

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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### Faculty

Ashley Fitch Blais (2016) Professor of Communication Arts. B.A., Union University; M.A. and Ph.D., University of Memphis.

Chris Blair (1997). Professor of Communication Arts. B.A., Union University; M.A. and Ph.D., University of Memphis.

Aaron Hardin (2016). Assistant Professor of Communication Arts. B.A., Union University; M.F.A., University of Hartford.

John Klonowski (2013). Associate Professor of Theatre. B.A., Lewis University; M.F.A., University of California Davis.

Ted Kluck (2015). Assistant Professor of Communication Arts. B.A., Indiana University; M.F.A., Ashland University.

### Instructional Staff

Raymond H. Eator (2009) Broadcasting Technician. M.S., University of Tennessee, Knoxville; M.M., Freed-Hardeman University.

### Staff

Kristi Brookfield (2020) Academic Secretary—Communication Arts.

- the Southeastern Theatre Conference
  - the Tennessee Associated Press Conference
- Faculty encourage participation in regional and national conferences.

Communication Arts majors are not allowed to double major or double minor within the department. Non-Communication Arts majors may double minor in the department except in the areas of Journalism, Public Relations, and Broadcast Journalism.

### Mission Statement

The Communication Arts Department provides a practical and theoretical education in written, oral, and visual communication with a Christian worldview that prepares students to be culture-makers across a broad spectrum of contexts.

### Curriculum

The Department offers a wide range of courses designed to meet the complex and significant theoretical and communication skill requirements in its respective professional fields.

The Department is affiliated with several organizations and programs that enhance student learning:

- the Southeast Journalism Conference
- the Tennessee Associated Press Conference
- the Los Angeles Film Studies Center
- the Southeastern Journalism Conference
- the International Public Debate Association
- the Public Relations Student Society of America
- the Radio-Television News Directors Association
- the International Digital Media and Arts Association
- the Tennessee Theatre Arts Conference



The Bulldog Communication Group a student-run public relations agency, provides students with portfolio building opportunities by offering communication services to clients on campus and in the community. Positions in the firm are awarded via an application process.

Alpha Epsilon Rho is the Union chapter of the National Broadcasting Society. AERho encourages and rewards scholarship and accomplishment among students of broadcasting, establishing meaningful communication between student and professional broadcasters, and fostering integrity in the use of the powerful instruments of radio, television, film, cable and its many associated business industries.

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is open to all students interested in the public relations profession and society activities. PRSSA is student-led and relates to the practice of public relations, planning a PR career, and acquiring the skills needed in public relations.

The Union Broadcasting System (UBS) produces news programming and documentaries for local news outlets, the online news source West Tennessee Today, and Union's basketball games. UBS also provides opportunities for students to strengthen contacts with professionals in the industry.

The Union Debate Team is open to all students in the profession and

220. Digital Storytelling (3) F,S

An introductory course to visual storytelling using a variety of digital media. Students will learn to create and deliver compelling and emotionally engaging narratives for a variety of purposes, combining video, still images, audio and interactivity.

230. Television Production (3) F

Overview of the elements of production: cameras, sound, lighting, and videotape recording using a switcher. Students work with these in producing television programs.

235. Interpersonal Communication (3) F, W, S, Su

Identify communication problems in interpersonal relationships including ethical communication, self-disclosure, perception, interviewing, conflict management, verbal and nonverbal communication. The student will exhibit competent language skills through oral reports, working in dyads and small groups, and class simulations.

236. Digital Photography (3) F, S

The basics of seeing a story-telling photograph and learning to apply the basics of photography to help communicate a message. Emphasis will be placed on setting high standards of visual integrity and communication ethics and on developing an understanding of the role of photojournalism in shaping and reflecting contemporary society. The history of photojournalism, current trends, and the varied challenges found in this field will be explored.

238. Development of Cinema (3) S—Odd Years

Historical survey of motion pictures with emphasis on major movements, genres, and themes in narrative film from the early silent era, early talking pictures, the studio system, and post-classical cinema.

240. Acting Theory and Technique (3) F—Even Years

Various acting theories and practices with emphasis on exercises in physical training, vocal reproduction, character projection, and the aesthetics of acting.

242. Communication Theory and Research (3) F

Focuses on practical research associated with the pursuit of a degree in communication. Emphasis is on developing a research attitude, research skills, and a research vocabulary. Deals with surveys, validity, and the interpretation of data.

245. Broadcast Performance (3) S

Development of professional vocal, visual, personality, and performance skills by use of simulated newscasts, interviews, and script narrations.

299. Practicum (1) F, W, S, Su

Practical hands-on experience in journalism, public relations, advertising, speech, or theatre. Students work with a faculty member on specific projects that will enhance their knowledge and expertise in their concentration. May be taken three times.

303. On-Camera Acting (3) S—Every Other Year

This course will focus on developing basic screen acting skills, including playing for various camera shots and angles, continuity, reaction shots, etc. Acting styles for Television, film genres, and commercials, will be explored, as well as auditioning techniques. Students will learn how to self-tape and develop material for website or reels. Small in class production projects,





426. Professional Portfolio (3) S

Prerequisite: COM 336.

This course will explore the many variations of portfolio presentation in today's marketplace and the content needed to present a well-rounded collection. Preparation of a portfolio based upon research in the student's areas of interest will be the primary focus of the class. .

427. Interactive Media II (3) S

Prerequisite: COM 327.

Project-based approach toward developing skills in the creation of interactive media using industry standard software, interactive design theories, needs assessment, and project management procedures.

430. Communications Law (3) F

Prerequisite: Senior standing.

The legal controls and government regulations on mass media. Students will study case precedents involving the freedom and rights of the press and broadcasters.

438. Censorship and Propaganda in Film (3) As Needed

The practice and patterns of censorship in cinema. Issues include local and state censorship boards, legal challenges, organized public pressure, and self-regulatory efforts by the industry. The use of film as propaganda, including Soviet cinema theory, Nazi film propaganda, and American use of film in supporting war efforts will be considered.

445. Final Portfolio (1) S

This course serves as the capstone course for all theatre majors. They will refine their portfolios and websites to include their faith perspective. The final portfolio will include a statement as a Christian artist.

481. Internship in Photojournalism (3) F, W, S, Su

Prerequisite: Three courses required in the Photojournalism minor; permission of the chair.

The main purpose of an internship in Photojournalism is to provide the minor with an opportunity to practice and enhance their skills and knowledge in a real-world environment. The experience is more than a job in the sense that it continues the student's education at a higher level of engagement. It is also an opportunity for the student to connect what they are learning in the classroom to an authentic experience in their discipline.

483. Internship in Digital Media (3) F, W, S, Su

490. Senior Thesis (1-3) F, S, W, Su

This course serves as an optional capstone or Discipline Specific Honors project, presentation, or paper for majors in Communication Arts. Focuses on competencies in the following areas: Must be taken during senior year. Majors in the Honors Program must take a 3 hour Senior Seminar.

494. Special Studies in Theatre (1-4) F

Available in multiple departmental prefix:

170-270-370-470. Debate Practicum (1 each) F,S

Corequisite: Participation in the Union Debate Team. Practical experience in the field of academic debate, public speaking and critical thinking. A maximum of 8 hours may apply toward graduation.

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

179PF-279PF-379PF-479PF. External Domestic Study Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

180PF-280PF-380PF-480PF. Study Abroad Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4)

295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4)

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4)