

**Pre-requisites for Undergraduate Communication courses**  
**School of Communication**  
**Western Michigan University**  
(Effective September 2008)

<b>Course Number &amp; Title</b>	<b>Current catalog copy</b>	<b>Current pre-reqs</b>
<b>COM 1040</b> <b>Public Speaking</b>	Study of the application of principles of communication underlying effective oral presentations, with attention given to speaking in business, professional and public settings. Includes practice in preparing, presenting and evaluating speeches and other forms of oral presentations. This course may be offered in an accelerated format. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 1700</b> <b>Interpersonal Communication</b>	An introductory course in communication theory and practice in which students utilize their powers of speech to increase their effectiveness in interpersonal relations through understanding of self and others. This course may be offered in an accelerated format. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 2000</b> <b>Introduction to Communication Theory</b>	A study of communication models and theories which are common to the fields of interpersonal, group, organizational, public and mass communication. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 2010</b> <b>Communication Inquiry</b>	This course introduces students to the humanistic and social science traditions of inquiry into human communication. Prerequisites: "C" or better in COM 2000. 3 hours	"C" or better in COM 2000.
<b>COM 2040</b> <b>Advanced Public</b>	Advanced study and presentation of informative, argumentative, persuasive and special occasion speeches. Prerequisite: "C" or better in COM 1040 or consent of School; admitted major or declared	"C" or better in COM 1040 or consent of School; admitted major or declared

<b>Speaking</b>	Communication minor status. 3 hours	Communication minor status.
<b>COM 2100</b> <b>Performance of Literature I</b>	Emphasis is placed on developing the student's appreciation of literature and his/her skill in analysis and performance of prose, poetry, and drama, including an introduction to group performance of literature.3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 2400</b> <b>Introduction to Media and Telecommunications</b>	This course proposes to help students attain understanding of how media and telecommunication technologies are organized and how media products impact personal attitudes and life styles, patterns of social and public communication, as well as national and international policies and governance. The course surveys the history of these technologies, the scientific development of these technologies, the legal and ethical environment in which they operate, and the organizational, political, economic and social structures that sustain the telecommunication technologies and corresponding industries. Special attention is given to four sectors of the media and telecommunications fields: broadcasting, cable, telephony, and the internet. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 2410</b> <b>Film Communication</b>	An introduction to the unique language and elements of the film medium through the study of outstanding examples of historical and contemporary experimental, documentary and feature films. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 2560</b> <b>Electronic Media Operations</b>	Introduction to the technology, structure, operations and personnel of the electronic media/telecommunications craft and industry (radio, television, cable, web cast and cinema). This course approaches media from a socially responsible perspective – addressing introductory issues of media ownership, production development/procedures, and media distribution/exhibition, and provides students with a foundation for future production courses and related careers in electronic media. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 2570</b> <b>Introduction to Audio Production</b>	This introductory level course familiarizes students with the production of sound as a creative element in radio broadcasting and audio production. Students participate in the studio experience by writing and producing commercials, dramas, sounds capes, documentaries and other formats for radio and alternative creative	"C" or better in COM 2000; COM 2410 or COM 2560; admitted major or declared communication minor status

