



Out of Department Courses

**Compiled in Fall 2017 by CGSA
Revised in Fall 2024**

The following is a compilation of courses outside of the Hugh Downs School taken by current and past students.

In the Hugh Downs School, you are required to take AT LEAST two courses (or 6 credit hours) outside of the communication department.

Thoughts on outside courses from Shawna Malvini Redden, recent graduate:

“If you're looking to expedite your program, I would recommend taking outside courses early so you can develop relationships with professors who can serve on your committee. I got my outside courses out of the way in my second and third semesters purposefully so I could do comps prep in my fourth semester before taking exams in my fifth.

A benefit to taking classes early and getting to know outside professors is that you can also do independent studies in other departments that will count towards your total hours. 1-unit modules are deceptively busy. In Fall 2010, I took five different 1-unit modules and it added up to WAY more work than just taking two courses. This is especially true for Management. Beware!”

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Anthropology and Social Behavior

ASB 541: Theory in Sociocultural Anthropology

Instructor: Dr. Takeyuki Tsuda

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Highly recommended but tough! (If a student lacks any background in anthropology.) Great foundational understanding of anthropology to underscore the studies of anyone interested in intercultural communication.

ASB 591: Identity, Nations, and Globalization

Instructor: Dr. Hjorleifur Jonnson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I would recommend the class and the professor. Heavily anthropology oriented, would probably be the best fit for qualitative intercultural scholars, but critical scholars interested in trans/nationalism and globalization might also enjoy it.

ASB 591: Global Transnational Ethnography

Instructor: Dr. Takeyuki Tsuda

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Loved this class and Dr. Tsuda's teaching style. We did not really DO global transnational ethnography (at least I didn't) but we read lots of interesting ethnographies by others. We did write a seminar paper that I think I'll eventually be able to do something with when I find the right outlet (and the time).

TSS 598 Ethnography of Schooling in the Borderlands

Instructor: Brendan O'Connor; School of Transborder Studies

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:

- Different Approaches to Qualitative Methods (specifically ethnography)
- Interdisciplinary work along the border
- Working with Youth
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Quant/Qual/Rhet/Perf Methods
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students are Hugh Downs?
 - Yes

Bilingual Education

BLE 535: Sociolinguistics Issues

Instructor: Dr. Kate Anderson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

It's really interesting especially if you're an intercultural communication scholar.

Child Development

CDE (XXX): Regression and Factor Analysis

Instructor: Marilyn Thompson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I would absolutely recommend any of Marilyn's classes (she also teaches SEM, ANOVA, and a few other staple quant classes). She is exacting and very specific. She will make anyone a better statistician and, importantly, a better statistical writer.

CDE 534: Risk and Resilience in Children and Adolescents.

Instructor: Mark Roosa

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

It was an excellent class and defied the stereotype that out of department classes are "easier." He asked for very high levels of active, thoughtful participation. There was a high reading load, a midterm, an extended research proposal, and a final. I learned a lot and very much enjoyed the instruction.

College of Education

COE 691: Advanced Quantitative Research Design

Instructor: Dr. Karen Harris

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Literally....amazing! We sat in a circle and talked about quantitative design and multivariate tests conceptually.

Additional remarks:

This is a great class to complement COM 608.

Communication

COM 598: Creative Nonfiction: To Write, To Sell, To Tell a Story (counts as "outside coursework")*

Instructor: Lee Gutkind

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Lee's classes are challenging because he really pushes your limits of writing and asks the best of you that you possibly have to give. It was a much more time-intensive class than I had anticipated and there were many times that I got frustrated because it's a very different style of writing from academic writing. However, I came out of that class with stronger writing skills that I have been able to translate into my academic writing, and a greater appreciation and joy for the writing process. It was a fun class because I got to write about whatever I wanted, which was sort of a nice break! :)

*This class is now offered under HDS 598

Community Resources and Development

CRD 598: Multicultural Perspective on Community Development

Instructor: Dr. Marek Wosinski

Is this course/instructor recommended?

(First recommendation) Yes.

(Second recommendation) Yes.

Additional remarks:

This class is this semester, and it's an online course. Overall, I'm pretty impressed with it. We focus a lot on how course material can be applied to community leadership in developing communities in ways that fit the culture, strengths, weaknesses, and needs of those communities and the groups within it. The professor is good. It's my first time taking an online course, but it seems like he's doing it well.

Another student's remarks:

Online class, so it was not very time-consuming. We had required readings/videos, discussion posts, and short papers due each week. The content was interesting, and the 15-page final paper was built through the weekly assignments.

PSY 598 Resilient Communities and Relationships

Instructor: Dr. Vincent Waldron; Psychology Department, West Campus

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - Resilience Theory
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Interpersonal/Organizational
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students at Hugh Downs?
 - No - he is retiring

Cultural Geography

GCU 529: Contemporary Geographical Thought

Instructor: Dr. Kevin McHugh

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

McHugh is one of the last remaining cultural geographers at ASU and is extremely well-read in the area of space and place. The seminar covers a lot of ground as it is the equivalent of Com 604 for geography students. As most of these people are earth scientists and McHugh is an interpretive scholar with a quirky sense of humor, the class could be a little surreal at times. But then again, so can geography... I likened it to going to an artist's studio each week and not knowing what would end up on the canvas. That worked well for me but it might not for everyone. Weekly reading responses and three thematic essays, no major paper.

