

Communication & Theatre Arts Courses

COM 113 Public Speaking (2 credits)

This course combines communication theory with Public speaking. Students should gain confidence learning how to structure, research, organize, and deliver a variety of public presentations. Requires approximately 7 hours of additional meeting/presentation time outside of scheduled class hours.

COM 125 Intro to Theatre (3 credits)

This course will blend a study of the world's greatest playwrights with an interactive approach to understanding the collaborative roles of actors, directors, designers, and playwrights in the development of theatre productions. The course will include: new play development, audition preparation, collaborative production meetings, rehearsal techniques, theatre history and the study of playwrights from the ancient Greeks to contemporary times.

COM 135 Intro to Theatre & Film (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the fields of theatre and film, through historical and theoretical study as well as hands-on production experience. Students will ultimately come to understand the relationship between these disciplines through the completion of two rigorous production projects, based on a common script -- one realized as a theatrical performance piece, the other as a dramatic DVD.

COM 155 Intro to Film & Television (3 credits)

Study of the historical, technical, and aesthetic aspects of film and television production.

COM 181/182 Production Experience (1-3 credits)

Practical application and extension of theory and technique covered in communication courses in performance and production. Experiences may range from acting to stage management to crew or technical work to video/television production. Details of project to be undertaken will be determined in consultation with course instructor. A student may accumulate a maximum of six credits within the entire Production Experience sequence. This is a pass/fail course.

COM 183 Publication Production (1 credit)

A practical experience in the publication production of the newspaper or yearbook, including basic layout design and copy writing. Students will learn the necessary skills for copy writing and designing a publication, while producing *The Lance* or *The Lamp and Shield* for the St. Andrews community. During this experience, students will gain an understanding of journalism and graphic design. This one credit course may count toward the Creative Arts breadth requirement.

COM 220 Introduction to Screenwriting (3 credits)

An introduction to the art of screenwriting. Students will learn to craft the basic elements essential to a feature-length screenplay, including character, story, plot, pace, dialogue, exposition, tension, and dramatic structure. Classes will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, presenting of original material, and viewing sections of feature films. Fulfills the Creative Arts requirement.

COM 225 Tech Theatre (3 credits)

Students will gain a working knowledge of set and lighting design. They will also receive hands-on experience in set construction and the operation of lights and sound. The course will culminate in a design project.

COM 245 Acting I (3 credits)

This course provides students with the knowledge of basic acting techniques, from the method to viewpoints and other external forms. The course uses a variety of techniques such as mime, improvisation, games, monologues and scenes designed to help students gain basic skills and confidence in their acting.

COM 251 Introduction to Video Production (3 credits)

A survey of video production techniques, including camera operation and writing for video and television. Students participate in production and gain an understanding of both technological and artistic aspects of the medium.

COM 252 Newsmedia, Journalism (3 credits)

This course provides both practical and theoretical study of writing and editing for newspapers, magazines, and other news media

COM 259 Cinema Classics (3 credits)

The first century of American cinema was marked by a number of pivotal films which heralded technological, philosophical, and artistic shifts in both our culture and the film industry. This course, through screenings, lectures, and discussions, will examine 15 of these films in detail, along with the history and context surrounding them. Students will emerge with a richer appreciation and literacy of film.

COM 310 Playwriting (3 credits)

This course will explore the process of creating new plays by systematic formulas, individual artistry and by the study of the works of great playwrights from the past 2500 years. Students in this course will be expected to create new works of dramatic literature. Students will also be expected to participate in the development of the works of others both as a critic and reader.

COM 320 Writing for the Screen (3 credits)

A study of dramatic screenwriting for film. Topics will include script format, story, structure, character, pacing, dialogue, and conflict. Students will complete a polished first act of an original feature film.

COM 338 Topics in Film: Hitchcock (3 credits)

No other filmmaker has had the impact on the history of world cinema of Alfred Hitchcock. We will closely examine 15 of his works, to gain a better understanding of his personality, his growth as a director, and how he has impacted the ways in which we make, and watch, movies.

COM 345 Acting II (3 credits)

The more advanced version of Acting I. This course will include improvisation, games, and Shakespeare and may include principles of stage combat, screen acting, or dialects. Prerequisite: COM 245 or permission of instructor.

COM 351 Advanced Video Production (3 credits)

Students will build on skills learned in COM 253, and move on to master digital videography and computer-based non-linear editing. Prerequisite: COM 251 or permission of instructor.

COM 354/454 Practicum (3 credits)

Course devoted to advanced experience in completing a media-related project. Study may include videography, scriptwriting, theatre production, or another topic with permission of instructor. Working independently, with some supervision, and at their own achievement level, student will complete a portfolio-ready piece. Prerequisites: Appropriate combination of the following, as dictated by project type and instructor — COM 353, COM 353, COM 354, COM 320.

COM 355 Directing (3 credits)

Students will learn the basics of directing, organization, concept, staging, coaching actors, etc. They will have opportunities to direct scenes and the class culminates in the direction of a one act play.

COM 358 Topics in Film: The New Hollywood (3 credits)

Until the late 1950's Hollywood functioned under a studio system, which largely governed the careers of stars and directors, and a code of censorship which imposed limits on the subject matter of films. By the 70's this studio system had collapsed, allowing film professionals unprecedented control over their careers, and a new ratings system had come into place, placing virtually no limits on what could be put on film. In this course we will focus on 15 groundbreaking films of the 70's, and on the crop of new directors who created them, including Clint Eastwood, Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, George Lucas and many others. Prerequisite: COM 259 or permission of instructor.

COM 365 Theatre History (3 credits)

This course will look at the history of the theatre in detail from the birth of the art form to modern times. At times the course may focus on certain periods such as Ancient Greece & Rome, Medieval, early modern, restoration, romantic, modern, post modern, musical theatre, and contemporary theatre. We will also examine literature of the various periods of theatre history for the clues they reveal about the people and theatre of various times.

COM 381/382 Advanced Production Experience (1-3 credits)

Practical applications and extension of theory and technique covered in communication courses in performance and production. Experiences may range from acting to stage management to crew or technical work to video/television

production. Details of project to be undertaken will be determined in consultation with course instructor. A student may accumulate a maximum of six credits within the entire Production Experience sequence. This is a pass/fail course.

COM 420 Advanced Screenwriting (3 credits)

Using skills learned in COM 320, as well as more advanced tools and techniques, students will complete an entire first draft of an original feature-length screenplay. Prerequisite: COM 320 or permission of instructor.

COM 455 Film and Theatre Seminar (3 credits)

Comparative study of the two media as separate art forms. Special attention given to the modes of communication and the issues of translation. Students will study and discuss film and theatre from historical, theoretical, and artistic perspectives, as well as engaging in individual research.