

California State University, Long Beach 2025-2026 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog

Courses

[Contract All Courses](#) |

Communication Studies

COMM 110 - Interpersonal Communication

(3 units)

Lecture: Basic characteristics of processes underlying the formation, maintenance and termination of interpersonal relationships; theoretical and practical implications of these characteristics in various forms of interpersonal communication. Workshop: Planned exercises and activities to develop interpersonal communications skills.

Both grading options. (Lecture 2 hours, Workshop 2 hours). Not open for credit to students with credit in COMM 210.

COMM 130 - Essentials of Public Speaking

(3 units)

Composition and delivery of speeches to inform and persuade. Logical organization is stressed.

Both grading options.

COMM 131 - Essentials of Argumentation

(3 units)

Lecture: Theory of argumentation; examination of forms and sources of evidence, inductive and deductive arguments, construction of case briefs, and refutation. Workshop: Develops critical thinking abilities with planned exercises and speeches including construction and presentation of arguments, cases, and refutation.

Both grading options.

COMM 132 - Small Group Discussion

(3 units)

Basic principles and techniques of discussion. Relationship of discussion to democratic processes and contemporary society including a study and practice of critical thinking and problem-solving techniques in various group discussion settings.

Both grading options.

COMM 200 - Communication Studies Careers and Scholarship

(3 units)

Introduction to the discipline of communication studies, including a discussion of academic methods of inquiry, guidelines for navigating the major, and an exploration of professional opportunities related to the field.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 220 - Elements of Organizational Communication

(3 units)

Role of communication in achieving organizational goals; theory and practice of communication in private and public organizations; techniques to enhance understanding in organizations.

Both grading options.

COMM 236 - Forensic Activity

(1-3 units)

Participation in intercollegiate forensic activities. Any student who expects to participate in such activities during the semester should enroll. Specific assignments will be determined in consultation with the staff.

Both grading options. (2-6 hrs. activity) May be repeated to a maximum of 4 units.

COMM 300 - Survey of Rhetorical Theory

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Complete GE Foundation courses.

History of major rhetorical theories from the ancient Greeks to the Twentieth century. Theorists include Gorgias, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, Augustine, Machiavelli, Locke, Marx, Freud, the

existentialists, and others.

Letter grade only (A-F)

COMM 301 - Communication Criticism

(3 units)

Prerequisite: COMM 300 and COMM 200 with a "C" or better

Analysis and criticism of public communication events including speeches, editorials, advertisements, and mass media from a variety of rhetorical perspectives.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 306 - Communication Theory

(3 units)

Conceptual perspectives and studies of coding, meaning, thinking, information, and persuasion within interpersonal, group and organizational contexts; theoretical contributions from other disciplines.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 307 - Measurement in Communication Research

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of at least 60 units. COMM 306 and COMM 200 with a "C" or better.

Application of the scientific method to the study of speech communication; examination of the role empirical methodologies play in communication research; fundamental statistical processes.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 309 - Language and Social Interaction

(3 units)

Symbolic basis of human communicative behavior; relationship between language and behavior; investigation and analysis of discourse and its effects on interactions

Letter grade only (A-F)

COMM 330 - Intercultural Communication

(3 units)

Study of the relationship between culture and communication with emphasis given to social, psychological, linguistic and nonverbal variables; problems in the practice of intercultural communication.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 331 - Argumentation and Debate

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of GE Foundation.

Techniques of argumentation and their application to debate; logic, reasoning and fallacies of reasoning; experience in various forms of formal argument and debate; techniques of debate program administration.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 333 - Performing Culture

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of GE Foundations.

Class participants use performance and other qualitative research methods to explore issues of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, and other cultural standpoints. Also includes a survey of relevant critical and cultural theories.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 334 - Communication in the Workplace

(3 units)

Skills and technologies related to the assessment, strategic planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of effective communication in the business and professional setting.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 335 - Persuasive Speaking

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of GE Foundations.

Skills necessary for advanced public speaking in various venues including legislative, legal, and ceremonial public address; explores various theories of motivation including speaker credibility, emotional appeals, of evidence and argument, style in language, delivery and audience analysis skills.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 336 - Forensic Activity

(1-3 units)

Participation in intercollegiate forensic activities. Any student who expects to participate in such activities during the semester should enroll. Student's specific assignments will be determined in consultation with the staff.

Letter grade only (A-F). (2-6 hrs. activity) May be repeated to a maximum of 4 units.

