

Spring 2025 CMRJ Graduate Seminars

COMM 637 (Org Comm Seminar: Narratives): Wolfe

Thursday 8:30-11:00

This seminar will focus on the role of narrative in communication studies of collective organizing. Stories construct webs of relationships, which provide bases for social action with or against other entities. In this process of relational web-building, narration constitutes collectivities—in-groups and out-groups, “us” and “them”, victims and villains. Beyond character development, stories organize a sense of shared reality by selecting certain details from ongoing streams of experience and suggesting a causal order in the midst of ambiguity and change. For these reasons, narrative is a powerful tool for constructing identities, mobilizing coordinated action, and organizing social worlds. Over the course of the semester, we will consider various perspectives on narrative as theoretical framework, object of inquiry, method of analysis, and equipment for living. Options for final projects include a full narrative analysis research paper, a creative-analytic form of scholarship, or a digital storytelling project.

COMM 611 (Advanced Quant. Methods): Gong

Thursday 2:30-5:00

In-depth exploration and application of quantitative research methods in communication research; examination of regression-based modeling and its extensions, including ordinary least squares, model selection, resampling methods, analysis of categorical dependent variables, data transformation, interactive effects, and regularization; introduction to time series models.

COMM 616 (The Archive: Theory and Practice): Wanzer-Serrano

Tuesday 8:30-11:00

This seminar will explore archives from critical perspectives. Over the course of the semester, we will read philosophers, historians, media scholars, American studies scholars, rhetoricians, and others — all with the aim of better understanding what makes an archive, what politics are invoked/performed in archives, and how we re/assemble our own archives. As the course topic suggests, there will be a relatively even split between theory and practice. All disciplines are welcomed! Beyond the readings, students will write reflexively about their archiving and research practices, assemble/refine their archives, and write a seminar paper.

COMM 669 (Health Comm Survey): Street

Tuesday 2:30-5:00

The purpose of this course is to survey health communication research with respect to two general topics, communication pathways to better health care outcomes and interventions aimed at improving individual and public health. We will cover these issues within various health contexts, including the clinical encounter, health care organizations, public health campaigns, web-based health information environments, and social media and health. I will provide assorted readings, and students will periodically share readings on a topic of interest. There will be two short papers (5-7 pages) related to a topic of interest, and a final longer paper 10-15 pages that integrates elements of the two shorter papers.

COMM/ENGL 654 (Classical Rhetoric): Crick

Tuesday 11:30-2:00

This course will focus on the relationship amongst rhetoric, power, truth, and justice as it was theorized and narrated within the works of classical Greek literature and philosophy. The aim of the course is not to provide a history of philosophy or Greek culture, although we will touch on the context of ancient Greece to help interpret the works. Rather, the aim is to use these works to frame discussions about the concepts and values that are central to our understanding of the role of rhetoric and propaganda in the present day. Plato's dialogues will constitute the core of the course, with time also dedicated to the works of Homer, the Sophists, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Aeschylus, and Aristotle.