2012-2013 CommStudies Major At A Glance

The Communication Studies major requires a total of 40 credits or 10 courses, comprised of 6 required courses and 4 elective courses in the major. The required courses consist of 2 foundational courses (75-134 & 154); 2 core courses (75-204 and 604); 1 CommStudies Writing Intensive Course (regularly either 75-214, 414, or 784), and the Capstone Research Seminar (75-964). All of these courses except for Public Speaking and the Capstone are eligible to satisfy the University-wide AREA II Humanities Division requirement.

The basic structural aim of the CommStudies curriculum is to ensure that students have worked in the full range of methodologies and subject areas in the major as well as an intensive writing class in preparation for the Capstone, which culminates the major with a significant research project. Except for 100 and 900 level courses, COM courses are numbered according to subject area, not level of difficulty.

The Departmental curriculum is organized around two subject areas that represent the distinct, yet interrelated focal points of the major: Rhetorical Studies and Critical Media Studies. Each area is represented by one of the two COM Core Courses (75-204 and 604) as well as a group of courses that represent further interventions into the cognate areas. Rhetorical Studies courses are located in the 75-200s and 75-300s (with the exception of 75-304, the general upper-level COM Special Topics course number). Critical Media Studies courses are located in the 75-600s and 75-700s. Courses in the 400s and 500s explore content areas and themes that bridge Rhetorical Studies and Critical Media Studies.

All of the courses in the major involve a significant amount of writing, research, and creative work, but several courses even more explicitly engage in the teaching of writing, research, and creative methods and are thus designated as COM Methods/Writing Intensive Courses.

Every CommStudies major must meet the following requirements:

2 CommStudies Foundational Courses

COM 75-134: Introduction to Communication Studies
COM 75-154: Public Speaking

2 CommStudies Core Courses

COM 75-204 Rhetorical Traditions (pre-reqs: 75-134 & 154)
COM 75-604 Media and Culture (pre-reqs: 75-134 & 154)

1 CommStudies Writing Intensive Course (Choose at least ONE)

COM 75-214 Rhetorical Criticism (pre-reqs: 75-134 & 154; 75-204)
COM 75-414 Writing Culture (pre-reqs: 75-134 & 154; 75-204, 404 or 604)
COM 75-784 Visual Communication (pre-reqs: 75-134 & 154; 75-604)

1 CommStudies Capstone Research Seminar Course

COM 75-964 Capstone Research Seminar
(pre-reqs: 75-134, 154, 204, 404, 604; one from 214, 414, or 784)

4 CommStudies Elective courses

Most elective courses are located in the three areas below. The only exceptions are Special Topics courses (75-004; 75-304), Independent Studies, and Academic Internships, which count as CommStudies elective courses but are not located in a specific subject area. Most of the courses have no pre-reqs

Rhetorical Studies	Bridge Courses	Critical Media Studies
Rhetorical Criticism	Writing Culture	Visual Communication
Rhetorics of Resistance	Performing Culture	Journalism
Rhetoric of Civil Rights	Comm, Cult & Soc Justice	Media & Ethics
Rhet of Women's Rights	Race, Ethnicity & Comm	Music & Identity
Rhetorics of Health	Environmental Comm	American Indians in Media
Indigenous Rhetorical Sovereignty	Nations and Communication	Film Studies
	Documenting Self & Other	Road Movies
	Gender and Communication	

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