COMM 337 - Professional Event Planning

(3 units)

Researching, planning, coordinating, marketing, managing, and evaluating special events, such as professional conferences, social networking events, or fundraising activities.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 338 - Ensemble Performance

(3 units)

Programming and presentation of prose, poetry and drama by an ensemble of readers. Emphasis is placed on experimental presentations and on the development of analytical insight into literary forms.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 344 - Interviewing Theory and Techniques

(3 units)

Theory and techniques of oral communication in the process of interviewing. Practical application in employment, information gathering, and persuasive interviews.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 352 - Story Telling

(3 units)

Cultural heritage in story telling; analysis of story types for oral presentation; techniques of preparation, presentation, and listening.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 355 - Instructional Communication: Theory and Application

(3 units)

Designed for people who are interested in facilitating the retention and transfer of information through instruction; focus on communication strategies that contribute to human learning.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 358 - Speech Arts for Children

(3 units)

Use of creative dramatics, improvisations, puppetry, choral speech, radio, television and group discussion for the purpose of developing fluency, responsiveness and imagination in children. Integration of speech arts activities with curricular subjects will be stressed. Opportunity to apply the theories in actual situations.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 400 - Nonverbal Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Basic characteristics of the nonverbal elements of human communication in the oral communication setting.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 410 - Advanced Concepts in Interpersonal Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [COMM 110](#);

upper-division standing.

Systems and symbolic interaction approaches to interpersonal communication; consideration of interpersonal needs, self disclosure, understanding, interpersonal perception, interpersonal attraction, and social conflict; rule and performance-centered theories of interpersonal communication.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 411 - Interpersonal Conflict Resolution

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, completion of one or more GE Exploration courses, and upper division standing.

Analytical investigation of the nature and dynamics of interpersonal conflict; approaches to the study and understanding of conflict management as examined from intrapersonal, interpersonal, intragroup, organizational, and international perspectives.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 412 - Gender and Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundations, completion of one or more GE Exploration courses and upper-division standing.

Survey of theories and research literature to increase students' understanding of and familiarity with major issues regarding communication between men and women in various contexts.

Letter grade only (A-F)

COMM 414 - Communication in Families

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Role of communication in families; theoretical perspective of family interaction, current family issues, intercultural aspects of family interaction, effects of changing career/family roles, and intergenerational interaction.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 415 - Rhetoric of Social Movements and Protest

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Examines goals, strategies, and effects of groups that form to advocate social, political, and/or moral change. Focuses on how (agitator) groups communicate messages, and how institutions of power (establishment) respond in order to control or resist change.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 420 - Advanced Concepts in Organizational Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Philosophy, methods and designs for studying the communication systems of complex organizations; organizational communication-needs assessment, methods for developing and improving communication in organizations are examined.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 421 - Communication in Bargaining and Negotiation

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper Division Standing.

Role of communication in the decision-making process of negotiation and bargaining; emphasis on the functions of communication in resolving disputes through bargaining. Successful completion of [COMM 411](#)

is highly recommended.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 422 - Media Effects

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundations and Upper-Division standing.

Introduces students to the study of the effects of mass communication by examining some of the classic studies in the field of communication as well as exploring contemporary cultural, social, political and psychological effects of the mass media.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 423 - Communication Technologies and Social Media

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing and GE Foundation requirements.

Analysis of the role of communication technology in interpersonal, small group, and organizational communication. Emphasis on communication research and theories relevant to new and developing communication technologies and social media.

Letter grade only (A-F). Fall, Spring, Summer, Winter

COMM 425 - Communication and Violence

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing and GE Foundation requirements

Analysis of the role of communication in the prediction and prevention of violence. There will be an emphasis on communication theories/research and a consideration of violence in interpersonal, familial, and educational settings.

Letter grade only (A-F)

COMM 430 - Advanced Concepts in Intercultural Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [COMM 330](#)

and Upper-Division standing or consent of instructor.

Continued study of communication processes involved in interaction between people from different cultural groups; exploration of culturally variable means of thinking and behaving, and study of social psychological processes affecting all forms of intergroup interaction.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 431 - Mediation and Dispute Resolution

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: [COMM 330](#)

or [COMM 430](#)

, [COMM 411](#)

and [COMM 421](#)

, or consent of instructor.