Curriculum and Instruction

DCI 691: Qualitative Data Construction

Instructor: Dr. Mirka Koro-Lundbjerg

Is this course/instructor recommended?

It depends.../No (ish)

Additional Remarks:

In addition to surveying general methods in qualitative research, the instructor focuses on the process of collecting and making sense of data. She really stresses taking a **nonnormative approach** to data (i.e. more than just interviews and transcribing), which is helpful if you want to branch out from the usual ways you carry out qualitative research. I find that the structure of the class isn't ideal in that she doesn't really incorporate discussion of our readings as much as other instructors do. You are given the option to do a theoretical/applied paper for your cumulative project, but she encourages you to carry out a creative visual project.

If you have no background in qualitative research methods and are looking to prepare for COM 609, I would recommend this. If you are not into the creative side of applied research (i.e. filmmaking and digital methods of research) and want a bit more consistency and structure, I would probably look for a different class.

Another student's remarks:

Otherwise known as the "hippie data class." This class is excellent if you like to play with non-normative data and if you don't plan to keep up with the readings too closely. In other words, many sessions, the readings we completed on time weren't honored--we'd talk about them for 15 minutes, bump them to next class, or not get to them at all; this was frustrating. Dr. K-L is an expert and certainly a lovely person to take a class with, but if you don't consider yourself the creative type (which I don't), this class can present a bit of a struggle because it forces you to consider and engage with data in ways so far outside your paradigm(s) that buying in is more the concern than completing the project. Relatedly, it was difficult for me to use this course structure in a way that served my program of study well.

DCI 691: Data Construction in Qualitative Research

Instructor: Mirka Koro-Ljungberg

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Maybe

Additional remarks:

Teaches non-normative approaches to qualitative research (visual, performance, etc.) and forces you to use non-normative approaches. She is not the most organized professor but is extremely friendly. She changes the schedule from time and time but tries to accommodate all students.

The class does not include data analysis, only interpretations of normative data and some information on interviewing and focus groups. Not too difficult, just not the most helpful methods course.

DCI 691: Critical Theory Inquiries

Instructor: Dr. Donald Blumenfeld-Jones

Is this course/instructor recommended?

100% yes!!/YES

Additional remarks:

There aren't enough words to describe how excellent this class is. I have explored critical theory prior to this seminar, and I have to say that this one has drastically challenged and changed what I previously knew about the subject. Works that we discuss include Paulo Freire, bell hooks and a slew of other critical theorists. The instructor won't hesitate to challenge and engage you, but he does so with great tact and a desire to help you understand the significance of critical theory across multiple disciplines and academia writ large. The reading load can be daunting, but it's carefully addressed and unpacked in each class session. Assignments include leading a discussion, a short paper where you critically examine a social phenomena, and a final twenty page paper that is built from your first written assignment. I hesitated to take this class, but I am glad that I stayed for the long haul. I highly recommend this to all who are involved in interpretive, rhetorical and critical approaches to communication.

Another student's remarks:

Midway through the semester, I'd already filled out two legal pads with notes. This class is an *onslaught* of information and reading all the original texts (Marx, Bourdieu, Freire, hooks, Weiler, Apple, Giroux, etc.) made my head hurt nearly every week. BUT I have never had a course prove so useful and exciting and upending to all the things we tacitly accept, not as it applies to my program of study but also to my personal worldview and identity. If you have any *bit* of a "critical bone" in you (or if you're not *sure* if you consider yourself a critical scholar), take this course. Sidenote: You will never be more articulate than after you leave this class each week; I started doing much of my writing the night and day after this class. Seriously.

DCI 691 Topic: Data Creation in Qualitative Inquiry

Instructor: Mirka Koro; Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - How to [get a] sense about qualitative data in a post-qualitative way.
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Quant/Qual/Rhet/Perf Methods
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students are Hugh Downs?
 - Yes.

Educational Psychology

EDP/COE 502: Intro to Data Analysis

Instructor: Dr. Roy Levy

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Maybe.

Additional remarks:

(Used to be in Ed Psych but it may be in the Mary Lou Fulton college now. I took the class the year of the big shake up where Ed Psych disappeared. Disregard if that makes no sense!) Solid master's level stats class. Dr. Levy is a patient and fair prof, albeit not very personable. He gives lots of examples, exercises and do-at-your-own-pace homework. Exams require a demonstration of math calculations/formulas, etc. and he allows a page (or two?) of written notes. This is NOT a study design class and the applications to reading journals/understanding quantitative methods sections is nil.

EDP 552: Multiple Regression and Correlation Methods

Instructor: Dr. Scott C. Marley

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Maybe.

Additional remarks:

This course required two exams (with a one-sided cheat sheet), quizzes in class (unannounced), and five homework assignments. The assignments take a long time outside of class. The instructor tends to cater to students who have taken his class before which makes it hard to follow along sometimes. His slides can be confusing as he is not consistent with symbols and does not provide much clarification. The class is large for a graduate course, approximate 30

students enrolled. The first four weeks of the semester were confusing and frustrating because of his lack of consistency, but the classes and clarity did get better. A lot of repeat information if you have taken 608 in our department.

