



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY.

COMM HONORS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



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Reminders for Honors Requirements

To graduate with honors in Communication, students must complete 18 total honors hours. A minimum of:

- 12 total honors credits in Communication
- 9 total honors credits at the 300/400 level
- 6 total honors credits at the 300/400 level in Communication
- 3 honors credits at the 400 level in Communication
- 3.5 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M upon graduation
- 3.25 honors GPR at Texas A&M upon graduation
- A minimum of 60 hours at A&M

To qualify for the honors program, current Texas A&M students must have a GPR of at least 3.5 and must be majoring in either Communication or Telecommunication Media Studies.

This issue of the COMM Honors Newsletter was created by Natalie Hoffmann, Simon Holmes, and David Tarvin.

FRONT: Maddy Simpson & Anna Orr's photo, "Identity: An Aggie or a Ring," won first place in Dr. Tarvin's Intercultural Communication Photo Contest.

BACK: Rylee King's photo, "Pop Culture: The 12th Man," won second place in the contest.

Used with permission.

Benefits of Honors

Students in the Communication honors program have the opportunity to:

- Receive early registration
- Participate in smaller classes of 10-20 students to facilitate class discussion
- Develop personal relationships with professors, which is essential for students in need of letters of recommendation
- Be eligible to design their own honors experience through honors contracting, embedded honors sections and independent study
- Work with and learn from other students in the honors program
- Receive an honors designation on their official A&M transcript
- Be recognized at a university-wide and departmental honors recognition ceremony
- Receive a gold honors stole to wear at commencement

PRE-REGISTRATION BEGINS NOVEMBER 8th!

Cornerstone vs. Comm Department Honors

The primary difference between the Cornerstone Honors program and the Communication Honors program is in their requirements. Cornerstone is an honors program within the College of Liberal Arts, meaning you will need to take honors-level courses in various departments within the College of Liberal Arts. In the COMM Department Honors

program, you will need to take honors-level courses within the Comm Department. For the Comm honors program, you are not required to take honors courses from other departments, unless you choose to do so. Both programs are great ways to explore the Communication department and the College of Liberal Arts.

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*Meet your new Advisor for
the COMM Honors Program*

Valerie Wilson

*Assistant Director for Communication Honors
Academic Advisor II*

Valerie Wilson is the new Academic Advisor for the COMM Honors Program. A graduate from our department (BA-TCMS, Class of 2014), Valerie can help you with your degree plan and make sure you are fulfilling the requirements for the Honors program. In order to get to know Valerie a little bit better, we asked her a few questions.

When are you available for advising?

We have a variety of appointments and walk-ins between the hours of 9 am to noon, and 1 pm to 4 pm. Students should check out our website for more information. It is updated weekly with the latest information about advising and our hours.

What advice do you have for our Honors students?

There are lots of opportunities available and students really need to take as many as possible.

For instance?

Study abroad.

Do you think study abroad is important for Honors students?

Yes, every student should study abroad, especially honors students. It gives our honors students more experiences, broadens their minds, and allows them to see the world and go other places.

This spring, you were a Group Leader on our "COMM to Costa Rica" program.

What was your favorite moment?

My favorite moment was hiking through the rainforest, up to see the lava flow on Arenal Volcano.

Speaking of traveling, where's your favorite international destination?

Where's your favorite domestic destination?

My favorite international destination is

Hallstatt, Austria because it is most beautiful place I've ever been. You should include a link to google image results because it's ridiculous.

[Click here](#)

My favorite domestic destination is Sedona, Arizona, much for the same reason. Sedona is very beautiful and great for hiking.

What's your favorite color?

Green

Are you a dog-person or cat-person?

Both! But currently, I only have a cat named Dynamo.

What is something we might not know about you?

You might not know that I am currently in grad school. I am earning a *Master's of Science* in Academic Advising from Kansas State University.

COMM HONORS

Faculty Profiles

for honors courses Spring 2019



Prof. Stacy Aschenbeck

COMM 411: The Representation of Motherhood

In this cross-listed course we will examine how mothers are portrayed by various types of media in The United States, and take a step back and look how that has changed over the last 70 years. I am very excited to teach this course every semester because it allows my students to use feminist theory and apply it in exciting ways to media they come in contact with every day. It is also a course that never fails to make me thankful for the fact that I was not a woman of the 1950's and I have choices in my life with both work and family. The interesting perspectives of my students make every semester different and exciting.



Dr. Sandra Braman

COMM 307: Mass Communication, Law, and Society

All communication, whether off-line or on, takes place within the context of law and policy. In this course students master constitutional principles, laws and regulations, practices, and current issues in areas of enduring importance, such as free speech and press, privacy, copyright, libel law, political speech, extreme (hate) speech, access to information, and network neutrality, as well as those of particular contemporary interest, such as sedition, treason, whistleblowing, and leaking.