Essential communication skills and processes involved in becoming a conflict mediator; certificate awarded after successful completion of course.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 432 - Leadership Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Development of leadership communication best practices; application of leadership theories and strategies for problem-solving and decision-making.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 434 - Advanced Oral Presentation Skills

(3 units)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements; one or more GE Exploration courses; and upper-division standing.

Development of advanced skills in oral presentations, including audience analysis, presentation technologies, and multi-media applications. Special consideration paid to research and critical analysis of written and oral presentation content and delivery.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 439 - Communication and Popular Culture

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Examines the relationship between communication and popular culture in the public sphere. The course aims at improving students' abilities to respond critically to everyday mass social messages.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 441 - Issues in Freedom of Communication

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and GE Foundation requirements, and at least two GE Exploration courses. Recommended [COMM 331](#) or [COMM 335](#).

The evolution and impact of First Amendment rights on American society and its political system; Emphasis on the evolution of the First Amendment, significant Supreme Court cases, the First Amendment and electronic media, and the application of case laws that deal with religion, speech, press, and assembly. Recommended for pre-law students.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 442 - Campaign Persuasion

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, upper division standing, and at least two GE Exploration courses. It is recommended that one be [COMM 331](#) or [COMM 335](#).

Examination of persuasive communicative strategies in political campaigns inclusive of campaign speeches, commercials, news media coverage, image-building, audience analysis through polling, and fund raising.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 443 - Communication and Mindfulness

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Upper-division standing and GE Foundation requirements.

Gain a core understanding of the emerging science of mindfulness, including the effects of mindfulness on communication and mental health. Develop practical skills of mindfulness that enhance communication in order to deal well with conflict situations and to deepen relationships.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 444 - Positive Communication Principles and Practices

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and GE Foundation requirements.

Examine codes of positivity and rudeness historically and analytically. Identify what it means to be an ethical and prosocial communicator in today's society. Implement positive communication practices in personal and professional contexts.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 449 - Studies in Oral Persuasion and Attitude Change

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Attitude formation and change through oral communication; factors in persuasion; problems determining the effects of persuasive messages; source credibility, message variables; and personality factors in the process of persuasion.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 450 - Communication Training in Organizations

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Nature and role of communication training in a variety of social, educational, and business organizations; the goals, structure, and impact of communication effectiveness programs are examined; audiovisual aids and communication training techniques emphasized.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 455 - Peer Mentorship and Professional Development

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing. Completion of three of the following six required COMM courses: ([COMM 200](#)

, [COMM 300](#)

, [COMM 301](#)

, [COMM 306](#)

, [COMM 307](#)

, [COMM 330](#)

) with "B" or better and instructor consent.

Development and training in peer mentorship; Experiential learning through the application of communication best practices, including public speaking, listening, interviewing, interpersonal communication, group communication, multicultural communication, and leadership, in the COMM Tutoring Center.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

COMM 466 - Rhetoric of Horror

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Upper-Division standing.

Consideration of how horror films have animated U.S. cultural anxieties that have emerged since the inception of the genre in 1930. Exploration of horror movies. Review of scary movies that dramatized cultural exigencies at the time they were created, review critical-cultural theories that consider the rhetorical elements of horror movies, apply critical theory to films, and create a media artifact that demonstrates their master of course concepts.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

COMM 490 - Selected Topics in Communication Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Upper-Division standing.

Topics of current interest selected for intensive study in Communication.

Letter grade only (A-F) May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics. Topics announced in the Schedule of Classes.

COMM 492A - Internship

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Permit required to enroll with consent of instructor; open only to juniors and senior majors.

Work directed and evaluated by instructor in consultation with supervisor of the participating organizations. Assignments will be varied.

Credit/No Credit grading only. COMM 492A is for unpaid Internship.

COMM 492B - Internship

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Permit required to enroll with consent of instructor; open only to juniors and senior majors.

Work directed and evaluated by instructor in consultation with supervisor of the participating organizations. Assignments will be varied.

Credit/No Credit grading only. COMM 492B is for paid internship.

COMM 495 - Service Learning Internship

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Application of academic knowledge of communication skills in the community; public speaking, listening, interpersonal communication, group communication, multicultural communication, and/or interviewing skills training (1) to students in K-12 schools or (2) to persons in the public sector.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

COMM 499 - Special Studies

(1-6 units)

Prerequisites: "Permit" required to enroll. Open to upper division students or graduate standing and consent of instructor. Approved "Agreement for Independent Study" must be on file with the Department prior to enrolling in this course.