EDP 552: Multiple Regression and Correlation Methods

Instructor: Dr. J. Bryan Henderson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

N/A

EDP 554: Analysis of Variance Methods (ANOVA)

Instructor: Dr. J. Bryan Henderson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Dr. Henderson is a great teacher and takes the time to make sure everyone understands the course content. His slides are clear and concise. He provides excellent handouts that show students how to use SPSS. The course includes two assignments, a final project, and class participation/attendance. Bryan wants students' to further their own research agendas so requires a final project (a full research paper) so students can show their ability with ANOVA. He allows you to use projects from other classes for this paper. The first third of the semester seemed like a review of content covered in 608, just in more detail. A relaxed instructor with a great attitude. Highly recommend.

Another student's remarks:

Dr. Henderson is an amazing instructor who is very clear in his lectures and does a great job of using visualizations in his lectures. He tends to focus in on the practical side of statistics, while still providing enough of the underlying mathematics behind the statistical procedures.

Another student's remarks:

Bryan does a great job of making stats fun and facilitates an open learning environment. Rather than administer a series of tests, he creates a series of comprehensive assignments designed to ensure that methods can be executed, interpreted, and reported. IF you do quantitative analysis, he's a great guy to learn from, post 608. Oh, he also used to be an astrophysicist so...that's pretty cool too.

EDP 554: Analysis of Variance Methods ANOVA

Instructor: Robert Atkins

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No/Yes

Additional remarks:

N/A/Big class (30 people), moderate workload (seven homework plus two exams), the instructor is very clear and flexible.

EDP 554: Analysis of Variance Methods (ANOVA)

Instructor: Scott Marley

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

Dr. Marley is incredibly knowledgeable about statistics. He is approachable and does a clear job teaching statistics. His assignments and exams are challenging (but in a good way) and I definitely learned a lot about ANOVA. Would highly recommend.

English

ENG 502: Aesthetics of Theory

Instructor: Gregory Castle

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Maybe? If you're good at following the garbled lecture and like theory readings.

Additional remarks:

I personally found this class the lowlight of my week. Dr. Castle is all over the place in terms of lecture, name dropping readings you have not yet encountered or he hasn't programmed into the course. The readings are not exceptionally hard, but they do have relevancy to my program of study. Depending on his mental trajectory for the day, he may or may not address the readings at all. Tends to run behind schedule. The papers are short and not difficult.

ENG 551: Rhetorical Traditions

Instructor: Kathleen Lamp

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes, if you're interested in Classical rhetoric.

Additional remarks:

The course pushes everyone to have at least a publishable book review or seminar paper by the end of the course. That is a big ask from a 500-level course, but it's a good foray into publication. You will be okay if your only grounding in rhetoric is 604, but there will be a bit of a learning curve.

ENG 594: Introduction to New Media

Instructor: Barbara Guzzetti

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No.

Additional remarks:

The course focuses on application to K-12 classrooms, with an emphasis on K-8. If that's not your thing, then there isn't a lot for you.

The materials are grossly out-of-date for a course focusing on applied technology. There are interesting shout-outs to non-digital technology like zines, but there isn't enough theory in the course to balance against the age of the content.

The shell for the iCourse did not function properly. That is all you need to know about a course devoted to applying technology.

ENG 598: Rhetorics of Belonging in America

Instructor: Dr. Ersula Ore

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes!

Additional remarks:

I highly recommend this course for anyone interested in race, identity, belonging and rhetoric. Dr. Ore is extremely approachable and takes a down-to-earth approach to the topics of difference and systemic racism. The class includes traditional texts, artistic approaches, a comic book (Ms. Marvel) and LOTS of required television, which is an interesting approach. Weekly reading responses and a major paper.

ENG 604: Islands

Instructor: Dr. Peter Goggin

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

The English 604 classes are often interdisciplinary or general interest classes so it was rhetorical but "soft" in terms of method. Goggin compiled a very nice mix of fiction and non-fiction books on the rhetoric of islands, a particularly interest of mine. I understand his environmental rhetoric class is similarly accessible. Plus, he is a great cook and each week we had a HOT prepared potluck dinner break! His wife, Maureen Goggin, is also a rhetorical specialist in the English department who offers courses that may be of interest. Weekly reading responses and a major paper.

ENG 654: Rhetoric of Places and Spaces

Instructor: Kassie Lamp

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I am in this class currently. It is very interesting and I would recommend it to any rhetoric scholars given that the number of rhetoric classes we offer is not especially high. Not an easy class, but I sort of prefer it that way.

Family Studies

FAS 505 - Applied Regression Analysis

Instructor: Dr. Samuel Green

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No

Additional remarks:

Dr. Green is a more abstract statistician and not a natural teacher. You will learn the information, but it is a very challenging course, not because of the content but because of the learning environment and lack of clarity and organization.

FAS 598: Diversity & Society

Instructor: Liza HIta (However, she has since moved to another institution)

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

Such an easy online course. If you do the work, you will get an A. The professor is now at another institution, but the course is a general course on diversity and intercultural aspects attached to culture and family. Uses a systems view of studying family and requires you watch a few movies each week and post discussion posts each week. There are 3 tests and about 2 papers. Very simple and easy general course on diversity and culture.

