Stony Brook University
School of Communication and Journalism

School of Communication and Journalism
Graduate Course Offerings
Spring 2023

COM 501 - FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION I (1 Credit)*

In this team-taught, immersive science communication training, students will build skills to passionately communicate in a way that excites, engages, and encourages audiences to want to learn more about their work. Improvisational theater-based techniques are combined with message design strategies like distilling and storytelling, enabling healthcare professionals, scientists, and researchers to use strategy and spontaneity to execute powerful communication in any context.

COM 501, Section S30 – Professors James Rea and Carla Jablonski

This section meets online for four synchronous sessions on the following Thursdays, from 4:45 PM to 8:15 PM EDT: January 28th, February 2nd, February 9th, and February 16th.

COM 503 - FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION II (1 Credit)*

In this immersive science communication training, participants who have completed COM 501 will continue their foundations in science communication with explorations into engaging with key audiences and the media, as well as creating a presentation accompanied by compelling visuals.

COM 503, Section S30 – Professor Kim Stauffer

This section meets online for four synchronous sessions on the following Thursdays, from 4:45 PM to 8:15 PM EDT: February 23rd, March 2nd, March 9th and March 23rd.

COM 513 - SCIENCE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (1 Credit)*

The U.S. National Academies has paid increased attention to the "science of science communication," an interdisciplinary area of social science and humanities research and scholarship that spans a range of disciplines, including communication, psychology, decision science, mass communication, risk communication, health communication, political science, sociology, and science and technology studies, history, and others. This course is designed as an introductory survey course for graduate students in science, biomedical, engineering, and health disciplines to this interdisciplinary field. The key goal is to provide context on science communication research that can inform students' science communication practices. Specifically targeted to students who are not communication researchers, this essential overview will help students understand the importance of linking theory with practice when they communicate about their own research.

COM 513, Section S30 - Dr. Alix Dehayem

This section meets online asynchronously for five weeks from March 27th to April 28th.

JRN 520 - Multimedia Journalism (3 Credits)

Journalism MS Requirement

An exploration into presenting news and feature stories in a digital era. Students will learn both conceptual and practical skills to help them develop targeted, meaningful stories for a variety of digital platforms (e.g., online news outlets, social media, apps, etc.). Students will explore issues raised by the migration of news to the web, including questions of privacy and credibility, challenges to traditional journalistic standards, and the increased presence of public opinion. Students will practice using digital tools such as photography, video, and information-rich graphics.

JRN 520, Section 1 - Dr. Pablo Calvi

This section meets in-person on Tuesdays from 9:45 AM to 12:35 PM EDT.

JRN 521 - Solutions Journalism (3 Credits)

Journalism MS Requirement

An introduction to rigorous, evidence-based reporting on responses to social problems. Students will explore storytelling tools based on the foundations of solutions journalism (e.g., cover a response to a problem and how it happened; provide evidence of impact, consider effectiveness, not just intentions, through qualitative and/or quantitative data; produce insights that can help others respond to the problem; and address limitations or caveats of the response). Students will practice skills developed by the Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) to design narratives around conflict and problem-focused news coverage, and produce high quality solutions journalism and investigative stories, both in multimedia and written form. As a SJN hub institution, students will access resources from and submit stories to the Solutions Story Tracker® to assist in the development of the field.

JRN 520, Section 1 - Professor Jeremy Allen

This section meets in-person on Thursdays from 9:45 AM to 12:35 PM EDT.

COM 526 - Building and Assessing Communication Strategies (3 Credits)

Science Communication MS Requirement
Science Communication AGC Elective Option

A comprehensive overview of strategic communication focused on advancing effective communication about science and related fields (e.g., health, technology, engineering, math) in institutionally diverse settings. Students learn to build and assess strategic communication campaigns based in 21st century communication practices. Grounded in ethics and the concept of principled public relations, students learn core skills and practice that enable them to work as effective science communication practitioners in an era of misinformation and information overload. Because project management is critical to advancing successful strategic communication efforts, students will also learn project management skills through the design and implementation of a targeted communication plan.

COM 526, Section S30 - Dr. Ruobing Li

This section meets online synchronously on Mondays from 1:15 PM to 4:05 PM EDT.

JRN 530 - The Big Story (3 Credits)

Journalism MS Elective Option

A hands-on experience for students to explore current issues affecting our society, and build stories that highlight their relevance to the public. Students will learn about the context reporters need to provide sophisticated coverage, and take a deep dive into developing a "big story" about a current topic or issue that they select from a variety of reporting areas (e.g., science, health, environment, politics, culture, technology, sports, business, fashion, communities). Students will practice gathering supporting information from reputable sources and conducting interviews with key stakeholders as needed to produce a solid story.