Individualized laboratory or library research or specialized learning activities selected in consultation with instructor.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not acceptable for graduate credit toward the master's degree.

COMM 531 - Administering the Forensic Program

(3 units)

Prerequisite: "Permit" required to enroll with consent of instructor.

Principles of constructing and administering a forensic program, including recruiting, squad direction, budgeting, tournament policies, and current literature on forensics direction.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 541 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism I

(3 units)

Introduction to research in rhetorical studies. Examination of major figures and schools of thought on rhetorical theory and criticism from the Pre-Socratics through the contemporary modern British era.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 546 - Communication Theory and Research

(3 units)

Examination of theories and research in social cognition, interpersonal, small group, organizational, intercultural, mass, instructional, language and behavior, and nonverbal communication.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 590 - Selected Topics in Communication Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Investigation of topics of current interest and concern to students in communication and allied areas.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics, no more than 3 units may count toward the Communication Studies master's degree. Topics announced in the Schedule of Classes.

COMM 590A - Theory and Criticism of Presidential Rhetoric

(3 units)

Examines presidential communication theory and criticism. Topics under consideration include the changing office of the US presidency as well as the evolving role of the first lady. Rhetorical artifacts for analysis span the history of the US presidency.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 610 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication

(3 units)

Current theories and research in interpersonal communication.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 623 - Seminar in Communication Technology and Media

(3 units)

Contemporary and classic theories and research on the uses, processes, power dynamics, and effects of communication technology and media / mediated communication. Consideration of deterministic perspectives and their social constructionist critiques.

Letter Grade Only (A-F).

COMM 630 - Seminar Intercultural Communication

(3 units)

Analysis of cultural influences on interpersonal communication; emphasis given to cultural values, perception, social organization, language and nonverbal codes; development of strategies of effective intercultural communication in international and domestic settings.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 633 - Seminar in Interpretive Communication

(3 units)

Theories of communicative interpretation of literature, with emphasis on the theory and evaluation of oral presentation of literature as art form and pedagogical instrument.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 634 - Performance and Ethnography

(3 units)

Students use ethnographic methods to explore the relationship between culture and performance. Students choose a community, conduct fieldwork and collect/perform stories in order to better understand a particular population.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 635 - Seminar in Communication Criticism

(3 units)

Critical theories of rhetoric and major systems of communication criticism; development of criteria and approaches for the evaluation of select communication acts and contexts.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 636 - Seminar in American Public Communication

(3 units)

Studies of American rhetorical events and their social, political and intellectual settings; application of rhetorical theory in the analysis of these events.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 637 - Seminar in International Public Communication

(3 units)

Studies of international rhetorical events and their social, political, and intellectual settings; application of rhetorical theory in the analysis of these public communication events.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 639 - Seminar in Communication and Popular Culture

(3 units)

Survey of literature on rhetoric, critical studies, and popular culture to provide a basis for investigating communication in popular culture.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 640 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism II

(3 units)

Examination of major figures and themes in rhetorical theory and criticism in the contemporary era.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 644 - Seminar in Applied Communication

(3 units)

Theoretical and practical application of communication strategies in diverse contexts

Letter Grade Only (A-F).

COMM 646 - Quantitative Research Design

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [COMM 307](#)
(or equivalent).

Empirical research methodologies applied to communication research; theory and design of scientific research; analysis of findings; computer applications; research report required.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 650 - Seminar in Instructional Communication

(3 units)

Designed for teachers/trainers, the course will identify communication variables and strategies which contribute to greater student/client learning as well as greater satisfaction with the learning process. Students will develop an instructional/training package.

Letter grade only (A-F).

COMM 697 - Directed Research

(1-6 units)

Prerequisites: [COMM 541](#)

and [COMM 546](#)

; authorization of the department Graduate Advisor, Agreement for Independent Study Course form, consent of instructor.

Directed research leading to the definition and discussion of a selected problem or issue in communication and the presentation of research results in a formal paper submitted to the department.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

COMM 698 - Thesis

(1-4 units)

Prerequisites: [COMM 541](#)

, [COMM 546](#)

, [COMM 640](#)

and [COMM 646](#)

, authorization of the department Graduate Advisor, Agreement for Independent Study Course form, consent of instructor.

Preparation, completion and submission of an acceptable thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's degree.

Credit/No Credit grading only.