FAS 598: Close Relationships

Instructor: Dr. Scott Christopher

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Semester: Spring 2016

Additional remarks:

Scott is a wonderful instructor who puts the needs of students above and beyond his one. To use his words, teaching graduate seminars are one of “the great joys in my life.” I will say one thing: He is heavy on the quantitative data analysis. Sometimes class will change into a discussion about methods, rather than results and implications. It’s a typical seminar and a must take if you study relationships of any kind!

PSY 598 Thriving Family Systems

Instructor: Dr. Amy Weber; Psychology

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - Positive Psychology within families
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Interpersonal and family communication
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students in Hugh Downs?
 - No.

Film Studies

FMS Classes, 500/600 level

These classes which claim to look at gendered/cultural/social issues in popular culture are very much fleshed out undergraduate film studies. The policies/faculty offer little accommodation and seem a little draconian at times. If you do choose to take one of these classes - take only one as they are incredibly repetitive, drawing on very similar material.

FMS 527: Identity and World Film

Instructor: Julie Codell

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No.

Additional remarks:

This course is something of a grindhouse and is based around question/answer weekly assignments which can be answered by going to the given page numbers. The professor also has

incredibly poor interpersonal skills and treats students with very little respect. She is disorganized and her emails are lackluster and typically she has to send out at least one correctional email a week due to all of the errors in her work.

Health Care Related

HCR 561: Conduct of Clinical Research (Summer, Online)

Instructor: Dr. Susan Colvin

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

Class was very interesting at first when you read about the history of ethical violations that resulted in ethical codes such as the Nuremberg Code, Belmont Report, etc... The midterm was to fill out a very detailed IRB application for a hypothetical study using ASU's IRB forms, which proved incredibly useful, especially if you have a study you want to do and need to get IRB approval. Exams are time-consuming, but if taken online you will have access to your notes and the book so it's not too bad, although the final exam took almost three hours. Useful course if you plan on conducting research with vulnerable populations, physiological research, or just like reading about crazy unethical research experiments conducted over the past 100 years.

Higher and Postsecondary Education

HED 620: Diversity in Higher Education

Instructor: Jesus Cisneros (no longer teaching the course)

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I recommend the course for people who are interested in pedagogy and/or intercultural communication issues. The class is a short one - only 8 weeks and covers diverse/minority campus populations.

Another student's remarks:

Well, the class is valuable if you are really interested a teaching-centered career, but it was taught by an upper-division doctoral student the semester that I took it, along with a very grumpy masters-level TA, which made the experience feel not worth the time. I got some great teaching activities out of the process, and an opportunity to really expand my understanding of a college

student body, but it didn't really "teach" me much. Definitely not helpful for learning anything related to my research interests.

HED 620 Diversity, Equity and Social Justice in Higher Education

Instructor: Amanda Tachine; HED

School/Department: HED

Time: Fall 23

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - I really loved this course!
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Critical Pedagogy
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students at Hugh Downs?
 - Yes.

HED 691: Student Learning Theory

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Rodrigue McIntyre

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I recommend this class for people interested in pedagogy, adult/learning theories, and/or people who are interested in studying college populations. The class is challenging, highly collaborative, and more project-based, so no major paper will come out of it.

Social Justice and Human Rights

JHR 598: Global Justice

Instructor: Julie Murphy Erfani

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No.

Additional remarks:

This is her first time teaching the course online, and it's a huge mess. We get constant emails about due date changes. I do not know, though, how she teaches in person. She is very responsive via email. The course has so far covered topics about government cover-ups, non-profit involvement in Africa, NSA information leaks, genocide, and refugees. We have short written assignments due every week.

Justice Studies

JUS 501: Justice Theory

Instructor: H.L.T. Quan

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This is master level class, but actually intellectually challenging. Reading load is usually one book per week. The assigned readings are classic, systematic and in intellectual conversation with each other. Dr. Quan likes to ask questions and tends to go to the textual details of the readings. This class is intense but I love this class. Strongly recommend.

JUS 521: Qualitative Data Analysis & Evaluation

Instructor: Mary Romero

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This is master level class, but gives you the chance to walk through writing up and engaging in qualitative methods, specifically focusing on institutional ethnography. You meet a lot of great students from other departments engaging in really interesting work as well. Dr. Romero is a great mentor to help guide you through your methods and she works a lot with COM students on their dissertations.

JUS588 Justice and the Mass Media

Instructor: H.L.T. Quan; Justice Studies

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - How to critically analyze mass media
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Critical studies
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students at
Hugh Downs?
 - Yes.

JUS 591: Disney, Culture & Society

Instructor: Jennifer Sandlin

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

This is a slash-class, so most of the students are undergrads in Justice Studies. This class looks at Walt Disney, Disney cartoons/movies, and the Disney Theme Parks through a very critical lens. Major themes are deconstructing Disney the corporation, the myths behind Disney, the privilege of Disney, the control and power of Disney, the organizational culture of Disney, and how Disney alters historical understandings of America. Pretty easy course, but you do have response papers due once a week (only about 2 pages). Most interesting course content I have ever had in a course! So interesting!

JUS 620: Justice Research Methodologies

Instructor: Dr. Mary Romero

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I recommend the class for anyone interested in building on their interpretive/critical paradigm expertise. The class is highly theoretical and projects include applying for a fellowship, conducting peer reviews, book reviews, and prepping a paper for publication.

