

**COMM 6500**  
**Introduction to Graduate Study in Communication**  
**Mondays 11:30 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.**  
**Journalism Building Room 106**  
**2 Credits**  
**Last updated 8/21/13**

Dr. Kelly Garrett  
3131 Derby Hall  
garrett.258@osu.edu

(Please include "Comm 6500" in the subject line)

Dr. Amy Nathanson  
3142A Derby Hall  
nathanson.7@osu.edu

This course provides an introduction to graduate study in the field of Communication in general, as well as specific information that will help you as a graduate student here in the School of Communication (SoC) at OSU. You will attend a series of talks by communication scholars about their research, and you will have an opportunity to get acquainted with our graduate faculty and their interests so that you can make a more informed and easier choice of your graduate advisor and committee members. We will also spend some time discussing expectations of professional conduct and issues related to research and teaching.

The first half of our class time (from 11:30 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.) will be spent attending the SoC's weekly colloquium series. The colloquium series will cover a wide variety of topics related to communication and will mostly feature guest speakers from other academic institutions. All members of the SoC community are invited to attend the colloquium series. The second half of class (from 12:40 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.) will involve the new SoC MA students only. During this time, a SoC faculty member whose research interests are related to the colloquium topic will often join us. During this portion of class, the visiting faculty member will introduce him or herself, and will lead a discussion of a topic that is related, at least peripherally, to the colloquium presentation that we heard in the first hour.

The course objectives are:

- To expose you to a range of communication scholars and scholarship.
- To provide you with an overview of the expertise of graduate faculty in the School of Communication.
- To help you develop an understanding of graduate student norms and expectations within the School of Communication.
- To provide you with an understanding of the resources for teaching and research available at Ohio State.
- To prepare you to engage in scholarly thinking and writing.

## **Evaluation and Requirements**

*Reading* . There will be a reading associated with each class session. Readings may include articles by the colloquium speaker, articles by a SoC faculty member, or chapters relevant to graduate school more generally. Readings will be posted on Carmen as soon as they are available. You are expected to have read the required readings before class.

*Attendance & Participation*. Students are expected to attend each class and devote their full attention to the speakers. Students should be prepared to contribute to the class discussion during the second hour of class.

Working on your laptop or other electronic devices during the first hour of class is not permitted. Laptops may be used to take notes during the second hour of class but should not be used for any other purpose. If we observe inappropriate use of this technology, we may choose to ban its use altogether. Cellphone use is strictly prohibited.

*Weekly Reflection & Writing*. Each Monday when class is held, students are required to spend at least 30 minutes after we meet to reflect, in writing, on the day's content. We will provide students with a great deal of flexibility when it comes to the content and format of this writing—informal reflections are encouraged—as long as the product is understandable and related to the topic discussed on that day. Papers should be about 500-750 words and are due by 11:59 p.m. on each Monday that class is held (submitted via the Carmen dropbox).

Some examples of questions that students may wish to reflect upon include:

- Overall, did you enjoy or dislike today's topic?
- What was interesting or boring about today's topic?
- Did this topic remind you of any other topics you've learned about?
- How does this topic relate to the topics that you are interested in?
- Do you want to learn more about this topic?
- Did the class session leave you with any lingering questions that you believe are important to address?

This is not an exhaustive list, and in your reflections you should always elaborate on the reasons for the answer you give. For example, it's fine to say you didn't enjoy a talk, but you should think critically about why. Was the material too unfamiliar and/or complex? The presentation too disorganized? The evidence unconvincing? Etc.

