COM 504 Introduction to Graduate Communication Studies (1) This on-line self-paced prerequisite course is required of all M.A. students that do not have a bachelor's degree in communication or journalism. The course does not count toward the degree requirements. The course is an overview of the historical roots, methodological groundings and present state of the communication field with particular attention to its specialized vocabulary, important writers and works and significant scholarly journals.

COM 600 Communication Theory, Ethics & Worldview (3) Various Christian historical, theoretical and ethical perspectives and their application to the communication field, professions and media, to understand the role of media and communication in the development of one’s own worldview and the worldviews existent within our culture.

COM 611 Media & Social Influence (3) Designed to develop an understanding of important theories of social influence pertinent to media and culture, this course features content including the study of diffusion of innovations, social marketing, entertainment-education, agenda setting, and other communication and development processes. Social change will be studied within the context of Scripture at the individual, organizational, community, national and international levels. Course will benefit anyone who seeks to know how mass media influences people’s attitudes, values, beliefs and practices. Students may have the opportunity to get involved in applied research projects that address some of the most significant issues and needs in contemporary society.

COM 631 Organizational Communication in the Digital Age (3) New and emerging communication technologies, their uses and related issues are drastically changing the nature of communication, organizational life generally and cultures in which organizations reside. This course provides students with a communication-based perspective of organizations and organizational leadership, with a special emphasis on the characteristics of a current and future trends and issues associated with organizations in this digital age. A blend of theory and practice, it draws from existing, pertinent theoretical constructs, models, research and generalizations that are relevant to organizational communication and leadership in our increasingly highly mediated environment. It provides opportunities for students to sharpen their critical thinking and further develop their communication skills and learn practical concepts and principles that can be applied creatively to their current or future special areas of interest, organizational settings or professional roles.

COM 632 Media & the Church (3) Examines the role of both traditional and newer forms of media in local church and other Christian organizational and group settings primarily from a leadership or decision-making perspective. The course will explore trends and issues related to the use of media in contemporary cultures and current and possible future applications of communication technologies to fulfill local church and parachurch missions and goals. The course is required for those students whose special area of interest within the Media, Faith and Culture program involves filling or enhancing knowledge and skills related to a media director or a similar role in a local church. However, it is also highly recommended for anyone that is currently occupying a leadership role in a Christian organization or aspires to do so in the future.

COM 636 Critical & Cultural Approaches to Digital Communication (3) Exploration of the rhetorical, historical and critical framework for thinking about the convergence of digital media technologies and cultural norms and practices. Will include the study of the confluence of digital media and society; how these confluences exert symbolic/persuasive force to shape how individuals and communities think; how they see reality, themselves and
their relationships with other people; what they value; and what they hope for and how they view the world. Students will apply critical skills to learn how to analyze all forms of digital communication, including films, television and video programs, scripts, new media and advertisements.

**COM 641 Directed Project in Digital Media (5)** Provides a culminating experience (student’s final semester) within a professional digital media industry. Since the project is intended to be a technologically immersive and practical experience, the students will be placed in a professional organization that employs digital media. Throughout the term, students will meet weekly with the Lead Professor who will mentor and monitor progress, assign appropriate readings etc. Assessment of the students’ work will be provided by an industry supervisor in consultation with the Lead Professor.

**COM 642 The Christian in the Digital Age (3)** Provides a synthesis of the theoretical and practical learning experienced in the Strategic Communication program with an emphasis on implementing the Christian worldview into an understanding of the rapidly changing industries utilizing digital media.

**COM 700 Introduction to Doctoral Studies in Communication (3)** Provides overview of the historical roots, methodological grounding and present state of and trends in the communication field with particular attention to its specialized vocabulary, important writers and works, and significant scholarly journals. Computer literary sessions for distance learning, library resources for distance learning and graduate-level writing style form are included. Offered on campus only in the summer.

**COM 701 Communication Research: Historical/Critical Methodologies (3)** An in-depth survey, analysis and practice of current humanities and arts research approaches and methodologies used in the study of communication and the arts.

**COM 702 Communication Research: Quantitative Methodologies (3)** Advanced study of classic and contemporary social science research methodologies and statistics utilized in the study of communication. Students must have previously had a graduate-level social science methods course at another institution, COM 601 or another equivalent experience.

**COM 703 Communication Research: Qualitative Methodologies (3)** Advanced study of ethnography, focus group interview techniques, participant observation, in-depth personal interview and other methodologies currently employed in the communication field.

**COM 705 Advanced Communication Theory (3)** An interdisciplinary examination of the most current theories, scholarship, published research and trends and issues in all areas within the communication and arts fields.

**COM 707 Philosophy & Communication (3)** A broad, yet intensive, study of the philosophical underpinnings of the communication and arts fields. The history of ideas, comparative worldviews, ethical issues and other philosophical concerns will be addressed from a Biblical perspective.

**COM 708 History of Communication (3)** A historical and interdisciplinary analysis of the development of communication and arts theories, concepts and practices from the classical rhetorical tradition to the present.

**COM 709 Theology & Communication (3)** An analysis and evaluation from the Word of God for the purpose and practice of communication.
COM 785 Doctoral Seminar (1-3) Seminars are special topics courses focusing on specific subdisciplines or involving broad interdisciplinary study. May be taken more than once under varying titles. May be taken by master’s students with permission of instructor. Some seminars are taught on campus only.