JUS 691: Writing for Publication

Instructor: Elizabeth Swadener

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Really excellent course! No readings. We spent the semester revising a previously written seminar paper for journal submission (something we should be doing anyway, right?) and received 3-units of credit for it. And Dr. Swadener is a great resource; she specializes in education, childhood, social justice, qualitative methods...Lots of good information was offered

on all aspects of publishing. Oh, and we met only every other week. I got a revise and resubmit on the essay I revised in the class, so we'll see what happens next.

Linguistics

LIN 616: Identity in Interaction

Instructor: Matthew Prior.

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

As someone who had never taken a linguistics course before, it was perfect! While a fair number of the students were from the linguistics department, several were from outside as well, such as the education department or other language departments. We looked at the various forms of Discourse Analysis (DA), and got a sweet overview of the field. In addition to a theoretical foundation, we had the chance to do lots of in-class analysis of DA and CA (conversation analysis), try our hand with our own material, recorded and live, and look at classmates' material. It's a great complement to Comm studies.

Management Studies

MGT 791- Organizational Behavior, Management

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Corley

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This class is 3 units (sometimes they break up OB into 1 unit modules). HIGHLY recommend this class and this professor. Kevin is a delight to work with and is a knowledgeable and kind professor. His classes involve a TON of reading (typically 6-7 articles per class. Seven 30-50 page articles per week, yes you read that right.) He assigns each student (typically about 6-7 per class) to an article and that student is responsible to prepare a 1-page summary and lead discussion in class. While onerous at times, I found his style and organizational framework really useful and productive, especially for his midterm exam and in studying for comps later. (He ended up being my outside committee member). Kevin's work is largely interpretive/qualitative and focused on identity/sensemaking, although he is knowledgeable about statistical and experimental methods as well. Would highly recommend Kevin!

MGT 791- Organizational Theory; Special Topic: Institutional Theory

Instructor: Dr. Don Lange

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This class was 1 unit. Intense but straight forward course focused on a very narrow branch of organizational theory. Included a lot of reading with discussion leaders for each article and one-page summaries. The reading was difficult but not impossible. Dr. Lange is incredibly knowledgeable with a dry sense of humor. He was also highly organized and fair in the administration of course policies. His areas of expertise include longitudinal analysis and institutional theory using large quantitative data sets. The class was not "fun" but I learned a ton.

MGT 791: Organizational Theory; Special Topic: Culture and Climate

Instructor: Dr. Joan Brett

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Maybe

Additional remarks:

This class is 1 unit. Similar format to most management modules-- lots of reading, short article summaries and intense participation. The course material was fascinating and detailed, although I found the class to be less well organized than other modules I took. Dr. Brett seemed to put together the reading modules one week at a time and our lead time to download/read article was shorter than I would have liked. Of course she was the Associate Vice Provost and always had a lot going on. Really enjoyed learning from Dr. Brett as her knowledge of the subject area was vast. I don't know if I would recommend her for a full-semester course given her demonstrative disorganization.

MGT 791: Meso Organizational Behavior

Instructor: Jennifer Nahgrang

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Excellent course to get an idea of how management/business schools examine behavior in organizations. Specifically, the Meso part of this course emphasizes the importance of context to any given level of study (i.e. looking at a team within an organization or an organization within an industry - as opposed to simply looking at the team or organization in isolation as is the tradition in OB). The faculty are excellent and make an effort to help you bring yourself into the space. In my experience faculty were happy to allow me to write papers that spoke to more of a Communication angle than is typical and were generally very accommodating.

MGT791: Meso Organizational Behavior

Instructor: Jennifer Craig

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

Would highly recommend either this class or any number offered by this business school.

MGT 792: Independent Study on Sensemaking

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Corley

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This class is 1 unit. Ditto what I mentioned above about Kevin. He was willing to take extra time to do a reading and conference with me and another student. We met once a month to discuss articles. Extremely helpful preparation for comps and dissertation, although really intense to be almost one-on-one.

Nonprofit Leadership and Management

Generally, these classes were not that amazing. Neither were they that hard. They review various aspects of nonprofit life, which would be helpful for someone interested in doing research in or working in a nonprofit. Basically, they cover some common issues in nonprofits, and lightly engage some academic conversation about them.

NLM 510: Foundations of Nonprofits

Instructor: Hager

NLM 550: Philanthropy: Theory and Practice

Instructor: Hager

NLM 562: Social Entrepreneurship

Instructor: Pincus

NLM 520: Financial and Resource Management

Instructor: Mook

NLM ###: Human Resource Management in Nonprofits

Instructor: Mook

NLM 565: Grant Writing for Nonprofits (Summer Online)

Instructor: Dr. Susan Johnson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes, if you are interested in learning the basics of the grant writing process.

Additional remarks:

The course involves finding a local nonprofit and working with them to write a grant proposal that they could hypothetically use after you are done with the course. Very practical, and most of the skills you learn are transferable to the grant writing process for receiving external funding for academic research.

