the study of communication; may be theoretical, methodological, or critical. Topic varies. May be repeated for credit.

C627 Performance in Communication and Culture (3 cr.) Critical examination of performance as a vantage point on communication and culture in specific societies, world areas, or social formations. Topic varies. May be repeated for credit.

C634 Networks, Systems, and Flows (3 cr.) This course looks at contemporary theoretical approaches to how knowledge and objects travel. Readings in current theories of circulation address the categories used to conceptualize circulation and distribution, such as networks, systems, and flows.

C635 Humor in Use (3 cr.) Beginning from the premise that humor is a good site for the study of culture, this course looks at a range of cultural contexts for humor, from staged public performance to private joking, and is primarily concerned with the many and varied social uses to which humor is put.

C636 Reading the Text (3 cr.) This seminar hones students’ skills of close reading, explication and commentary, textual analysis and interpretation, in relation to one or two books central to the academic study of communication and culture. The books studied will be determined in each iteration of the seminar.

C637 Publics (3 cr.) How can we understand the different ways that publics are composed? This course looks at how one analyzes texts, events and social groups when focusing on publics.

C645 Topics in the Comparative Study of Communication and Culture (3 cr.) Analysis of communicative forms and practices in comparative perspective. Topic varies. May be repeated for credit.

C646 Pedagogy Practicum (1 cr.) Taken by associate instructors in communication and culture who are pursuing a three-course sequence leading to the Certificate of Pedagogy. Students in C646 will be assigned a faculty mentor who will work with them as they prepare to teach a departmental course that is not under the supervision of a course director. May be repeated for credit.

C650 Ethnography & Social Theory (3 cr.) Scholars build social theory through the analysis of social life and communicative practices. Ethnography is a key vehicle through which theory can be developed. By pairing theoretical and ethnographic works, the course offers a grounding in contemporary social theory and explores how ethnography can develop, hone, or complicate theory. May be repeated once for credit with a different topic.

C652 Globalization of Media (3 cr.) Explores media institutions, practices, and texts across national borders. Topic varies. May examine particular issues such as globalization of media, transnational implications of media texts, transnational data flows, media and foreign policy. May be repeated once for credit with a different topic.

C660 Advanced Film Production (4 cr.) Designed for students who have taken basic production classes and who want to embark on a more ambitious film or video project. Each student will produce one product from script to screen, and assist other students on their projects. Course will address creative, technical, and production management questions.

C661 Environmental Communication and Public Culture (3 cr.) This seminar focuses on how nature and the environment more broadly understood is articulated, represented, and engaged within public culture. Assuming symbolic and natural systems are mutually constituted, this course aims to foster a closer examination of communication practices that impact the environment and cultural perceptions of it such as tourism, social movement advocacy campaigns, corporate and government discourses, popular media, and public participation in decision-making processes.

C662 Media Audiences (3 cr.) This course studies audiences in the context of film, television, new media, and other media forms. Topic varies, but may include a focus on theories of spectatorship, methodological approaches to audiences, historical reception studies, ethnographic and/or empirical audience studies, global or transnational audiences, performance theory, fan cultures, and subcultures.

C670 Rhetoric in Contemporary Theory (3 cr.) Examines the role of rhetoric in emerging social, political, aesthetic, and cultural theories and on the implications of such theories for rhetorical inquiry.

C688 Rhetorics of Transgression and/or Resistance (3 cr.) This seminar compares and contrasts choices to identify, name, and imagine certain rhetorical acts as transgression or resistance. Engaging a range of contemporary theories, methods, and vocabularies, it explores which approaches are productive depending on the particular situation, practices, and actors involved, as well as the questions one is studying.

C690 Theories of Symbolic Meaning (3 cr.) P: Linguistics L503 or consent of instructor. Intensive study of referential, behavioral, rule-governed, and cognitive theories of symbolic meaning, with attention to comprehension of words, utterances/ sentences, and extended discourse. May be repeated for credit.

C691 Authorship in Media (4 cr.) In-depth analysis of individuals in the media who become known as “authors.” May be repeated for credit when topic varies.
C700 Research (cr. arr.)** C701 Practicum in Communication Research (3 cr.) P: Consent of instructor. Students must have ample preparation in some theoretical area and in one or more research methods. Designed to allow students to conduct a research study, including the collection and examination of data (broadly defined), to answer a question, to prove a thesis, or to test a hypothesis relating to communication/rhetorical theory. May be repeated for credit.

C705 Research Seminar in Rhetoric and Public Culture (3 cr.) Problems and issues in rhetoric and public culture. May be repeated for credit.

C706 Theories of Performance in Communication and Culture (3 cr.) Critical examination of theoretical problems in the study of performance in communication and culture. Topic varies. May be repeated for credit.

C710 Research Seminar (1-3 cr.) May be repeated for credit.

C727 Seminar in Cross-Cultural Communications (3 cr.) May be repeated for credit.

C790 Seminar: Pragmatic Functions of Language (3 cr.) P: C501 and C502, or consent of instructor. Study of research dealing with the correlates of language variation, including topics such as language clarity, intensity, obscenity, style, dialects, interactions of language with perception/cognition and mental health, and the constituents of pragmatic language competence. May be repeated for credit.

C792 Advanced Seminar in Media Theory (3 cr.) Topic varies: advanced study in media history and theory; major movements and historical periods and their relationship to the intellectual and cultural climate of the time; studies of technology and modes of production; advanced work in genre or auteur studies; close reading of major works of media theory; new developments in theory and criticism. May be repeated for credit.

C793 Seminar in Media (3 cr.) Topics in media studies. May be repeated once for credit when topic changes.

C800 M.A. Thesis (cr. arr.)
C810 Ph.D. Thesis (cr. arr.)**

**These courses are eligible for a deferred grade.