	media outlets. Prerequisites: "C" or better in COM 2000; COM 2410 or COM 2560; admitted major or declared communication minor status. 3 hours	
<b>COM 2800</b> <b>Introduction to Organizational Communication</b>	Provides a broad overview of the field of organizational communication, addressing both traditional and contemporary theories, concepts, and research. Students will undertake the systematic study of internal and external organizational communication processes at the individual, group, and organization-wide levels. Prerequisite: "C" or better in COM 2000. 3 hours	"C" or better in COM 2000
<b>COM 3050</b> <b>Special Topics in Communication</b>	Group study of special topics in communication education, interpersonal and organizational communication, mass communication, oral interpretation, and film. Many of these special courses are organized in response to special needs or interests of students on campus, in the community and in the region. Some topics are announced in the Schedule of Classes; some are added during the semester. Further information and a full listing of topics may be obtained from the School office, 301 Sprau Tower. Specific topic must be approved by an advisor. May elect COM 3050 no more than twice. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 3070</b> <b>Freedom of Expression</b>	This course examines the meaning, scope and challenge of "free expression" in the American experience. Beginning with the historical and philosophical roots of free speech rights, students will critically examine how the courts, scholars and activists have interpreted and applied these rights to a number of controversial issues. Possible topics include free expression on the Internet and in the mass media, political protests, copyright law, and international differences in speech rights. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 3320</b> <b>Group Problem Solving</b>	This course examines principles and procedures of effective group communication with an emphasis on practical application of problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking skills. Individuals will work together in a variety of group situations learning to communicate effectively, plan agendas, make decisions, write and present group reports, and analyze group communication behaviors.	COM 1700 and COM 2000

	Prerequisites: COM 1700 and COM 2000.3 hours	
<b>COM 3340</b> <b>Argumentation and Debate</b>	Theory and practice in argumentation and debate. Included are the analysis of propositions and the use of logic and evidence. Students will build, present, and defend cases. Students will also gain practical experience in managing forensic activities. Prerequisites: "C" or better in COM 1040 and declared secondary communication education minor (secondary com ed minor) status. <b>Credits: 3 hours</b>	"C" or better in COM 1040; and declared secondary communication education minor status.
<b>COM 3350</b> <b>Leadership</b>	A study of the characteristics and behaviors of leaders with emphasis on the development of leadership abilities in the individual for different group situations. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisites: "C" or better in COM 1700 and COM 2000; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	"C" or better in COM 1700 and COM 2000; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status
<b>COM 3410</b> <b>Film Modes and Genres</b>	This course will focus on analytic studies of representative films from various modes of film communication (narrative; non-narrative; film movements) and film genres (including, but not limited to, the musical, the western, the horror film, film melodrama, the science fiction film, film comedy, experimental film, etc.) Prerequisite: COM 2410. 3 hours	COM 2410
<b>COM 3420</b> <b>The International Film Industry</b>	This course will survey the history and development of commercial film and video from a global perspective, with an emphasis on the analysis of film and video content as well as industry practices in both Western and non-Western nations. We will use screenings of representative film and video work from across the globe to illustrate and explore the complex social, economic, technical, and aesthetic forces that shape the international entertainment industry. Prerequisite: COM 2410.3 hours	COM 2410
<b>COM 3430</b> <b>American Film History</b>	This course will survey developments over time in the production and reception of feature films. Major concerns will include the evolution of the studio system, the impact of technological change on film practice, influences on Hollywood of other national cinemas,	COM 2410

	and the changing relationship between Hollywood and American society. Representative films will provide key texts for each unit of the course. Prerequisite: COM 2410.3 hours	
<b>COM 3500</b> <b>Public Relations and Organizations</b>	The course will examine the role of public relations and public information in a variety of organizations with a communication theory perspective. The course is designed to prepare individuals for positions in public relations and public information, or for other positions in organizations concerned with the flow of information across organization boundaries. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisite: COM 2000 or consent of instructor; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 2000 or consent of instructor; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 3540</b> <b>Web Design Basics</b>	This course is designed to help students develop basic web design skills. The emphasis will be on effective communication using the Web, basic HTML, CSS, fundamentals of Photoshop and Dream weaver will be taught but the main emphasis will be on building an information-rich website based on usability principles and other accepted standards of web design. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 3550</b> <b>Introduction to Digital Video Production</b>	Familiarizes students with the design, planning, production, post-production and evaluation of digital electronic field production (EFP) techniques. Students will develop their own short video projects, and also serve as crew on various team projects, and learn the basics of non-linear MacIntosh computer based editing. Prerequisites: COM 2000; COM 2410 or COM 2560; admitted major or declared communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 2000; COM 2410 or COM 2560; admitted major or declared communication minor status.
<b>COM 3560</b> <b>Film Production</b>	This course gives students the opportunity to plan, script, shoot, and edit films in the 16 mm format. The course will provide cameras, editors, projectors, and work space. The course lab fee includes film stock and processing (up to 5 rolls) and editing materials. Prerequisites: COM 2000, COM 2410; admitted major or declared communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 2000, COM 2410; admitted major or declared communication minor status.
<b>COM 3570</b>	Explores the elements of television studio production planning and	COM 2000 and (COM 2410 or