Nutrition

NTR 527: Obesity, Environment, and Policy

Instructor: Punam Ohri-Vachaspati

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

The professor was very engaged, and encouraged really great class discussion. The work-load was light, but the assignments were meaningful and valuable. It was opportunity to write in a policy-oriented way, rather than in a traditional academic style, which I think is valuable to learn for speaking to outside audiences. This is a master's-level class, so some students are not as advanced in their thinking/discussion skills, but overall the masters-level nutrition students are great to work with, very prepared and engaged, and smart!

Preparing Future Faculty

Preparing Future Faculty (Year 1, 1 unit)

Led by David Nutt and Dr. Joan Brett Assoc Vice Provost.

Additional remarks:

Not a full course, but a training program, PFF counted in the "extra" units category. I found it monotonous and work intensive, and that I had enough preparation for professional tasks (CV writing, job hunting, learning about the academy) through First Fridays and peer socialization. That said, I hear the second year is really helpful in terms of mock interviews, etc.

Psychology

Recommended Professors: Doug Kenrick. Dave Mackinnon, Marlyn Thompson, Masumi Iida

PSY 531: Regression Methods

Instructor: Marley

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

PSY 532: ANOVA Methods

Instructor: Henderson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

N/A

PSY 551: Advanced Social Psychology

Instructor: Steven Neuberg

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This is a core course for PhD students in the department of psychology. It introduced motivation, emotion, attitudes, affect and other concepts that we may use in research in interpersonal and intercultural communication. What I learned in this course largely related to many communication theories. The instructor was both a good researcher as well as an instructor. Highly recommend it!

PSY 578: Developmental Psychopathology

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Chassin

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

This is a great class if you have a theoretical background in psychology. Developmental psychopathology is the study of maladaptive behavior in children. The workload is a moderate to heavy one. It will seem heavier if you are not familiar with abnormal psychology theory. 6 focus papers and 1 large term paper is the work. The focus papers are an essay in response to a weekly focus question. Excellent professor and great way to learn about bad behavior. A background in multi variate statistics is not required but can be helpful in evaluating the research.

PSY 591: Emotion Regulation and Social Relations Under Stress

Instructor: Dr. Alex Zautra

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Dr. Zautra is very fair. Although his discussion facilitation skills are lacking, he is still a caring, intelligent, and open instructor who encourages and appreciates all students' involvement. If you are post-positivist, take psychology courses - they are excellent. If you are more of an interpretive, critical scholar, I would NOT recommend psychology classes.

PSY 591: Culture and Neuroscience

Instructor: Michael Varnum

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks:

Small seminar (10 people), moderate workload (3-4 readings per week, two lab sessions, and one research proposal), the instructor is very organized. Highly recommended for qual researchers. A little bit challenging in the first several weeks, after that you will find it rewarding.

PSY 591 - Evolutionary Psychology

Instructor: Douglas Kenrick

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Semester (Spring/Fall): Fall 2016

Additional remarks: This class is a very interesting introduction to evolutionary psychology. It covers a broad range of topics, from dating and parenting to the evolutionary roots of religion. The class is laid-back, discussion format, with a few student presentations. Each week, the instructor wants us to apply the reading/discussion to our own research interests, so you'll walk out of the class with plenty of ideas for future projects!

Public Affairs

PAF 591: Introduction to Policy Informatics

Instructor: Eric Johnston

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

If you are interested in public policy this is a great overview of the past issues and highlights future directions for the country. Also, we learned how to code agent based models. This is the only class that is not from the math department that teaches you agent based models in-depth. Also, Eric is great! He teaches a few other classes that I have heard good things about. Class requirements: Build an agent-based model; short tests; meets for 3 weekends only.

Religious Studies

REL 691: Anthropology of Material Culture

Instructor: Dr. Miguel Aguilera

Is this course/instructor recommended?

(First recommendation) No.

(Second recommendation) No.

Additional remarks:

(First recommendation) I would not recommend the class. In my opinion, 95% of the topics were irrelevant to society, including past influences on present society. I was unpleasantly surprised by how much archaeology we covered and how it seemed like nothing could be applied to current life. I have mixed feelings about the professor. He was very personable and genuinely helpful to students. He treated us as co-collaborators and was very open to our ideas for final projects, even if they branched away from anthropology and into our own disciplines. He did, however, conduct this class I found to be mostly irrelevant. I do plan to submit my paper to a journal, and it was written on a topic I'm thinking about for my dissertation, so the class wasn't a complete waste.

(Second recommendation) This class was actually about archaeology, which did not interest me at all. The instructor was very nice, but make sure you know his specific areas of interest (ancient Mayan stuff) because that monopolized the class.

School of International Letters and Cultures

SLC 598: Intercultural Communicative Competence

Instructor: Dr. Carla Ghanem

Is this course/instructor recommended?

(First recommendation) Yes.

(Second recommendation) I'm undecided about this course and instructor.

Additional remarks:

(First recommendation) I would recommend this class depending on the student. It wasn't as challenging as our in-department classes, but it was very focused on applying intercultural communication concepts to real life. It was low on theory and high on application, so if that's what you want, go for it. Dr. Ghanem was a great. She knows tons of languages and has lived all over the world.

(Second recommendation) This was an in-person 400-500 level course, and I at times felt like a co-instructor. Dr. Ghanem was good, but I introduced several ideas new in this class that would not have been new in a HDSHC class. The focus was great, though, as it was solely focused on competence and practicing intercultural communication. No tests or quizzes. Grad students taught one chapter each.

