

PROSEMINAR OUTLINE AND READINGS

600 Proseminar. Introduction to basic concepts, problems, and theories of communications. The course defines the scope and major dimensions of the field, and, in conjunction with the Colloquium, explores selected topics. Required of all candidates for a degree in communications.

Readings. Four basic readers are recommended for purchase for the work of this course, and as part of the personal library of a student of communications. These readers, and the abbreviations by which they will be referred to in the outline below, are: Theories of Human Communication (THC), edited by Frank E.X. Dance; Communication and Culture (C&C), edited by Alfred Smith; People, Society, and Mass Communication (PSMC), edited by Lewis A. Dexter and David M. White; and The Science of Human Communication (SHC), edited by Wilbur Schramm. As part of the general background necessary for the advanced study of communications, students should also be familiar with the following books: Mass Communication; A Sociological Perspective (MCSP) by Charles Wright; Theories of Mass Communication (TMC) by Melvin DeFleur; and The Effects of Mass Communication (EMC) by Joseph T. Klapper. Specific readings will be indicated on the outline. Duplicate copies of unpublished manuscripts or single articles or chapters from other sources will be placed on reserve in the Communications library. Readings relevant to several sessions appear only after the first session for which they are assigned.

Organization. Members of the Communications and related faculties will lecture on four general topics: (A) The development of communication and its study; (B) communication codes and modes; (C) communication behavior and consequences; and (D) social communication, public policy and popular culture. After a single introductory session on (A), three sessions on each of (B), (C), and (D) will be followed by a review and discussion session conducted by a panel of lecturers on each general topic. Most Colloquium lectures, given Monday afternoons by guests and faculty, will deal with single topics relevant to one or more Proseminar subjects (not necessarily immediately following the lecture).

Written work. Three papers comprise the written work of the Proseminar. These papers will be based on, and should reflect, the lectures, readings, and discussion of the sessions and relevant Colloquia preceding the assignment. The subject of the assignment will be announced toward the conclusion of topics (A) and (B), (C), and (D). The papers will be due one week after each of the three review and discussion sessions. The papers should be typewritten, double-spaced, and 6 - 10 pages long. They should follow a standard stylebook, such as Turabian's, and should be secured within covers. The student should retain a carbon copy.