JRN 530, Section 1 - Professor Sarah Baxter

This section meets in-person on Wednesdays from 2:40 PM to 5:30 PM EDT.

COM 565 - FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (3 Credits)

Science Communication MS and AGC Requirement

A foundational course in science communication and an introduction to the Alda Method®. Students will learn about evidence-based approaches to communicate scientific concepts and data accurately and effectively to diverse audiences. Through an exploration of science communication literature and applied-improvisational theater exercises, students build communication skills to help them understand, connect, relate, and adapt to various audiences such as peers, professors, employers, policy makers, funders, journalists, and the public. Students hone their written and oral science communication skills by creating, delivering, and evaluating audience-centered messaging.

COM 565, Section S01 - Professor Nancee Moes

This section meets in-person and online synchronously. Online synchronous sessions meet on Thursdays from 1:15 PM EDT to 4:05 PM from January 26th to April 20th. The required in-person workshop meets Saturday, February 4th and Sunday, February 5th, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT each day.

COM 575 - SPECIAL TOPICS IN SCI COMM: YOUR SCIENCE, YOUR STORY (3 Credits)

Science Communication MS or AGC Elective Option

A seminar course on a current topic in science communication. Students enrolled in the MS in Science Communication or the MS in Journalism may repeat the course as the topic changes. This course cannot be used more than once to satisfy requirements for the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Communicating Science.

Your Science, Your Story: Designed for students to develop stories that position themselves in the professional world. Students will explore the significance of their research, why it matters to them, as well as why it matters to science, society, and the world. Students will develop and deliver stories about their professional studies and experiences that will help them connect with a variety of stakeholders.

COM 575, Section S01 - Professor Lydia Franco-Hodges

This section meets online synchronously and asynchronously on Thursdays from 4:30 PM to 7:20 PM EDT. Session modality will be identified on the course syllabus.

COM 599 - PROJECT WORK IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (3 Credits)

Science Communication AGC Requirement (Typically completed in last semester)

A culminating experience for students in the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Communicating Science. Students work individually or in groups to plan, design, and complete a capstone project rooted in science communication. Projects should allow students to apply what they have learned about science communication to a real-world context. Examples may include but are not limited to competing in science communication competitions, creating podcasts, writing book chapters, recording educational videos, designing a social media campaign, and/or creating outreach opportunities in the community. Students will submit a project proposal and participate in peer workshops sessions to offer and receive feedback on their work throughout the semester. Students will formally present their work to peers, faculty, and members of the campus/community at the conclusion of the course.

COM 599, Section S01 - Professor Elizabeth Bojsza

This section meets online synchronously and asynchronously on Fridays from 9:45am to 12:35 PM EDT. Session modality will be identified on the course syllabus.

COM 605 - Environmental Communication (3 Credits)

Science Communication MS or AGC Elective Option
Journalism MS Elective Option

An overview of the empirical and theoretical foundations of environmental communication. This course will examine scholarship from the nascent days of the environmental movement to modern day research often focused on addressing the climate crisis. How experts, the public, and policy-makers interact with and "perform" environmental communication will be of considerable interest in this course. By analyzing broader public discourses about environmental topics such as environmental disasters and renewable energy, a deeper understanding of how our values and the environment are related will be reached. Students will also be expected to engage in environmental communication research during the course.

COM 605, Section S01 - Dr. Christine Gilbert

This section meets online synchronously on Tuesdays from 3:00 PM to 5:50 PM EDT.

COM 699 - MASTER'S PROJECT IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (3 Credits)

Science Communication MS Requirement (Typically completed in last semester)

A culminating experience for students in the MS in Science Communication. Students will identify and secure a faculty mentor under whom they will work independently to plan, design, and complete a research-based, science communication project. The project should reflect what students have cumulatively learned in the program and respond to the needs of an organization, community, or stakeholder group. Projects may take the form of original research intended for submission to an academic conference or translational research that informs the content development for a specific audience (e.g., educational module, communication campaign, social media strategy, etc.). Each project will have written, visual, and/or interactive components. Students will formally present their work to peers, faculty, and members of the campus/community at the conclusion of the course.

Students planning to complete COM 699 should secure a faculty mentor and submit their project proposal the semester prior. For assistance with registering for COM 699, please contact the graduate director.