COM 788 Tutorial in Communication & the Arts (1-3) Tutorials afford doctoral students the opportunity to do special research, projects and readings under the direction of and in conjunction with a faculty member in the School of Communication and the Arts. Tutorials are not independent studies—they are courses with syllabi and structured meeting times—and are normally tailored to student’s specialized academic and professional interests and/or dissertation area.

COM 791 Doctoral Mentoring: Pedagogy (1-3) Doctoral students work closely with one or more faculty members as part of a teaching team. Teaching assignments may include assisting faculty members with courses or overseeing undergraduate courses under the mentorship of a faculty member. Mentoring topics include teaching pedagogy, classroom dynamics, and online teaching skills. May be repeated for up to a maximum of 6 credit hours with approval from a doctoral advisor/Senior Tutor.

COM 792 Doctoral Mentoring: Research & Writing (1-3) Doctoral students work closely with one or more faculty members as part of a research and writing team. Course assignments may include conducting original research in collaboration with a faculty member or assisting faculty members with their research and writing projects. Mentoring topics include research planning, design and analysis from the historical-critical, qualitative or quantitative research traditions, and academic writing. May be repeated for up to a maximum of 6 credit hours with approval from a doctoral advisor.

COM 795 Dissertation Research (1-4) Doctoral-level, supervised research credit assigned to directed academic work that may be related to the student’s dissertation topic. Student normally registers for this course prior to qualifying exams and achieving candidacy. Prerequisites are two of the following three courses: COM 701, COM 702, and/or COM 703. Pass/No Pass

COM 797 Qualifying Examination (1) Required of all doctoral students who are taking doctoral qualifying exams. Doctoral students will register for COM 797 in the semester in which they are actually taking both the written and oral portions of the qualifying examination. This one credit hour does not apply to the coursework (pre-qualifying examination) aspect of the individual degree program. The grading option for the course is pass/no pass. Students who do not initially pass all questions of the qualifying examination will be allowed with the recommendation of the qualifying exam committee and the approval of the chair of the doctoral program to retake those questions the following semester. Only one retake is permitted; an IP will be posted until the examination is completed.

COM 799 Continuing Dissertation Credit (3) Supervised research for the doctoral dissertation. After successfully passing the qualifying examination, the doctoral candidate must remain registered with three (3) continuing dissertation credits every academic semester until the dissertation manuscript is successfully defended. Doctoral candidates must register for one (1) credit hour each semester (excluding summer) after the successful defense of their dissertation until the final, revised manuscript has been approved and signed by the doctoral committee members and processed for binding. See doctoral handbook for on-campus, online and fellowship student requirements.
JRN 540 Converged Media Technologies (2) Students gain advanced experience and understanding of the latest emerging hardware and software technologies that are critical to the study and practice of news journalism for print, broadcast and the Internet. Students integrate their graduate-level journalism studies with laboratory and multimedia journalism experiences. The semester is divided into several modules to provide students with theoretical and aesthetic concepts as well as hands-on learning. Each module includes field experience in applying the hardware or software in practical situations.

JRN 580 Journalism Practicum (1) Practical workplace lab experience augments coursework. May be offered in broadcast, print or Internet, with faculty oversight of the journalism experience. Appropriate for second year only.

JRN 589 Journalism Workshop (1-3) Workshops are offered to provide specialized knowledge and skills in the journalism field.

JRN 610: Advanced New Media Journalism (3) Professional principles and practices of journalistic story-telling within emerging digital media environments. Research, gather, interview, write and edit stories for multiple media platforms. Newsgathering and field craft, including coverage of local, state and national politics, press conferences and public affairs reporting, court reporting, statistical reporting, and international and humanitarian story coverage.

JRN 613 Feature Writing for Publications (3) Acquaints the student with the varieties of feature articles used by both secular and Christian magazines and newspapers and to help develop skills in producing these articles. Students will write feature stories and research scholarly articles on the topics covered during the course. A 45-hour lab experience in magazine and newspaper media is required.

JRN 615 Editorials, Columns & Essays (2) Acquaints students with the area of personal journalism, i.e., those forms of journalism that serve as forums for the expression of opinion and personal views. The course will examine the style and tone of editorials, columns and essays, giving special attention to some of the nation’s leading journalists and publications. Designed to help the student marshal ideas and write compelling pieces for publication.

JRN 630 Broadcast News Program Producing (3) Study of the editorial, managerial, aesthetic and production aspects of producing live or live-to-tape broadcast news in-studio programs. Through classroom study and practical studio experiences, students will study and engage in a variety of formats, from varied daily hard news program to the news/talk program. Prerequisite: JRN 611.

JRN 633 Audio-Video Reporting & Producing (3) Professional principles, aesthetics, ethics, and practices of journalistic audio-video reporting, producing, and field production, in order to apply journalistic principles studied in the classroom during field and project exercises.

JRN 634 Journalism as Literature (3) Comprehensive study of engaging works of journalism that deserve to be classified as literature because they contain all of the same elements (plot, theme, characterization, setting, tension and narrative techniques) found in the genres of fiction and drama. Examination of literary criticism from Aristotle to the present to establish a list of criteria for evaluating journalistic prose as literature. Stories by journalists during the past two centuries will be examine, including Dickens, Twain, Crane, Churchill, London, Steinbeck, Orwell, Dos Passos, Parker, Hemingway, Pyle, Mailer, Vidal,
Bragg, Moehringer and other Pulitzer Prize laureates. Required for distance students and is taught only online. It may be an elective for on-campus students.

**JRN 685 Journalism Seminars (1-3)** Seminars are courses offered on a variety of current journalism-related topics. Upon faculty approval, students may also enroll in seminars offered by other departments in the School of Communication & the Arts.