

COMMUNICATIONS (COM)

COM 101

Writing in the University

A study of the use of writing, reading, and discussion as a means of discovering, questioning, and analyzing ideas, with an emphasis on audience, context and the use of revision. This course satisfies the Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement. It does not satisfy a general education requirement in the Humanities and Social or Behavioral Sciences.

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 111

Writing in the University for Multilingual Speakers of English

This course is designed to help international students develop skills in writing, reading and discussion as a means of discovering, questioning and analyzing ideas. Students will engage in reading a variety of texts on a theme, extrapolating key ideas, and developing their own claims through discussion, research writing, and presentation. Additionally, this course will provide support to address common writing issues for multilingual speakers of English as well as build intercultural competence in communication.

Placement in this course is based on TOEFL/IELTS and/or placement exam results. Equivalent to COM 101. This course satisfies IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement. It does not satisfy a general education requirement in the humanities and social or behavioral sciences.

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 112

Chicago Voices

This English communication course will give international students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of Chicago's history and culture while developing their voice through advanced conversation, presentation, and discussion skills. Through a storytelling and experiential lens, students will focus on articulating and responding to in-depth questions, applying advanced presentation skills, and using cultural and communicative skills to collaborate in dynamic city-focused discussions. Placement in this course is based on TOEFL/IELTS and/or placement exam results.

Prerequisite(s): CAPS 052 Assessment score of 052

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 125

Language and Culture I

The first of a two-semester sequence, this course and its sequel will introduce students to a particular language and culture, which will change annually. May be repeated for different languages. This course does not satisfy the HUM 102, 104, or 106 general education requirement.

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 126

Language and Culture II

The second of a two-semester sequence, this course and its predecessor will introduce students to a particular language and culture, which will change annually. May be repeated for different languages. This course does not satisfy the HUM 102, 104, or 106 general education requirement.

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 201

Digital Writing

The rhetorical theory and applied practice of digital writing. Topics include word processor alternatives, social media for professional development, multimedia writing, and collaboration and project management.

Prerequisite(s): Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 212

Telling Your Story: Advanced Language Skills for Academics and Work

This course focuses on the most important topic of all: YOU! You have a unique story to tell – whether in an interview, a discussion, or a professional presentation – and this course will give students the opportunity to develop advanced language skills around each student's field of study and interests. Through engaging with audio and video materials, active reading, and intensive speaking practice, students will work to develop personalized responses to a variety of behavioral interview questions, research and contribute information from their individual fields into a group discussion, as well as write and present on a technical topic to a general audience of students. Placement in this course is based on TOEFL/IELTS and/or placement exam results.

Prerequisite(s): CAPS 054 Assessment score of 054 or COM 112

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 225

Languages and Cultures III

Third-semester generic language and culture course designed to be applicable to various languages. Students should have already taken COM 126 in same language.

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Humanities (H)

COM 226

Languages and Cultures IV

Fourth-semester generic language and culture course designed to be applicable to various languages. Students should have already taken COM 225 in the same language.

Lecture: 3 **Lab:** 0 **Credits:** 3

Satisfies: Humanities (H)

COM 250**Intro to Public Speaking**

An introduction to the art of public speaking with assignments designed to promote competency in the delivery of speeches, organization of ideas, methods of argumentation, application of evidence and use of visual aids.

Lecture: 2.5 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 301**Introduction to Linguistics**

An introduction to the systematic study of language. Focus on the core areas of linguistics, such as sound patterns of language (phonology), form (syntax, morphology), and meaning (semantics, pragmatics), as well as applied areas, such as language, variation, language acquisition, psychology of language, and the origin of language.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 306**World Englishes**

This course surveys dialects of English around the world, including the U.S., U.K., Canada, India, Africa, and the Caribbean, focusing on vocabulary, word and sentence formation, and sound patterning.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 308**Structure of Modern English**

This course examines the structure of the English language from four different approaches: traditional-prescriptive, descriptive, generative, and contextual.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 309**History of the English Language**

