COMM 615: Interpretive Methods  
Dr. Sandra Braman  
Thursday, 6:00-9:00

The study of research methods is really the study of how to think. Many of the criteria for thinking clearly and usefully are the same irrespective of the type of research method you use. Of types there are many, and the catalog of research methods being taught and in use is ever-expanding. Our emphasis this semester will be on approaching research methods as ways of thinking about how to think in a manner that enhances our understanding of communication processes, phenomena, and events. The goal is that students leave the course not only knowing how to choose among available qualitative research methods for their specific projects, and how to undertake each step of the research process using that method, but also being able to innovate with research methods when faced with theories, research questions, research subjects, or contexts that require creativity in order to solve the evidentiary problem.

This course will (1) examine the foundations of any research method (epistemology, theory, concepts, cases, and causality); (2) introduce several different types of interpretive, or qualitative, research methods (e.g., ethnography, discourse analysis, history, interviews, and others); (3) provide guidance regarding how to work with your data and construct arguments based on qualitative data; (4) and offer a structured opportunity for each student to learn about a specific research method in depth. The final work product for each student will be a detailed research proposal addressing each of the elements of a project examined in the course.

COMM 625: International Communication & Public Diplomacy  
Dr. Tim Coombs  
Thursday, 6:00-9:00

Exploration of the intersections of culture, media, and communication; emphasis on the role of communication in public diplomacy. The class will explore soft power by nations and the rise of corporate diplomacy within digital and traditional news media.

COMM 636: Organizational Communication  
Dr. Anne Wolfe  
Monday, 6:00-9:00

This course provides an introduction and overview of major theories, themes, and key works in organizational communication. As a field of study, organizational communication analyzes how communication processes create, maintain, and transform organizations, as well as how people coordinate and control collective action in pursuit of shared outcomes. When we understand how organizing works we are better equipped to critique and change undesirable structures and consciously shape our own experiences with organizational life. As a survey course, this seminar is designed to provide a foundation on which to build rather than an exhaustive overview. As such, we will review the historical development of organizational communication as a research area, survey major topics of inquiry, and identify what it means to study organizing as a communication phenomenon. For students who are specializing in organizational communication, this course serves as a foundation for graduate work in the area. For students who are not specializing in
organizational communication, the course is meant to expand your lens and facilitate dexterity in considering organizational concerns related to your particular research interests.

COMM 652: Rhetoric and Social Movements  
Dr. Matt May  
Tuesday, 6:00-9:00

This seminar provides an overview of critical-cultural and rhetorical studies of twentieth- and twenty-first century social movements. Students learn the foundational theoretical bases of social movement research as well as touchstone works of criticism. They also study the work of activists, organizers, and organic intellectuals directly involved in movement composition. Thus we study social movements, social movement theory and criticism, and interrogate the subject position of the public and clandestine intellectuals that write about them. While the content will vary, movements covered include but are not necessarily limited to: Wages for Housework, Workerism and Autonomist Marxism, Zapatistas, Alter-Globalization, Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, the re-emergence of anti-fascist (Antifa) movements and more. By the end of the semester, students will produce a research paper intended for submission to an appropriate conference or journal. Final papers must provide a research-based analysis of an historical or contemporary social movement.

COMM 658: Democracy & Demagoguery  
Dr. Jennifer Merceica  
Wednesday, 6:00-9:00

Demagoguery (as a verb, the action of being a demagogue) is a potential danger in any government based upon the will of the people in which political power is won or lost based upon persuasion (rhetoric), rather than by force. Who is a “demagogue” exactly? It's a difficult word to make sense of: if we turn to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, we learn that a demagogue (as a noun) has two contradictory definitions. The first definition is neutral or positive: “in ancient times, a leader of the people; a popular leader or orator who espoused the cause of the people against any other party in the state.” The second definition is explicitly negative: “a leader of a popular faction, or of the mob; a political agitator who appeals to the passions and prejudices of the mob in order to obtain power or further his own interests; an unprincipled or factious popular orator.” The accusation of being a demagogue is primarily a fear appeal coupled with a critique of *argumentum ad verecundiam* (Latin for “appeal to authority”) that constitutes a person as an unfit leader of the people. How the demagogue is judged “unfit” has changed over time, within various political systems because what may make a leader “fit” under one political system may disqualify her or him in another. In this seminar we will examine the relationship between democracy, demagogues, and demagoguery—both in political theory and in political discourse.

COMM 665: Communication & Technology  
Dr. Heidi Campbell  
Monday, 6:00-9:00

This course examines the relationships between human communication and technology, with special emphasis on the social impact of digital media and network communication technologies on our media landscape and increasingly globalized cultural context. Students will look investigate noteworthy trends related to how communicative media, practices and industries have been affected by the digital transition. We will also unpack the dominant rhetorical narrative and norms used to frame public perceptions and discourse about the information society vs. network society vs. digital culture.
COMM 670: Culture & Health Communication  
Dr. Lu Tang  
TR, 11:10-12:25

The rise of globalization and multicultural society calls for more in-depth understanding of the role of culture in health communication.

This seminar will provide an extensive discussion of both cultural sensitive approach and cultural-centered approach to health communication. The former generally examines how differences in the cultures of different nations, regions, or demographic groups affect people's health beliefs and behaviors and how it can be incorporated in creating more effective health messages. The latter focuses how the discourses of health and illnesses are socially and culturally constructed and how such discourses reflect and reinforce the power inequality in terms of race, gender and sexual orientation.

Topics included in this course will include: culture and health, media coverage of health, illness related stigma and stereotypes, health disparity, global health, among others. The course will also familiarize students with a variety of research methods used in studying culture and health communication ranging from narrative analysis to big data analysis.

COMM 689: Advanced Quant Methods  
Dr. Kirby Goidel  
Wednesday, 6:00-9:00

This course is based on a simple assumption. Our understanding of communication processes and effects is intractably linked to our understanding of research methodology. With this in mind, we will explore the philosophical underpinnings of quantitative research, how research design considerations structure the questions we ask (and answer) and statistical analysis of quantitative data. Students in the course will learn, first, how to critically evaluate quantitative research and, second, how to produce and present theoretically grounded and methodologically rigorous quantitative analyses. Specifically, the course will guide students through regression-based modeling and its extensions, including ordinary least squares (OLS), analysis of categorical dependent variables, interactive effects, statistical mediation, and an introduction to structural equation modeling.