

**Department:** Communication Sciences

**Course No:** 100

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** The Processes of Communication

**Contact:** Diana Rios

**Content Area:** CA2-Social Sciences

**Catalog Copy:** COMM 100. The Process of Communication (Formerly offered as Coms 102.) Either semester. Three credits. A study of modern communication theories and principles useful in understanding how people affect and are affected by others through communication.

**Course Information:** 1 a. Goals and objectives: To introduce students to the field of Communication. The course presents students with a broad discussion of the communication discipline, including relevant topics and research areas in the field. Students should gain firm understanding of the field of communication.

1 b. Course requirements: At STORRS--The course is designed around lectures (two per week), sections (one per week), and readings. Reading assignments are completed before class for the day assigned. Attendance at sections is required. Attending lectures is highly advised. Lectures cover topics, theories, and research examples that are vital to students' understanding of the field of communication.

In discussion sections, students meet in small groups with a TA to further explore ideas. There are pop quizzes in lecture and in discussion section to encourage attendance. Three exams are given during lecture. They include both multiple-choice and short answer questions. Anything covered in lecture, the book, or in section is fair game for an exam.

AT STAMFORD--The course is a combination of lecture and discussion. Both are conducted by a professor.

1 c. Major themes, issues topics--The course introduces students to ways in which individuals, groups, institutions, and societies behave and influence one another and the natural environment. Topics include interpersonal relationships, intercultural communication, communication between and within organizations, and how society interacts with the mass media.

**Meet Goals of Gen Ed:** #2 COMM 100 students acquire intellectual breadth and versatility. Students master foundational ideas, concepts, and topics of a large field. For example, lectures include broad topics such as "communication as a science," and "what is communication". As the field is informed by a variety of disciplines, acquired knowledge is inherently versatile and can be applied to other areas of study. For example, the text Human Communication deals with a range of communication areas (e.g. non-verbal, intercultural, gender) for students to read about, learn about, and discuss. Knowledge is tested through quizzes and exams.

#3. COMM 100 students build critical abilities by learning to recognize persuasive messages in advertising and entertainment. Students learn to critically evaluate communication messages that appear in television, film/video, and newspapers. Students also gain critical abilities by learning to recognize and assess interpersonal interactions and applying communication concepts and theories (e.g. person perception, self-esteem). In discussion sections, students are encouraged to articulate key concepts in human communication processes (e.g. conflict, marital/family communication). Quizzes and exams are the learning assessment tools used.

**CA2 Criteria:** 1. Introduces students to theories and concepts of the social sciences. COMM 100 is a broad survey course that introduces students to study in the field of communication. Students learn what is meant by "social science." They spend a good deal of time both in lecture and section discussing relevant theories in areas such as nonverbal communication, gender and communication, and intercultural communication.

2. Introduce students to methods used in the social the ethical problems social scientists face. COMM 100 features several overview lectures and sections devoted to learning about the research methodologies most often used by social scientists. Relevant research findings are discussed throughout the semester. Lectures and discussions also cover ethics in research, protocols, and privacy. In addition, students in COMM 100 are given numerous opportunities throughout the semester to participate in research projects within the department.

3. Introduce students to ways in which individuals, groups, institutions, or societies behave and influence one another and the natural environment. Topics include interpersonal relationships, intercultural communication, communication between and within organizations, and how society interacts with the mass media.

4. Provide students with tools to analyze social, political, or economic groups/organizations (such as families, communities, or governments), and to examine social issues and problems at the individual, cultural, societal, national, or international level. Social issues that might be addressed include gender, race, social class, political power, economic power, and cross-cultural interaction. COMM 100 students learn to evaluate modes of communication. Topics include gender differences and intercultural differences in communication. Students study ways to enhance the effectiveness of communication. Family communication is also studied.

**Role of Grad Students:** TAs lead discussion sections; TAs help administer exams; TAs undergo preparation, training especially for course by supervising professor; TAs meet with supervising professor regularly Stamford-has no TAs; has never had TAs