<p><b>Introduction to TV Studio Production</b></p>	<p>collaborative implementation. Students are introduced to TV studio operations including equipment operation, crew responsibilities, producing and directing various types of television studio formats. Prerequisites: COM 2000 and (COM 2410 or COM 2560); admitted major or declared communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>COM 2560); admitted major or declared communication minor status.</p>
<p><b>COM 3580</b> <b>TV and Film Scripting</b></p>	<p>The styles and techniques of film and television scripting for broadcast formats, station continuity, commercials, dramatic scripts, small format video, and documentary. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisite: Admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>Admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status</p>
<p><b>COM 3590</b> <b>Broadcast Journalism</b></p>	<p>Radio and TV as news and information media. Studies and applies principles of news gathering and reporting, commentary, on-the-spot news coverage, features, and structure of the newscast. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisite: Admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>Admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status.</p>
<p><b>COM 3700</b> <b>Interpersonal Communication II</b></p>	<p>An analysis of relational communication with particular emphasis on the nature of transactional relationships. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisites: COM 1700 and COM 2000; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>COM 1700 and COM 2000; admitted major or declared Communication minor status</p>
<p><b>COM 3720</b> <b>Introduction to General Semantics</b></p>	<p>A study of the function of language. The course deals with the nature and meaning of symbols and differences between the communications systems of the human animal and other species. Examines the assumptions held by Western man about the structure/function of his universe as reflected in language; the problem of "reality" as distinct from "meaning." The purpose of the course is to increase the student's awareness of his/her effectiveness as a thinker or symbol-user. This course is approved as a writing-</p>	<p><b>None</b></p>

	intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. 3 hours	
<b>COM 3980</b> <b>Independent Study Communication</b>	Designed to allow outstanding students to work independently under faculty supervision. Includes extensive study, research or special creative projects in any of the several areas of communication. One to six hours credit may be accumulated. Prerequisite: Consent, Director of School. 1 to 6 hours	Consent, Director of School
<b>COM 4300</b> <b>Persuasion and Social Influence</b>	This course examines theory and research on social influence processes including compliance, conformity, and persuasion. Specifically, the course examines cognitive, interpersonal, and structural-level models of social influence and persuasion, and the impact of source, message, receiver, context, and channel on the influence process. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4320</b> <b>Group Communication Theory</b>	A study of small group communication from theoretical perspectives. The emphasis will be on analyzing small group communication based on an understanding of group communication theories, concepts, and research methods. Prerequisite: COM 3320. 3 hours	COM 3320
<b>COM 4400</b> <b>Public Relations Case Studies</b>	This course uses a case study approach to apply principles of communication and persuasion theory to public relations problems. The course examines a variety of types of organizations in relation to issue advocacy and public policy, risk communication, legitimization, defense, and crisis management. Prerequisites: COM 3500; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 3500; admitted major or declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 4410</b> <b>Documentary in Film and Television</b>	A study of documentary philosophies, strategies, and accomplishments through an examination of important documentarists, movements, and films. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisites: COM 2410; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 2410; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 4430</b>	The course examines the role of the media in diffusing information,	<b>None</b>

