

THEORIES AND HISTORIES OF COMMUNICATION

This course introduces students to theory and research in communication, with a view to cultivating an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of communication study. A central aim of the course is to provide conceptual and historical orientation to some of the enduring questions, core research traditions, and significant theoretical perspectives that animate communication study in Anglo-American scholarship. Students will become conversant with the major epistemological, ontological, and axiological issues that underpin the discipline of communication. Because of its place in the curriculum, the course is designed to provide all students, regardless of area of specialty, with a grounding in the various debates and perspectives that characterize the field. Other goals of the course are to introduce students to the thinking, reading, and writing required of graduate study in the field, and to the communication program at USF. In addition to critical engagement with classic and contemporary texts written by communication scholars, we will also hear presentations by USF faculty members. Through readings, discussions, written work, and presentations students will be exposed to the traditions, concepts, and methods of communication studies.