Sociology

SOC 598: Statistics for Social Sciences

Instructor: Bethany Van Vleet

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Online 7-week course. This is NOT for quantitative researchers. This is for non-quant people who need to better understand what they read in quantitative research. We worked with existing (and provided) data and had to find answers using different tools, but it was for the purpose of understanding how the data is processed. Bethany was a great online professor--very responsive and helpful.

School of Sustainability

SOS 591: Sustainability Communication

Instructor: Terese Greene and Kathryn Kyle

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This is a mixed course for both undergraduate seniors and master/graduate level students. It is taught by a journalist (Greene) who works in the Cronkite School and a writer (Kyle) who works in the school of sustainability. You get to learn about the different ways that sustainability issues get communicated and your final project is utilizing creative nonfiction to write an article about a sustainability issue that they want to help you publish in a fitting forum. It is really interesting to see how communication is taught by a department other than ours.

SOS594 (Topic): Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness

Instructor: Dr. Scott Cloutier

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No

Additional remarks:

This split class (undergrads + grads) was a hot mess. I initially enrolled to get experience with participatory action research--sustainability doesn't call it that, but by all accounts it was synonymous. However, we never got anywhere close. Working with local communities is *tough*, especially since ASU hasn't always treated them well, but it seemed the instructor had no idea where this class was going or how to manage it. It felt like we were "recalibrating" the entire semester; "hands-off" doesn't begin to describe it. The instructor also had very little idea of how the discipline of communication might serve this work (nor did the other students) and so made no space for inclusion.

Social Science and Health

SSH 510: Social and Biocultural Theories of Health

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Hruschka

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Maybe recommend course. Do not recommend instructor.

Additional remarks:

This graduate seminar explores key theoretical debates about the social and biocultural causes of individual health and illness as well as population-level health disparities. It is ideal for those planning dissertation or masters theses in the area of health who seek a broad set of theoretical options to apply in their research. While focused on the particular issue of health, the class is interdisciplinary, including theories and readings from anthropology, psychology, sociology, social epidemiology, history and economics. Each discipline has its own way of making arguments and using evidence, and an important part of the class will be to identify the value in each of these approaches as well as each approach's limitations. Many of the readings draw from the main foci of ASU's global health program: neglected and reemerging infectious diseases, obesity and food insecurity, and maternal and child health.

(The content is really interesting if you are interested in Global Health, Health Disparities, Anthropology, or Epidemiology. Otherwise, the content isn't necessarily useful. I wouldn't recommend the instructor. He does not facilitate lecture AT ALL. Students moderate the discussion every week...which is really disappointing and shitty. Planning a 2 hour and 45 minute lecture with people in the class you don't know really sucks. Definitely not a difficult class, though-500-level).

Social Technology

STC 505: Theories of Social Technology

Instructor: Greg Wise

Semester: Fall 2016

Is this course/instructor recommend?

Yes

Additional remarks:

The reading list for the course is really strong to get at writing about technology, and it doesn't require a strong computer/digital background. The idea of the course is to consider technology more generally. Wise is affiliated with HDSHC. The lectures he gives are very helpful, and the assignments are straightforward. The challenges might be the reading load and format. Most weeks have >150 pages per week (and not always easy stuff), so get ready to read. The class evolved more back-and-forth exchanges, but the class is far more lecture-based than most COM seminars.

HSD 598 Topic: Postcolonial Science & Technology Studies

Instructor: Itty Abraham; School for the Future of Innovation in Society

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - Know more about STS, a different approach in viewing technologies.
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Intercultural Communication
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students at Hugh Downs?
 - Yes.

HSD 601 HSD I: Human Dimension Science and Technology

Instructor: Jameson Wetmore; School for the Future of Innovation in Society

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - A foundational understanding of STS field, very helping in understanding technology production.
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - (Digital) Technology
 -
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students are Hugh Downs?
 - Yes.

Social Work

SWG 591: War & Disaster

Instructor: Mitchell

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This course focuses on PTSD, treatment, recognition and general understanding about PTSD--diagnosis, treatment, longevity of the disorder, its manifestations, etc. Perhaps useful for those of us studying conflict and/or strategic communication in war and post-war zones. Course requirements: Readings and short papers--typically meets on Saturdays.

Studies in Social Transformation

SST 501: Foundation of Social Transformation

Mary Margaret Fonow & Daniel Schugurensky

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

This is the required course for the Social Transformation Graduate Certificate, which is do-able for HDSHC students. It covers several theoretical backgrounds for topics such as utopias, gender, governance, education, protest/activism, group organization and dynamics, etc. It looks at many historical and current examples. It was a standard graduate set-up (lead a couple article discussions, final paper and presentation at end) but without weekly reading summary assignments.

SST 501: Foundation of Social Transformation

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Cheng

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

A great class with AMAZING readings/books throughout the course. Really engaging and thought provoking class with a final paper and readings/discussion posts due weekly. You lead a couple weeks as a group with your peers for the readings and you engage in an event/related field short paper where you attend an event related to social transformation. Dr. Cheng is really smart and went to Harvard and is a geographer, she was pretty awesome and handle tension and difficult topics/conversations in the class very well – it definitely got heated sometimes, which made the class extra interesting. I highly recommend!!

