

Definition

Communication Studies encompasses the areas of Human Communication, Mass Communication, Speech, and Rhetoric. The intent of the program is to provide students with an understanding of theory, research, and application in various aspects of the communication process.

Staff

To access faculty and staff, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit extension.

Program Advisement:

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Faculty:

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Bill Buchynski	2460
Nune Dervishian	2186
Samantha Garagliano	2187
Alex Hatlestad-Shey	2629
Mike Kalustian	2205
William Konovalov	2171
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Merri Nelson	2592
Emily Paramonova	2210
Patricia Reed	2529
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Program Description

All Communication Studies courses, whether they are broadly conceived courses in effective communication, critical inquiries into the nature of human communication or the media, or professionally-oriented exercises in writing and producing a newspaper, are aimed at developing critical discernment and equipping the student with the theoretical, aesthetic, and technical means to communicate these insights effectively to others.

COMM 101 helps students improve their formal speaking skills. It satisfies the Oral Communication requirement for transfer

to the California State University system and the Communication and Analytical Thinking requirement for the associate degree. COMM 103 also fulfills the California State University system Oral Communication requirement for IGETC. COMM 105 gives students an overview of the breadth of Mass Communication and is required for transfer students to CSUN in Journalism and the Communication Studies Option.

Distinctive Features

The program allows students to explore the many contexts of communication. Students are exposed to many different teaching techniques and a variety of learning opportunities, both theoretical and practical. Critical thinking and collaborative learning are stressed.

Career Options

The ability to organize one's thoughts and present them with clarity and precision is an asset in all careers. Communication skills are especially applicable to the following occupations:

Filmmaker
Film Critic
Journalist
Lawyer
Lobbyist
Personnel Manager
Public Information Officer
Public Relations Specialist
Radio/TV Announcer
Screenwriter
Speech Writer
Sportscaster
Teacher (all levels and all disciplines)
Television Program Director
Videographer
(Many of these careers may require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

Associate Degree

The Communication Studies Associate Arts Transfer (AA-T) degree offers students a comprehensive course of study of the many facets of human communication. Public speaking and

performance, interpersonal and group communication, argumentation, and mass media are some of the contexts studied. Students will enhance their own communication practices in professional and personal settings, as well as study theories and concepts that examine the impact of communication on relationships and society at large.

The Associates in Arts in Communication Studies for Transfer meets the requirements of SB 1440 for Associate Degrees for Transfer (AA-T). These degrees are intended to make it easier for students to transfer to a California State University campus. Specifically, if a student completes an "associate degree for transfer":

1. The CSU shall guarantee admission with junior status.
2. Admission to the CSU does not guarantee admission for specific majors or campuses.
3. The CSU shall grant a student priority admission to his or her local CSU campus and to a program or major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted.

While the AA-T degree is specifically designed for ease of transfer to a CSU, it should be noted that it does not exclude admittance to other colleges and universities.

To earn an Associates in Arts in Communication Studies for Transfer (AA-T) a student must complete 60 semester units that are eligible for transfer to the CSU system, should the student fall below the 60 units between the major unit requirements and the CSU-GE/IGETC pattern, the deficit units shall be comprised of CSU transferrable elective units.

1. IGETC or CSU GE Breadth
2. At least 18 units as defined below
3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required

Required Core Courses:	units
COMM 101, Introduction to Public Speaking	3

120 Communication Studies

Required Electives A (6 units) units

Any 2 courses from the following:

COMM 107, Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM 109, Small Group Communication	3
COMM 115, Introduction to Argumentation and Debate	3

Required Electives B (6 units) units

Any 2 course from the following or one not used above:

COMM 103, Process of Communication	3
COMM 112, Oral Communication	3
COMM 219, Intercultural Communication	3

Required Electives C (3 units) units

Any 1 from the following or one not used above:

ANTH 102, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
ENGL 102, Critical Thinking and Literature	3
JOUR 121, Beginning Journalism	3
PSY 101, General Psychology	3
SOC 101, Introduction to Sociology	3

Total 18

CSU GE or IGETC Pattern 38-41

CSU Transferrable Elective Units to reach Degree Total 60

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at the following Web site: www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See

"Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

Communication Arts Courses

COMM 101

*INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

The basic course in public speaking provides instruction in the principles of the strategic uses of oral communication and gives students practical experience in organizing and analyzing their ideas, critiquing the oral messages of others and active listening. (CSU, UC, AVC)

COMM 103 *PROCESS OF COMMUNICATION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

An analysis of the theories, practices and processes of interpersonal communication, small group communication, and public speaking and the role of language in human behavior. (CSU, UC, AVC)

COMM 105

*INTRODUCTION TO MASS COMMUNICATION

(formerly same course as JOUR 105)

