



College of
Communication &
Information Sciences
Office for Graduate Studies

Spring 2020 Doctoral Courses

UPDATED 10/16/19

Oct. 28—Registration opens
Jan. 8—Classes begin

Core Classes:

CIS 603: Quantitative Methods; Instructor: Dr. Joshua Pederson

CIS 605: Cultural and Critical Theory; Instructor: Dr. Robin Boylorn

CIS 606: Knowledge and Information Theory; Instructor: Dr. Laurie Bonnici

CIS 608: Qualitative Methods; Instructor: Dr. Jessica Maddox

CIS 610: Foundations of Doctoral Study; Instructor: Dr. Andrew Billings

Proseminar:

CIS 601: Proseminar in Pedagogy; Instructor: Dr. Alexa Chilcutt

This proseminar helps doctoral students explore methods and effective practices of teaching at the university level. Students will examine how to employ different teaching modalities in an effort to engage students. We will discuss the varying teaching demands associated with class design (small classes, large lectures, and online courses). Students will learn how to clearly communicate course expectations, deal with potential conflict, and construct and maintain a high level of professionalism. Outcomes include examining teaching as a reflective practice through teaching observations, continued development of teaching philosophy, and delivery of a teaching demonstration.

This one-hour proseminar builds on and extends the coverage of pedagogy provided in CIS 610 Foundations of Doctoral Study. It is recommended only for students who have completed CIS 610.

Seminars:

CIS 621: Intercultural Perspective in Youth Literature; Instructor: Dr. Jamie Naidoo

**CIS 650: Health Communication
Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Britt**

Health communication is a growing area of study due to its translational impact on theory and practice for health practitioners, researchers, educators, and consumers. In this course, we will examine the fundamentals of health communication among these domains, along with: the vital role of health promotion in health care delivery and reform; an exploration of the role of the latest innovative technologies, tools, and research strategies associated with health communication practices; the role of health campaigns and interventions; and the ongoing changes and challenges in our global populations, and how we can respond to these. Students will become familiar with the benefits of forming multi-disciplinary teams to conduct funded research, which applies to a variety of career paths ranging from academic to other industries. Perhaps most exciting is that health communication is increasingly an interdisciplinary domain of study, meaning that this area of research applies to students interested in all areas of C&IS and other domains (life sciences, statistics, nursing, engineering, to name several). These will be addressed in class. This seminar is designed for doctoral students interested in several types of careers. These include: a) developing original studies about communication and improving health through translational research, or b) designing professional projects that can lead to careers in health communication (NGOs, public relations). Students will either produce an original research manuscript ready for a conference submission, or a professional project to aid in their career path.

**CIS 650: Statistics in Communication Research
Instructor: Dr. Brian Britt**

This course addresses the principles, analysis procedures, and interpretations of inferential statistics that are commonly used in social scientific research. Students will learn how to select appropriate data analysis methods for various research contexts, perform those analyses, and interpret the results. Students will also learn strategies to identify and address atypical cases, including statistical techniques

for outlier detection and regression analyses for non-normal data sets.

**CIS 650: Communication and Culture
Instructor: Dr. Mary M. Meares**

Culture influences our perception, our communication with others, and the ways we conduct research. In this sense, it relates to all that we study in the College – from advertising, media, politics, health, and library contexts to interpersonal interactions. Intercultural communication theories help us to understand how culture influences communication, specifically communication between those from different cultures, in all its aspects. This seminar will provide an overview of foundational research perspectives in culture and communication from functionalist (post-positivist), interpretive, and critical perspectives. The content is relevant to all disciplines within and beyond communication. Final conference-style papers will be designed around students' areas of interest.

**CIS 652: Digital Rhetorics
Instructor: Dr. Miriam Sweeney**

This course will explore the applications of rhetorical theory, methods, and fields, including: social media, algorithms and computational processes, online communities, digital games, and visual media. Students will use a range of perspectives to explore such topics as: rhetorics of technology; the characteristics, affordances, and constraints of digital media; and the digital mediation of identity and cultural formation.

**CIS 653: Descriptive Bibliography
Instructor: Dr. Robert Riter**

Descriptive bibliography is a practice concerned with the physical examination of bibliographic objects as physical objects. This form of analysis is better described as archeology of book. We will excavate infrastructural histories through the identification and analysis of bibliographic traces in early printed and contemporary handmade books. We will also investigate the use of emerging digital methods to analyze textual artifacts, the materiality of information, and experiment with methodologies that support material criticism.

**CIS 660: Advanced Seminar in Relational Communication
Instructor: Dr. Leah LeFebvre**

This course provides an overview of the history of the study of interpersonal communication and close relationship research. The course will focus on the ways in which intimate relationships have changed over the course of the previous century and inform contemporary changes in the current century. We will consult foundational scholarship, while utilizing popular press books to understand modern conceptions of interpersonal communication and relationships from a wide breadth of disciplines. These readings will provide the basis for comparing and contrasting history and trends. In this course, we will explore the transformation of intimate relationships and examine stories that have been put forward about how relationships that we experience today came to be. In this course, we will conduct rigorous, systematic research (individual or partner) studies ready for conference submission at the conclusion of the semester with an aim toward publication submission.

**CIS 667: Persuasive Communication
Instructor: Dr. Robert Gaines**

**CIS 671: Public Opinion
Instructor: Dr. Ethan Stokes**

This seminar provides the study and analysis of the formation and expression of public opinion and its relation to mass communication. Students will master the concepts, hypotheses, models, and methodological approaches presented in the literature concerning public opinion, with a specific emphasis upon mass communication perspectives of public opinion as presented in agenda setting, the spiral of silence, third-person effects, and the works of pioneers in public opinion analysis.

**CIS 681: Advanced Quantitative Methods:
Content Analysis**

Instructor: Dr. Cory Armstrong
An introduction to the principles, and method of quantitative content analysis research. Through readings, discussions, and practice, students will examine the role of content analysis in the field of communication. The course will provide students with

the knowledge and skills needed to conduct quantitative content analysis. A full individual or group research paper will be required as part of the class.

**CIS 680: Sem Media Processes and Effects
Instructor: Dr. Jiyoung Lee**

Media processes and effects are broad areas of mass communication and emerged as a critical topic particularly in the new media age. This course covers how people communicate through new media and how media play roles in changing cognition and emotion by reviewing the recent research articles published in top-tier journals and book chapters that have explored media effects. This course takes a look at new media effects in diverse settings including conflicting situations, disasters, health/risk communication, etc. Ultimately, this course is designed to help students connect the existing theory in the media field with changing media environments, so that students can develop the theories from their perspectives, which can be applied to their own research areas. At the end of the course, students will be asked to write theoretically-oriented research paper.

**CIS 682: Sem Applied Communication
Instructor: Dr. Laura Lemon**

This class is designed to provide an opportunity to explore concepts and frameworks in public relations and advertising, how they are applied academically and professionally, and how you can employ them in your research and practice. Through readings and in-class discussion of landmark research, you will examine how advertising and public relations theories have evolved over time, laying the groundwork for future research opportunities. In addition to the basic theoretical foundations, we will explore some areas of particular interest to you and your work. At the end of the course, you will produce a research paper ready for conference submission.