Theater

THE 598: Ethnotheatre

Instructor: Johnny Saldana

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

Johnny is teaching it in spring and retiring in May so if anyone is interested in something like this - last chance. This is a Theater class in which students get exposed to a wide variety of scripts that are based on real people and situations (as opposed to strictly fictional scripts written by playwrights). Script examples include The Laramie Project based on the gay hate crime of the killing of Mathew Shepard, Twilight Los Angeles based on the LA race riots, and Black Watch based on the history of the Scottish political unrest. While this is not an acting class, participants should expect they will be called upon to perform during the semester. This class may appeal to those interested in Performance Studies, Cultural Studies, and Critical and Qualitative Methods. The instructor Johnny is an outstanding teacher who retires in May 2014 so don't miss the chance to take this class if it is of interest to you!!

Women's Studies

WST 601: Critical Concepts of Gender

Instructor: Karen Leong

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I would recommend the class, especially if taught by Karen Leong--also, it is a required course for the gender certificate. Dr. Leong is by far my favorite professor in Women's Studies (who I have had, there are many more). Rigorous. Useful. Learned stuff. Wrote a paper. Eventually published it, which speaks to the utility of the seminar paper in which students are asked to engage the concepts to critique their own discipline.

WST 601 Critical Concepts of Gender

Instructor: Sa Whitley; School of Social Transformation- Women and Gender Studies

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - Fabulous intro to keywords and key theories in Gender Studies (it's their 604 for Gender Studies PhD students)
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Critical/Cultural Studies, Feminist and Gender Studies
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students at Hugh Downs?
 - No.

WST 602: Mapping the Intersections of Gender

Instructor: Lisa Anderson

Is this course/instructor recommended?

No.

Additional remarks:

One of my least favorite classes ever, not because of the material but because of the style in which it was taught (or not taught), and the lack of engagement from the 15 or so graduate students from Women's and Justice Studies. However, it is one of the required courses for the gender certificate, and as far as I know it is always taught by Dr. Anderson. So it is worth

suffering through for this reason, or if you are simply looking for a course that will be an easy ride.

Another student's remarks:

This is a method class about intersectionality. Dr. Lisa Anderson is super sweet and the class load is relatively light. Her teaching style is not strictly structured and more “free style” (sometimes I felt lost in class discussion). For those who prefer well-organized class experience, this might not be the right class.

WST 602 Mapping Intersections of Gender

Instructor: Aaron Mallory; School of Social Transformation- Women and Gender Studies

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional Remarks:

- Skills/concepts learned:
 - It's an intersectionality survey course that is amazing at teaching you how to go beyond surface level invocations of this word
- What specific field of communication does this course fit into?
 - Critical/Cultural Studies, Feminist and Gender Studies
- Can the faculty member serve as an external committee member for graduate students at Hugh Downs?
 - No.

WST 603: Engendering Methodology

Instructor: Heather Switzer

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I would recommend this class if you want to develop a proposal that emphasizes methodology through the lens of gender studies/ critical theories. Dr. Heather Switzer is very approachable and very helpful.

WST 690: Critical and Postcolonial Feminist Pedagogy (Independent Study)

Instructor: Karen Leong

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

An independent study tailored to my interest. Dr. Leong was even willing to do this with me over the summer and to give me weekly feedback on the reflections I submitted to her. A really wonderful professor who has pushed my thinking much further.

WST 691: Queer Theory

Instructor: Jackie Martinez

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Probably not

Additional remarks:

Not my favorite course or professor. Love queer theory but the material felt somewhat outdated and the pedagogy was a bit loose for my style. No full-length paper, which could be good for those trying to lighten their load but not very productive in terms of conferences, etc.

WST 691: Masculinities

Instructor: Karen Leong

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

I wholeheartedly recommend anything taught by Dr. Leong. Another great class with a seminar paper that I got a lot of mileage out of.

WST691 (Topic): Ethnographic Methods

Instructor: Dr. Yasmina Katsulis

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes

Additional remarks: Ultimately, an excellent introduction to ethnographic methods. Perhaps the most helpful part of this class are the Summary Notes and the "in house support." Every week we turn in a one-page summary of our readings, which may seem like busy work, but we'll be thanking ourselves during COMPS. These summary notes also allow us to more actively engage when our colleagues lead discussions and construct activities. Dr. Katsulis is also immensely helpful in supporting us along our very first ethnographic methods journey, whether that's connecting us to groups for access up front, helping us troubleshoot consent issues along the way, or advising our IRB process, etc.

WST 791: Feminist Theory

Instructor: Ann Koblitz

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Probably not.

Additional remarks:

Not the most recommendable course. Slightly better than my description of WST 602, but not much. Dr. Koblitz, however, is a great resource for any who are interested in women's health, specifically reproductive health.

Another student's remarks:

This is a theory class and assigned readings are lovely. Reading load is usually one book per week. Class presentations and discussion are the main form of this class. No final project required. Instead, 3(?) times during course time, you present the readings in class, and wrote short papers on 3 (?) assigned books that you do not present.

WST 691: Transnational Feminist Theory (Independent Study)

Instructor: Karen Leong

Is this course/instructor recommended?

Yes.

Additional remarks:

A class tailored for the work I am already doing. Dr. Leong is the best!