

**Department:** Communication Sciences

**Course No.:** COMM 261W

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** Computer Mediated Communication

**Contact:** Ross Buck

**WQ:** W only

**Catalog Copy:** COMM XXXXW. Computer Mediated Communication

Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: COMM 100, 130. With a change in content this course may be repeated for credit.

How computer media increasingly influence communication processes and how computer media are changing society. Students will examine critically both exposure to and use of computer media with particular attention to how people use computer media and the effects of this use.

**Course Information:** -a. In this course, students will examine research on computer mediated communication, and learn to critically evaluate it. In this process, students will examine how research is done, form opinions about what needs to be done, and explain and defend their opinions in writing.

b. There will be 2 exams worth 40% of overall grade that will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer/essay. Students will be expected to draw on ideas and conclusions from the readings to support their opinions. Students will be expected to participate in a weekly response to online questions about the readings (10% of grade), and students will write a paper proposal (5% of grade), follow feedback and do a first draft of their paper that follows the approved proposal (15%), and submit an individual paper (30%) that shows improvement based on written and verbal feedback received from first paper draft.

c. Computer mediated communication, what it is, how it has been researched, what is known, theories that apply, and where research on computer media is going in the future, and how using computer media to communicate influences society, individuals and relationships.

**W Criteria:** 1. All writing assignments are integral to the learning of computer mediated communication. College graduates are expected to competently express ideas in writing. The ability to write about research and technology is also increasingly important in industries in the information society. Formal instruction includes instruction on best practices for clear writing about technology, explanations of the advanced elements of writing about computer media. Students will propose, draft, write, and polish a long paper that will be a minimum of 15 pages. The proposal will include a draft of an outline for the final paper. Papers will be submitted for

instructor's assessment twice for written comments and suggestions for improvement. The paper proposal and both drafts of the paper will receive comments and a letter grade.

2. The primary modes of writing instruction will be written commentary on work, formal instruction to the class, and individual consultations between student and instructor.

3. Revisions are mandatory and are based on written comments on the drafts, individual conferences with students and oral/written instructions. Revised work must demonstrate improvement in writing.

4. THE F CLAUSE--The syllabus will state that students must pass the W component of the course in order to pass the class.

Minimum 15 pages--The syllabus will inform students of the revision, editing and page length requirements.

**Role of Grad Students:** Instruction primarily by faculty. Graduate students may teach only under supervision by faculty member. Only graduate students who have taken the graduate seminar on computer mediated communication (COMM 371) would be eligible to teach. Furthermore, graduate instructors will have appropriate W instruction, training and preparation.