

# Communication Studies (COMS)

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## Courses

### **COMS 120 Interpersonal Communication (3 Hours) ▶**

This course focuses on the principles of effective speech communication in small group and one-to-one relationships. Theory and practice of interpersonal communication are studied and applied to a variety of life situations. The course focuses on perception, self-concept, listening, conflict, language, nonverbal communication, computer mediated communication, culture, and gender as they relate to interpersonal relationships.

### **COMS 121 Public Speaking (3 Hours) ▶**

This course is designed to meet the needs of people who wish to improve their ability to prepare and deliver effective oral presentations before an audience. This fundamental speech course emphasizes creation of ideas, research techniques, outlining, organization, audience analysis, listening skills, delivery techniques, and online public speaking skills. Students will deliver a variety of speech types including informative and persuasive.

### **COMS 125 Personal Communication (3 Hours)**

This course examines the theory and concepts of the most frequently used human communication skills, interpersonal communication and public speaking, in a variety of contexts. The course demonstrates the natural relationships between communicating one-to-one and in public, showing that skills in one can be employed in the other, and also provides practice and development of skills in both areas.

### **COMS 130 Elementary Debate (3 Hours)**

This course is designed for those students interested in participating in competitive intercollegiate debate. Through the course, students will learn debate theory, debate skills and techniques, and methods of becoming successful intercollegiate competitors. Students are expected to participate in debate rounds in order to develop skills in research, argument construction, debate format, intercollegiate debate speaking style and refutation.

### **COMS 132 Intermediate Debate I\* (3 Hours)**

**Prerequisites :** COMS 130.

This course is designed for those students interested in participating in competitive intercollegiate debate. Through the course, students will learn debate theory, debate skills and techniques, and methods of becoming successful intercollegiate competitors. Students are expected to travel to tournaments in order to develop skills in research, argument construction, debate format, intercollegiate debate speaking style and refutation. Students enrolling in this course will be required to participate as members of the intercollegiate debate team and will attend an appropriate number of weekend intercollegiate debate tournaments a semester.

### **COMS 155 Workplace Skills (1-2 Hour)**

This course focuses on communication concepts and skills utilized in the workplace. The course demonstrates the relationships between listening; oral communication; human relations skills; problem-solving and teamwork dynamics; time and resource management; and work ethics and job interviewing; with success in a student's desired field.

### **COMS 180 Intercultural Communication (3 Hours)**

The Intercultural Communication course is concerned with communication theory as it relates to cross-cultural interactions. This course utilizes concepts drawn from sociology, psychology, anthropology and communication. Focus is on identifying the cultural bases of beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviors. Objectives include recognizing commonalities across cultures, tolerating ambiguity in a variety of situations, developing a more global multicultural perspective, identifying and appreciating other cultural orientations, and recognizing and assigning cultural explanations to specific behaviors.

### **COMS 230 Intermediate Debate II\* (3 Hours)**

**Prerequisites :** COMS 132

This course is designed for students interested in participating in competitive intercollegiate debate. Through the course, students will learn debate theory, debate skills and techniques, and methods of becoming successful intercollegiate competitors. Students are expected to travel to tournaments in order to develop skills in research, argument construction, debate format, intercollegiate debate speaking style and refutation. Students enrolling in this course will be required to participate as members of the intercollegiate debate team and will attend an appropriate number of weekend intercollegiate debate tournaments a semester.

### **COMS 235 Advanced Debate\* (3 Hours)**

**Prerequisites :** COMS 230.

This course is designed for students interested in participating in competitive intercollegiate debate. Through the course, students will learn debate theory, debate skills and techniques, and methods of becoming successful intercollegiate competitors. Students are expected to travel to tournaments in order to develop skills in research, argument construction, debate format, intercollegiate debate speaking style and refutation will be developed. Students enrolling in this course will be required to participate as members of the intercollegiate debate team and will attend an appropriate number of weekend intercollegiate debate tournaments a semester.

**COMS 291 Independent Study\* (1-7 Hour)**

**Prerequisites** : 2.0 GPA minimum and department approval.

Independent study is a directed, structured learning experience offered as an extension of the regular curriculum. It is intended to allow individual students to broaden their comprehension of the principles of and competencies associated with the discipline or program. Its purpose is to supplement existing courses with individualized, in-depth learning experiences. Such learning experiences may be undertaken independent of the traditional classroom setting, but will be appropriately directed and supervised by regular instructional staff. Total contact hours vary based on the learning experience.

**COMS 292 Special Topics:\* (3 Hours)**

**Prerequisites** : Department approval.

This course periodically offers specialized or advanced discipline-specific content related to the study of communication not usually taught in the curriculum. This course may expand upon a topic introduced in a current course, synthesize topics that span across existing courses, or explore a topic not currently addressed in the Communication Studies curriculum. Students may repeat Special Topics in Communication Studies for credit, but only on different topics. This is a repeatable course and may be taken more than once for credit.