Beginning with basic concepts in language development, this course traces the evolution of modern English, from its Indo-European roots, through Germanic, Anglo-Saxon, Middle English and Early Modern English.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 310**The Human Voice: Description, Analysis and Application**

Analysis of human and synthetic speech intended for technology mediated environments and devices. Focus on talker characteristics that affect speech intelligibility and social factors that affect talker characteristics. Attention to design characteristics of technology-mediated speech and how humans react to it.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 311**Linguistics for Technical Communication**

This course examines linguistic theory as it relates to everyday problems. The course is divided into four sections, each of which exposes students to an application of these topics to broader issues. Topics include sound patterns of speech, sentence structure, meaning and language and society.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 315**Discourse Analysis**

The analysis of language "flow" beyond sentence boundaries. Working with both spoken and written discourse, students will consider culture and gender-related patterns, and will apply findings from discourse analysis to communication problems in politics, education, healthcare, and the law.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 353**Media and Globalization**

This course covers the social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions of globalization and explores the role that communication and media technologies (newspapers, magazines, film, television, and digital media) play in shaping an interconnected, interdependent globalized world and in constituting our identities as global audiences, citizens, workers, consumers, and activists.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 372**Mass Media and Society**

The history and structure of mass media, from print through film and broadcasting to the Internet, and their influences on American society.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 380**Topics in Communication**

An investigation into a topic of current interest in communication, which will be announced by the instructor when the course is scheduled.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 382**Social Media and Society**

This course will discuss the development and trends of social media as well as their impacts on individuals and society. It will draw from a broad range of studies related to social media to learn how social media have impacts on interpersonal relationships, psychological well-being, privacy, politics, entertainment, and so on.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 383**Social Networks**

This course will discuss a variety of measures and properties of networks, identify various types of social networks, describe how position within and the structure of networks matter, use software tools to analyze social network data, and apply social network analysis to areas such as information retrieval, social media and organizational behavior.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 421**Technical Communication**

Principles and practice in the communication of technical materials. Students work on the design, writing, and revising of reports, articles, manuals, procedures, proposals, including the use of graphics. Works by modern writers are analyzed.

Prerequisite(s): Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 424**Document Design**

Principles and strategies for effective document and information design, focusing on print media. Students design, produce, and evaluate documents for a variety of applications, such as instructional materials, brochures, newsletters, graphics, and tables.

Prerequisite(s): Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 425**Editing**

Principles and practical applications of editing at all levels, working with both hard and soft copy and including copyediting, proofreading, grammar and style, and comprehensive editing. Attention primarily to documents from science, technology, and business.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 428**Verbal and Visual Communication**

Introduces students to the issues, strategies, and ethics of technical and professional presentations, and provides students with opportunities to engage in public address, video presentations and conferencing, and group presentations. Analysis of audience types and presentation situations, group dynamics, persuasive theories, language, and mass media.

Prerequisite(s): Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 435**Intercultural Communication**

An introduction to the problems of communication across cultures, with emphasis on the interplay of American civilization with those of other cultural areas.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or HUM 200-299

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 437**Video Documentation**

Planning and managing digital-video projects to document concepts and procedures in technology, science, business, and education. Attention to scripting, shooting, editing, and distribution media. Students will work on individual activities and collaborate on a community-service or other client-centered project.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 438**Technical Exhibit Design**

Planning and managing informative and instructional exhibits in technical, scientific, and business contexts. Attention to characteristics and constraints of space, multimedia, and other resources, along with principles and goals of viewer access and flow. Students will work on individual activities and collaborate on a community-service or other client-centered project. Instruction will incorporate Chicago-area resources such as the Museum of Science and Industry.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Communications (C)

COM 491**Independent Reading and Research**

Consent of department. For advanced students. Based on the selected topic, this course may or may not be applied to the humanities general education requirement. Consult the course instructor.

Prerequisite(s): HUM 102 or HUM 104 or HUM 106 or Graduate standing

Credit: Variable

Satisfies: Humanities (H)

COM 497**Special Project**

Special project. Based on the selected topic, this course may or may not be applied to the humanities general education requirement.

Consult the course instructor.