Dr. Charles Conrad

COMM 203: HNR Public Speaking

COMM 446: Organizations & Society

COMM 203 honors focuses on learning to communicate your academic/career focus to students from different backgrounds, and on defending your ideas during extended questioning sessions. Exams are take-home essays; a term paper is required and submission to outside venues is encouraged. In COMM 446, students choose a substantial part of course content. They also are encouraged to submit their papers to undergraduate honors conferences and/or for publication and I work with them after the semester ends to facilitate this.



Dr. Nathan Crick

COMM 438: Propaganda—Contract

My approach to honors students depends on the number who are in my class. If I have only one or two I assign a paper that approximates what graduate students do in my seminars, in order to give them an idea of what graduate school is like and/or prepare them for it. If I have a larger number I create weekly online assignments that ask students to find artifacts or compose impromptu texts that demonstrate or exemplify course concepts. I then give feedback online.



Dr. Srivi Ramasubramanian

COMM 350: Theories of Media Communication

This course provides a broad overview of different theories of mediated communication as they relate to media industries, systems, content, use, and effects. We will learn about the key tenets, functions, strengths, and weaknesses of a range of media theories such as propaganda, cultivation, agenda-setting, framing, audience reception, social constructionism, political economy, critical-cultural studies, social responsibility, and information flow. We will apply these theories to practical analyses of media texts, events, and other relevant case studies.



Dr. Emily Rauscher

COMM 470: Health Message and Design—Contract

When I teach a “stacked” (honors/non-honors students) I have my honors students write an additional paper in which they use course concepts as well as participant interviews to answer a research question that asks them to develop a strategy for dealing with an interpersonal problem of their choosing. Through this assignment I try to get them focusing on research and practical application. When I have a small number of students in a regular class I work with them one on one on a project that best helps further their career goals, for example, applying course concepts and research to what a student is learning an internship and discussing how she or he could use those ideas in the future.



Dr. Randall Sumpter

COMM 360: Cultural History of the Media

I teach an embedded honors section in a course in media history. Besides the work required of all students in the class, I work with honors students on a research project that can fit several formats. This semester, for instance, honors students are working on a “Historical Me” project. The research project requires them to explore the media environment they would encounter in their hometowns in 1968. Let me know if you have additional questions.



Dr. Lu Tang

COMM 305: Theories of Communication—Contract

My honors students write a final paper in which they identify a communication phenomenon, identify theor(ies) that are useful in the understanding it, and propose research questions or hypotheses that could further our understanding of this communication phenomenon. Hopefully, they will be able to complete this research project to fulfill requirements in later COMM classes.



Dr. Cara Wallis

COMM 335: Honors Intercultural Communication

In this course, we will consider the important role of context (social, cultural, and historical) in intercultural interactions. We will examine the complex relationship between culture and communication from three different conceptual perspectives. By applying different approaches to the study of intercultural communication, we will also come to appreciate the complexity and dialectical tensions involved in intercultural interactions. This learning process should enhance self-reflection, flexibility, and sensitivity in intercultural communication.



Dr. Anna Wolfe

COMM 443: Communication and Conflict

This course will have an embedded honors section. In this class, students engage with conflict theories to understand intergroup and interpersonal processes of disagreement, violence/aggression, victimhood, and forgiveness/reconciliation. Topics include war and genocide, hate group communication, organizational bullying, internet trolls, family conflict, and friendship and romantic relationship transgressions. Students are also introduced to restorative justice practices including truth and reconciliation commissions, diplomatic negotiations, mediation, and forgiveness.

Additional Honors Courses (Spring 2019)

COMM 210: Group Communication & Discussion	<i>Stand alone</i>	Prof. Nancy Street
COMM 243: Argumentation & Debate	<i>Stand alone</i>	Dr. Jennifer Mercieca
COMM 301: Rhetoric in Western Thought	<i>Embedded</i>	Dr. Zoey Carney
COMM 308: Research Methods	<i>Stacked with Grad Students</i>	Dr. Hart Blanton
COMM 315: Interpersonal Communication	<i>Embedded</i>	Dr. Sherry Holladay

END of Semester Honors Hangout

Come join your COMM Honors peers at the Honors Hangout to relax before finals! Lunch will be provided and movies on Netflix will be playing. We will be celebrating the end of the semester and taking a break before finals on the Reading Day, December 6, from 11 am to 2 pm in Bolton 206 and 208.



Students in Dr. Tarvin's *COMM335: Honors Intercultural Class* attended the Brazos Valley Worldfest on October 27th to participate in cultural-exchange and learn about and celebrate the many co-cultures in the Bryan-College Station area. In the above left photo, honors students received Henna tattoos while learning from the IGSA about Indian wedding traditions. In the above right photo, students learn to play a song using the Angklung instruments by the Indonesian Student Association. The Worldfest is a yearly tradition celebrating the cultures in our community. Make sure to mark it on your calendars for next fall.

HOME OF THE 12TH MAN



THE 12TH MAN
1924