*Faculty Interview and Report*. At some point during the semester, students are required to interview one faculty member in the School of Communication and write a summary of what they have learned about this individual. Students should select a faculty member that aligns with their research interests (to the extent that you have identified those interests). Interviews should be scheduled at a time that is convenient to the faculty member. Students should contact the faculty member early in the semester to schedule an interview time. Students who wait until the end of the semester to schedule their interview may be unable to complete this assignment due to faculty unavailability and

risk failing this course. Interviews should be about 20-30 minutes in length and should focus on the origins of the faculty member's research program (e.g., how did this faculty member become interested in his/her topic area? Which scholars were influential to his/her thinking? How has the faculty member's research developed over time?). The report summarizing the interview should be approximately 800-1100 words. Papers are due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday December 6 (submitted via the Carmen dropbox). Papers should conform to guidelines established in the American Psychological Association's (APA) Publication Manual.

### **Grading Criteria:**

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Attending colloquium: 25%

Participating in post-colloquium discussion: 25%

Weekly reflection: 25%

Faculty interview and report: 25%

The faculty interview and report will be evaluated using letter grades. All other elements of the course grade will be assessed as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

### **Policies and Procedures:**

All papers *must* be submitted to our Carmen website by the due date. Any late assignment will have 10% deducted *each day* it is late (including weekends). Papers more than three days late will not be accepted. An assignment is considered late when it is submitted after the stated deadline, and deductions will be taken beginning with the missed deadline. At the instructor's discretion, exceptions may be made for emergencies or other well-documented issues. These exceptions are easiest to make when you notify the instructor *before* the deadline. Always keep a backup copy of your work.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)). Understanding these expectations is your responsibility. If you have any questions about what constitutes misconduct (including plagiarism), please feel free to speak to one of us.

### **Special Accommodations**

*Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact us privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.*

## Class Schedule

Aug. 26:

Colloquium speaker: Dr. Sabine Trepte  
SoC discussion leader: Dr. Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick (with Kelly Garrett)  
Required reading: Trepte, "Social Identity Theory"  
Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Sept. 2:

NO CLASS due to Labor Day

Sept. 9:

Colloquium speaker: Dr. Austin Babrow  
SoC discussion leader: Dr. Susan Mello (with Amy Nathanson)  
Required reading: TBD  
Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Sept. 16:

Colloquium speaker: Dr. Rick Busselle  
SoC discussion leader: Dr. Emily Moyer-Guse (with Kelly Garrett)  
Required reading: TBD  
Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Sept. 23:

Colloquium speaker: Roundtable on "Maximizing Research Productivity,"  
organized by the GSO  
SoC discussion leader: Dr. Michael Slater (with Amy Nathanson)  
Required reading: Slater, "Reinforcing Spirals Model..."  
Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Sept. 30:

Colloquium speaker: Dr. Sophie Boerman  
SoC discussion leader: Dr. Dave Ewoldsen (with Kelly Garrett)  
Required reading: TBD  
Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Oct. 7:

Colloquium speaker: Eddie Brummelman  
SoC discussion leader: Dr. Brad Bushman (with Amy Nathanson)  
Required reading: TBD  
Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Oct. 14:

Colloquium speaker: Job Talk  
SoC discussion leader: TBA (with Kelly Garrett)  
Required reading: TBD

Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Oct. 21:

Colloquium speaker: Job Talk

SoC discussion leader: TBA (with Amy Nathanson)

Required reading: TBD

Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Oct. 28:

Colloquium speaker: Job Talk

SoC discussion leader: TBA (with Kelly Garrett)

Required reading: TBD

Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Nov. 4:

Colloquium speaker: Job Talk

SoC discussion leader: TBA (with Kelly Garrett)

Required reading: TBD

Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Nov. 11:

NO CLASS due to Veteran's day

Nov. 18:

Colloquium speaker: Job Talk

SoC discussion leader: TBA (with Amy Nathanson)

Required reading: TBD

Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

Nov. 25:

NO CLASS due to NCA conference

Dec. 2:

Colloquium speaker: Job Talk

SoC discussion leader: TBA (with Amy Nathanson)

Required reading: TBD

Reflection paper due by 11:59 p.m. (to the Carmen dropbox)

**Friday Dec. 6:**

Faculty Interview Report due by 11:59 p.m. to the Carmen dropbox