<b>Media and Social Change</b>	ideology, and persuasive messages, and explores the influences/effects of these transactions on individuals, groups and institutions. The course critically situates media within diverse elements of culture as an agent of social change. 3 hours	
<b>COM 4440</b> <b>Mass Communication, News, and Public Affairs</b>	The course examines the role of the media in covering public affairs news and disseminating it to the public. Questions related to media access, fairness, media regulation and message production are discussed in light of current events. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4450</b> <b>Media Criticism</b>	Examines the various functions and writings of contemporary media critics and establishes criteria for evaluating media content and critical methods. Students will read, view, and listen to a variety of media content, including television and radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles, advertisements, films, documentaries, and Web pages. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4480</b> <b>Telecommunications Management</b>	The course examines broadcasting, telephone, cable, and other new communication technologies, with a primary emphasis on principles of telecommunication management, economics, and policy. The course is supplemented with a series of case studies and discussions pertaining to select management issues. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisites: Junior or Senior, COM 2000 and COM 2400; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	Junior or Senior, COM 2000 and COM 2400; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 4500</b> <b>Public Relations Program Development</b>	This is an advanced course in public relations emphasizing research methodology, developing planning objectives, and program evaluation for corporate, governmental, educational, and social service organizations. This course is approved as a writing-intensive course which may fulfill the baccalaureate-level writing requirement of the student's curriculum. Prerequisites: COM 2000 and COM 3500; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 2000 and COM 3500; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status
<b>COM 4550</b>	This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of the essential regulatory and policy issues governing the field of	COM 2000 and 2400; admitted Communication major or

<b>International Telecommunications</b>	international telecommunications. Special attention is given to the major regulatory agencies and economic players responsible for the formation of telecommunications policy at the international level. Prerequisites: COM 2000 and 2400; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 4570 Advanced Video Production</b>	This is an advanced course that gives students the opportunity to apply concepts developed in several other media production classes. Students work in production teams and independently to conceptualize, design, and produce segments for collaborative long-form programs and/or single video projects. Students serve as crew for other members of the class as needed. The course includes specialized areas of focus within single-camera, digital media field production such as pre-production planning, lighting, audio, directing, post-production, and working with talent. Familiarity with Apple/MAC platform is highly recommended. Prerequisites: Two of the following: COM 3550, COM 3560, COM 3570 or instructor approval. 3 hours	Two of the following: COM 3550, COM 3560, COM 3570 or instructor approval.
<b>COM 4700 Communication, Social Issues and Change</b>	A study and practical application of communication and rhetorical methodology in contemporary social problems. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4720 Nonverbal Communication</b>	The course examines theory and research in the nature and function of nonverbal message systems. Topics include: the role of nonverbal communication in the developmental stages of humans; individual differences in ability to interpret messages; the relationship of nonverbal communication to the concept of culture; extension of a person such as space, clothing, possessions; and specific messages related to the face and body. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4740 Intercultural Communication</b>	An examination of the factors contributing to effective communication in an intercultural context. The course focuses on such topics as ethnocentrism, cultural perceptions, values and beliefs, language and meaning, and nonverbal factors. Communication systems of selected cultures are described and analyzed. 3 hours	<b>None</b>

<b>COM 4750</b> <b>Family Communication</b>	Examines the current literature pertaining to holistic systems, power influences, and satisfactory patterns of family communications. Students analyze family interactions and identify satisfactory patterns of marital family communication. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4770</b> <b>Communication Ethics</b>	Ethical theories and justification models are studied and related to ethical decision making in a variety of communication contexts, including mass communication, organizational communication, and interpersonal communication. The course will examine the components of good ethical decision making in communication, as well as obstacles that can stand in the way of responsible choices. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4790</b> <b>Female/Male Interaction</b>	Examines the variable of gender as it influences communication between women and men. Topics include female-male stereotypes, interpersonal attraction, differences in female-male verbal and nonverbal codes, relational dialogues and patterns, and female-male interaction on the job. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4800</b> <b>Applied Topics in Organizational Communication</b>	This course will enable students to master knowledge and skills in an applied specialty area of organizational communication. Students will participate in an extensive hands-on project addressing a pragmatic problem in an organizational setting. Topics will vary. Six hours of COM 4800 may be taken for credit toward the Organizational Communication major. Specific topics may not be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: COM 2010, COM 2800; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	COM 2010, COM 2800; admitted major or declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 4830</b> <b>Interviewing</b>	Theories and principles of planning, conducting, and evaluating interviews are studied and applied to specific interview types, including selection, performance appraisal, survey, and journalistic interviews. Emphasis is placed on the perspective of the interviewer rather than interviewee. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 4840</b> <b>Health Communication</b>	Studies concepts and theories relevant to the maintenance and enhancement of effective communication in health care settings. Emphasis is given to the study and application of communication theories, to the transactions which occur among health professionals,	<b>None</b>