Credit: Variable

Satisfies: Communications (C), Humanities (H)

COM 501**Introduction to Linguistics**

An introduction to the systematic study of language. Focus on the core areas of linguistics such as sound patterns of language (phonology), form (syntax, morphology), and meaning (semantics, pragmatics) as well as applied areas such as language variation, language, acquisition, psychology of language, and the origin of language.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 503**Analyzing and Communicating Quantitative Data**

An introduction to statistics and data analysis tailored to the needs of communication and information professionals. Emphasis is placed on developing intuition as to which analyses are appropriate given one's questions of interest as well as how to interpret and communicate the results of analyses. Students will analyze real data sets using SPSS in the computer lab.

Lecture: 0 Lab: 3 Credits: 3

COM 506**World Englishes**

Analysis of the variations of the English language throughout geographic and cultural regions of the world.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 508**Structure of Modern English**

Analysis of English grammar from four major perspectives: prescriptive, descriptive, transformational-generative, and contextual perspectives. Different methods for analyzing sentences, ways of applying each method to problems in editing and writing, and contributions of linguists such as Noam Chomsky. While focusing on sentence structure, students also look at the structure of words (morphology) and larger units of text (discourse) at various points in the semester.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 509**History of the English Language**

Study of the origins and development of key features of the English language through its important stages, including Old, Middle, and Early Modern English.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 510**The Human Voice: Description, Analysis, and Application**

Analysis of human and synthetic speech intended for technology mediated environments and devices. Focus on talker characteristics that affect speech intelligibility and social factors that affect talker characteristics. Attention to design characteristics of technology mediated speech and how humans react to it.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 511**Linguistics for Technical Communication**

This course examines linguistic theory as it relates to everyday problems. The course is divided into four sections, each of which expose students to an application of these topics to broader issues. Topics include sound patterns of speech, sentence structure, meaning and language and society.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 515**Discourse Analysis**

Analysis of spoken and written texts on the intersentential and metalinguistic levels (e.g. semantic roles; given-new information; deixis and anaphora; presupposition and entailment; direct and indirect speech acts; schema theory). Applications to social and professional issues such as intercultural communication; sociopolitical discourse; discourse in educational, legal, and medical settings; narratives and literary texts.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 521**Theory in Technology and Humanities**

Broad coverage of concepts and issues in current and classic scholarship in the field of technical communication. Intensive work in bibliographic research methods for academic genres.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 522**Wireframing and Prototyping**

Wireframing and Prototyping focuses on the development, validation, and use of wireframes and prototypes for UX. Essentially, students will learn how to use wireframing and prototyping practices to communicate and test UX design ideas.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 523**Communicating Science**

This course focuses on strategies for communicating scientific information in professional settings. Students develop a literature review, proposal, and feasibility study; learn how to adapt scientific information to various audiences; and complete exercises on style, grammar, and other elements of effective professional communication. Emphasis on usability, cohesion, and style in each assignment.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 525**User Experience Research and Evaluation**

An introduction to principles of user-centered design and to methods for conducting user experience research. Students will learn how to plan and conduct projects that evaluate the design, interface, and experience of a product or service. Course work includes designing studies, collecting and interpreting data, and reporting findings and recommendations from the perspective of user-centered design.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

Satisfies: Humanities (H)

COM 526**Graphic Design**

Graphic Design introduces students to key concepts in visual rhetoric and logic, the graphic design process, and the use of professional graphic design tools. This course additionally covers aspects of graphic design history as relevant to course topics.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 528**Document Design**

Principles and strategies for effective document and information design focusing on print media and familiarizing students with current research and theory as well as with practices in document design. Students design, produce, and evaluate documents for a variety of applications, such as instructional materials, brochures, newsletters, graphics, and tables.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 529**Technical Editing**

Principles and practical applications of editing at all levels, working with both hard and soft copy and including copyediting, proofreading, grammar and style, and comprehensive editing. Attention primarily to documents from science, technology, and business.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 534**User Interface Design**

User Interface Design introduces students to the design of human interfaces to technologies, products, and tools. Students use user-centered design principles to develop, assess, and prototype user interfaces for a variety of projects, including web sites and mobile apps.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 536**Proposal and Grant Writing**