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

This course provides a survey of the growth and development of mass media in America from historical and analytical perspectives. The course summarizes the principles of the mass communication process and illustrates how that process affects the average consumer of the media. Students will be exposed to mass media problems of the past and present as well as the trends that will shape the twenty-first century. Areas of study include: book and magazine publishing, photojournalism, newspapers, radio, recorded music, film, television, online media, advertising, public relations, ethics and law. (CSU, UC, AVC)

COMM 107

*INTRODUCTION TO INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

The study of interpersonal communication principles and theories. The course will emphasize communication in family, friendship, romantic, and workplace relationships. Focus will be on improving interpersonal competence. (CSU, UC, AVC)

COMM 109 *SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course is designed to develop effective communication and leadership skills by exploring techniques for productive group discussion. Students will participate in group role playing, problem solving, decision making, projects, and panel discussions. Methods for creating positive communication climates and dealing with group conflict will also be examined. (CSU, AVC)

COMM 112 *ORAL INTERPRETATION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

A course in theory and practice of effective oral presentations. Training in selection, editing, and analysis of various genres of literature. Techniques of physical and oral expression. (CSU, UC, AVC).

COMM 114 *THE ART OF STORYTELLING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course is a study of the history, theory, and practice of the oral art of storytelling. The historical and current practice of the oral tradition will be covered using a multicultural approach.

Students will find, prepare, and perform stories from a variety of cultures (e.g., African-American, Native American, Euro-American, African). (CSU, AVC)

COMM 115 ***INTRODUCTION TO ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE**

(formerly Introduction to Argumentation)

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

The special skills of critical thinking and reasoning are an important part of daily reactions to what you hear, think, and read. This course is designed to enable students to create valid and well-supported arguments; to understand and improve their own reasoning processes; and to effectively critique the arguments presented by others. While the course is not primarily designed to teach formal debating skills, informal strategies for advocating and arguing positions will be honed. (CSU, UC, AVC)

COMM 116 *FORENSICS

2-4 units

48-96 hours total

Advisory: Completion of COMM 101 or COMM 112 and, Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

A course in competitive public speaking. Students may choose to compete in oral interpretation or platform speaking events at intercollegiate speech tournaments. Students must attend 2-4 tournaments off campus each semester. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

COMM 199 ***OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

1-8 units

hours vary

Prerequisite: To participate in work experience, students must have a job or internship which is either paid or voluntary and have the approval of the supervisor and instructor supervising work experience in the specific subject area. PRIOR TO ENROLLING, students must attend a scheduled orientation or meet individually with the supervising instructor for an individual orientation.

Occupational Work Experience Education is supervised employment designed to provide students a realistic learning experience through work. The ultimate goal is to teach students those skills and attitudes that will equip them to function and adapt as an employee in a variety of situations and jobs. Occupational Work Experience Education is supervised employment extending classroom-based occupational learning at an on-the-job learning station related to the students' educational major or occupational goal. Credit may be accrued at the rate of one to eight units per semester. For the satisfactory completion of all types of Cooperative Work Experience Education (WE 197 and WE 199), students may earn up to a total of sixteen semester credit hours. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

COMM 214 *STUDIES IN STORYTELLING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of COMM 114.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course is designed for students who have completed COMM 114 and desire further study in storytelling. Students will refine their oral storytelling skills and will strengthen their ability to research the historical, cultural, and literary sources of folktales. Students will have the opportunity to perform stories outside of class. (CSU, AVC)

COMM 215 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMUNICATION

(formerly same course as JOUR 215)

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 101.

This course introduces theory-based communication concepts (such as Source-Message-Channel-Receiver) and presents methods for disseminating information to the public. Composition methods for print, electronic, and graphic communication media are taught. Skill in basic math computation, public speaking, art, and computer literacy are recommended. The course is applications-based and designed

for students pursuing an AA degree, and/or those desiring practical public communication applications training and study. (CSU, AVC)

COMM 217 *GENDER AND COMMUNICATION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of ENGL 101.

This course is an analysis of communication in terms of gender. Feminine verbal and non-verbal communication patterns will be compared and contrasted with masculine communication patterns. Students will examine how society, media, and culture influence gender. Further, the communication of women from various non-dominant cultures within the United States will be examined. Issues of sexism, sexual harassment, and racism will be explored. (CSU, UC, AVC)

COMM 219 ***INTRODUCTION TO INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading.

Introduction to intercultural communication in domestic and/or global contexts. Influence of cultures, languages, and social patterns on how members of groups relate among themselves and with members of different ethnic and cultural groups. Theory and knowledge of effective communication within and between cultures. Appreciation and comparison of communication of diverse groups within the larger context of American culture. (CSU, UC, AVC)