	and between professionals and clients/patients. This course may be offered in an accelerated format. 3 hours	
<b>COM 4990</b> <b>Internship</b>	This internship for academic credit is available only to those students who meet School requirements of prerequisite courses and grade point average. Specific requirements for various types of internships are described in the School's undergraduate handbook, available in the School of Communication office. 1 to 6 hours	<b>n/a</b>
	<b>Undergraduates with junior or senior status and with listed prerequisites completed may enroll in 5000-level courses with prior approval of advisor and/or instructor</b>	
<b>COM 5410</b> <b>Telecommunications Law and Policy</b>	This course provides an overview of the essential regulatory and policy issues governing the field of media and telecommunications. Special attention is given to such topics as First Amendment, libel, intellectual property, media ownership and privacy. A case study approach is used for the purpose of understanding legal precedent. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 5510</b> <b>Methods of Media Analysis</b>	An investigation of the approaches to media analysis (auteurist, intentionalist, sociological, structural, historical, ideological, psychological) by intensive "reading" and shot sequence examination and evaluation of widely divergent works. Prerequisites: Junior or senior or graduate standing and COM 2410 or COM 3560; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours	Junior or senior or graduate standing and COM 2410 or COM 3560; admitted major or declared Communication minor status.
<b>COM 5540</b> <b>Communication Technology</b>	This course provides an overview of telecommunications technology and services, including satellite communication, fiber optics, wireless communication, advanced digital television and Internet communication. Special attention is given to the business strategies underlying the use of such technologies and services, while also exploring the policy and social use issues that are likely to result from the development of new and enhanced forms of communication technology. 3 hours	<b>None</b>
<b>COM 5550</b> <b>Multi-Media Production</b>	This course is designed to help students develop competencies required to produce linear and non-linear interactive multi-media projects. By the end of the semester students will gain an	COM 2410 or COM 2560; admitted Communication major or declared

	<p>understanding and appreciation of the steps necessary to produce multimedia projects and the concepts, tools, and techniques involved in the design and delivery of interactive multimedia projects. Students will also be able to create a fully functional multimedia document delivered via a CD-ROM. Prerequisite: COM 2410 or COM 2560; admitted Communication major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>Communication minor status.</p>
<p><b>COM 5600</b> <b>Teaching Communication</b></p>	<p>This course provides an overview of the concepts, materials, and methods used in teaching communication courses. The focus will be on the following: (a) philosophies and theories of speech communication, (b) development of instructional strategies and objectives, and (c) development and evaluation of teaching materials. Students will take part in, observe, and evaluate teaching-learning processes. Prerequisites: COM 1040, 1700, 2000, or consent of the School; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>COM 1040, 1700, 2000, or consent of the School; admitted major or declared Communication minor status.</p>
<p><b>COM 5640</b> <b>Telecommunications Networks</b></p>	<p>This course provides an overview of telecommunications networking technologies, standards, and protocols. Network configurations, switching technologies and signaling standards that sustain voice and data communications networks, corporate networks, and advanced intelligent networks are major sections of the course. Prerequisites: COM 2000 and COM 2400; admitted major or declared Communication minor status. 3 hours</p>	<p>COM 2000 and COM 2400; admitted major or declared Communication minor status.</p>