Course covers all aspects of federal and foundation proposal cycle, from proposal development through review and decision-making process. Emphasis on research proposals incorporating quantitative and qualitative methods, but activity-based proposals addressed as well.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 541**Information Structure and Retrieval**

An examination of conceptual foundations and applied uses of structured languages and databases for structuring information with an emphasis on approaches to single-sourcing materials for presentation in digital and print formats.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 542**Knowledge Management**

Analysis of the nature and uses of knowledge in organizations and groups with attention to technical communicators' roles and tasks in collecting, codifying, storing, retrieving, and transferring information within organizations. Emphasis on web-based strategies, techniques, and tools.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 545**Academic Writing**

This course familiarizes graduate students with both reading and writing academic texts across disciplines. Students will practice reading, analyzing, and developing written and spoken academic genres (e.g., reviews, articles, conference papers and talks, CVs, cover letters). Special attention is paid to analyzing and evaluating academic journals and conferences; submitting items to journals and conferences; navigating the research, writing, and publication process; revising work and providing feedback to others; and mastering the conventions of academic writing.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 553**Media and Globalization**

The course covers the social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions of globalization and explores the role that communication and media technologies (newspapers, magazines, film, television, and digital media) play in shaping an interconnected, interdependent globalized world and in constituting our identities as global audiences, citizens, workers, consumers, and activists.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 554**Science and Technology Studies**

This course focuses on the latest work in science and technology studies and the history of technology from ethics in genetic engineering to the social dimensions of computing. Other topics include the intersection of gender and sexuality with new technologies, the role of communications media in "rewiring" our brains and our social connections, and the role of the world wide web in constructing national and global technocracy. In the course, students will read and discuss works by academics as well as journalists in order to offer grounding in the historical, social, and economic background of key technical topics and the presentation of technical topics for wider audiences. The course will also focus on the ways in which authors leverage different information technologies to communicate to wider audiences and how those methods are evolving.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 580**Topics in Communication**

This course has variable content depending on the topic in communication chosen by the instructor. Topics may include the technical and cultural history of digital media, video games, academic writing, and humanities research methods.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 582**Social Media and Society**

This course will discuss the development and trends of social media as well as their impacts on individuals and society. It will draw from a broad range of studies related to social media to learn how social media have impacts on interpersonal relationships, psychological well-being, privacy, politics, entertainment, and so on.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 583

Social Networks

This course will discuss a variety of measures and properties of networks, identify various types of social networks, describe how position within and the structure of networks matter, use software tools to analyze social network data, and apply social network analysis to areas such as information retrieval, social media, and organizational behavior.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 585

Internship

The internship is a cooperative arrangement between IIT and industry. It provides students with hands-on experience in the field of technical communication and information design.

Credit: Variable

COM 591

Research and Thesis for Master's Degree

Permission of instructor required.

Credit: Variable

COM 594

Project

Projects will require students to complete a theoretically based analysis of a practical communication situation, create a document appropriate to the situation, and write an analysis of or commentary on the choices made in the production of the document. (Credit: Variable. Most M.S. students take 6 credits of project studies)

Credit: Variable

COM 597

Special Problems

Permission of instructor required.

Credit: Variable

COM 601

Research Methods and Resources

This course addresses the logic of research design. The first part of the course focuses on formulating clear research questions and hypotheses. The second part addresses various designs (surveys, correlations, experiments, mixed designs, etc.) and their potential to test hypotheses.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 602

Qualitative Research Methods

This course is intended for graduate students in technical communication and related fields who are planning to conduct qualitative research in a variety of settings.

Prerequisite(s): COM 601 with min. grade of C

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 603

Quantitative Research Methods

This course is for doctoral students of technical communication who have a command of general research methods but who require a deeper understanding of methods for the collection and analysis of quantitative data.

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 Credits: 3

COM 691

Research & Thesis Ph.D.

This is a variable credit course which Ph. D. candidates sign up for as they work on their dissertations. Permission of instructor required.

Credit: Variable