

## Communication Studies Honors Curriculum

### Honors-enriched assignments:

The following assignments will qualify as honors-enriched experiences in the courses listed below:

1. Written report on a research project.
2. Oral presentation to the class on a research project.
3. Additional homework or exam assignments (essay exams).
4. A service project or other experience approved by the program coordinator.

### Honors-enriched courses:

**SPCH 2330-088 Communication Theory** (3 credits) - This course applies modern and traditional communication theories as analytical tools to understand how communication operates in a variety of settings.

**SPCH 3300-088 Qualitative Communication Research Methods** (3 credits) - An introduction to qualitative research methods in communication. Traditional qualitative techniques and strategies including ethnography, grounded theory, and participatory research will be taught along with more contemporary methodological approaches. Students will design and implement a research project using the techniques covered in class.

**SPCH 3330-088 Quantitative Research Methods** (3 credits) - An overview of the scientific method as it applies to the study of human communication. Students will learn to collect data about human interaction using observational, survey and experimental methods. Limited statistical training will be provided to enable students to interpret their own data as well as critically evaluate the quality of claims made in other scientific studies.

**SPCH 3340-088 Rhetorical Criticism** (3 credits) - A study of the methods for analyzing oral, written, and non-discursive texts. Students will learn traditional and contemporary approaches to understanding the meanings of public messages.

**SPCH 3346-088 Speaking for Social Change** (3 credits) - Provides advanced-level training in various forms of public address and channels that turn training into civic engagement efforts that challenge issues of privilege, power, and difference.

**SPCH 3350-088 Interpersonal Communication** (3 credits) - This course focuses on the effect that communication has on the quality of intimate relationships. The impact of communication on attraction, relationship development, conflict and relationship termination is covered.

**SPCH 3380-088 Group Communication and Leadership** (3 credits) - This course explores creative decision-making and conflict management strategies, leadership abilities, and the development of skillful communication with diverse group members. As an oral intensive class, emphasis will be placed on the ability to work on long, well-developed group projects and presentations.

**SPCH 3390-088 Persuasion** (3 credits) - A study of available means of influencing another person/group and conducting mass campaigns and advertising. Emphasis is on influence through the speech medium, but other verbal and nonverbal channels of persuasion are considered.

**SPCH 4200-088 Gender and Communication** (3 credits) - A study of how communication influences gender and gender influences communication. Explores communication practices that show the most promise for fostering more humane living for women and men.

**SPCH 4210-088 Family Communication** (3 credits) - Explores how family systems use communication to create, sustain, and change individual identity and social reality. This course broadly construes the concept of family.

**SPCH 4317-088 Rhetoric and Public Address** (3 credits) - Historical study of rhetorical theory as applied to manuscripts, speakers, and audiences.

**SPCH 4346-088 Business & Professional Communication** (3 credits) - A study of communication insights and development of skills to achieve professional competence.

**SPCH 4356-088 Intercultural Communication** (3 credits) - This course explores theories, research, and practice of cross-cultural communication. Cultural differences and similarities will be explored, as will methods for improving intercultural communication.

**SPCH 4357-088 Organizational Communication** (3 credits) - This course explores the impacts of communication on modern organizations and their members, including leadership development, new technologies, enhancing employee-supervisor relationships, and well-functioning work teams.

**SPCH 4366-088 Communication Ethics** (3 credits) - A study of ethical principles of interpersonal and public communication, with special attention to the practice of the communication professions.

**SPCH 4377-088 Health Communication** (3 credits) - A study of the interpersonal, group, organizational, and public communication processes that shape beliefs, decisions, and behavior regarding health, sickness, and health care. The course examines the attitudes and actions of many participants in health communication, including citizens, health professionals, and those engaged in public debate of health issues.

**SPCH 4957-088 Special Topics in Communication Studies** (3 credits) – Courses designed to cover a particular topic within the discipline of communication.

**Senior Capstone Experience:**

Students must select the following course to fulfill 6 hours (two semesters at three hours each) of the 18 hours of coursework required for the Honors-in-Discipline program.

**SPCH 4018 Senior Honors Thesis** – After completing 12 hours of the honors Communication Studies program, students will write a thesis (topic approved by advisor) and will defend the thesis in a public forum. The Senior Honors Thesis can include, but is not limited to, writing a thesis involving research on a topic in Communication Studies broadly defined, including topics in family, group, health, interpersonal, intercultural, and organizational communication, rhetoric, and communication theory.

**Honors in Communication Studies Check Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SID#: \_\_\_\_\_