

Syllabus
Independent Study in Communication
COMM 640, 3 Credit Hours

Course Description:

The Independent Study in Communication course provides students in the Master of Arts in Communication program the opportunity to conduct basic or applied research or scholarly engagement on a topic or problem in communication that is not otherwise covered in the curriculum. Prerequisite: All topics and plans of study must be approved by the program director in conjunction with a designated instructor of record.

Course Goals/ Learning Objectives:

Each independent study topic, problem, or engagement project will include the following course goals:

1. The student will select a theoretical framework for each independent study topic and conduct a literature review or comparable research assignment.
2. The student must demonstrate both quantity and quality of knowledge and understanding of the topic in a final written paper.
3. The student must present their topic findings in a formal presentation.

The specific learning objectives for COMM 640 will be determined by the designated instructor of record for each student according to the approved topic or problem.

Required Activities:

- Weekly summaries of independent study activities reported to the instructor of record (10% of course grade)
 - Students are responsible for informing the instructor of record about their ongoing research/engagement activities on a weekly basis and providing a summary of those activities.
- Literature review/research assignment (20% of course grade)
 - Students will conduct the literature review or comparable research assignment specified by the topic. The instructor of record will provide the student with written instructions for the assignment including the learning objectives, grading criteria, and submission deadline.
- Final Paper (50% of course grade)
 - Students will submit a final paper that demonstrates their quantity and quality of knowledge of the independent study topic. The instructor of record will provide the student with written instructions for the paper including the learning objectives, grading criteria, and submission deadline.
- Presentation (20% of course grade)
 - Students will make a formal oral presentation of their independent study project. The instructor of record will provide the student with written instructions for the oral

presentation including the learning objectives, grading criteria, and presentation deadline.

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A

80-99% = B

70- 79% = C

69% or below = F

COMM 640 Independent Study in Communication Agreement

By signing this agreement, the both the student and instructor of record agree to the COMM 640 Independent Study in Communication requirements.

Independent Study Topic _____

Student's Name _____ | _____ | _____
Print Name Signature Date

Instructor's Name _____ | _____ | _____
Print Name Signature Date

Approved by:

Program Director's Name _____ | _____ | _____
Print Name Signature Date

Copies:

Student

Instructor of Record

Student's File