**Course Proposals**

Course Name: Introduction to Graduate Study and Communication Theory
Course Prefix: MPC
Course Number: 6010
             Submitted by (Name & E-Mail):  Kathryn Edwards, kedwards@weber.edu

Current Date:  11/7/2013
College: Arts & Humanities
Department:   Communication
From Term: Fall  2013

Substantive

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| change   | Current Course Subject N/ACurrent Course Number  |

This is the current course description. We are planning to delete this one credit hour course and replace it with the new course, which is three credit hours. MPC 6000 - Introduction to Graduate Studies for a Master in Professional Communication Credits: (1) Typically taught: Summer [1st Blk] What it takes to succeed as a graduate student is similar to what it takes to succeed as a working professional. This course gets students on their way to becoming successful master’s students. Students are oriented to the nature, expectations, resources, and challenges of graduate study. They meet fellow students with similar goals and faculty members with wide-ranging expertise in professional communication. This course involves students early in researching the topics, trends, and theories for future graduate study. Prerequisite: Admission to MPC Program.

**New/Revised Course Information:**

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| --- | --- |
| Subject:  MPC             Course Number: 6010 | Check all that apply: *This is for courses already approved for gen ed.    Use a* [*different form*](http://documents.weber.edu/catalog/forms.htm) *for proposing a new gen ed designation.* DV   CA   HU   LS   PS   SS  EN   AI   QL   TA   TB   TC   TD   TE |

Course Title: Introduction to Graduate Study and Communication Theory

Abbreviated Course Title: Intro Grad Study Comm Theory

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| --- | --- |
| Course Type:  | LEC |

Credit Hours:  3  **or** if variable hours:    to

Contact Hours: Lecture 24  Lab    Other 24 online

Repeat Information:  Limit 0   Max Hrs 0

Grading Mode:  standard

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| --- | --- |
| This course is/will be: |  a required course in a major program a required course in a minor program a required course in a 1- or 2- year program elective |

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

Admission to MPC program.

Course description (exactly as it will appear in the catalog, including prerequisites):

Students are oriented to the nature, expectations, resources, and challenges of graduate study. This course provides a survey of major theoretical perspectives in the field of communication with an emphasis on how theory can be applied in interpersonal, group, organizational and mass communication contexts. Students also learn about the logic of communication inquiry and techniques for conducting literature searches and writing literature reviews.

**Justification** for the new course or for changes to an existing course. (Note: Justification should emphasize academic rationale for the change or new course. This is particularly important for courses requesting upper-division status.)

Previously we required students to take an undergraduate level course in Communication Theory before they could be admitted to the MPC program. The current course, MPC 6000 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Professional Communication provided a quick overview of how to conduct academic literature reviews and write about findings. We touched on the relationship between theoretical and applied approaches to communication research.

In addition to the instructional goals listed for MPC 6000, the new course will give students a survey of the major theoretical perspectives within the discipline of communication. Instead of taking their communication theory course at the undergraduate level as a prerequisite, they will take the course at the graduate level and will learn about the relationship between theoretical and applied approaches to communication knowledge and research at a more sophisticated level. We believe the new course will provide students with a more solid foundation as they begin their graduate program.

If this course is approved, we will drop the requirement for students to take COMM 3000 Communication Theory as a prerequisite before applying for admission to the MPC program.

**INFORMATION PAGE**for substantive proposals only

1. Did this course receive unanimous approval within the Department?

true

If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

2. If this is a new course proposal, could you achieve the desired results by revising an existing course within your department or by requiring an existing course in another department?

We are revising an existing course by adding two additional credit hours and adding a survey of major theoretical perspectives within the discipline.

3. How will the proposed course differ from similar offerings by other departments? Comment on any subject overlap between this course and topics generally taught by other departments, even if no similar courses are currently offered by the other departments. Explain any effects that this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other department. Please forward letters (email communication is sufficient) from all departments that you have identified above stating their support or opposition to the proposed course.

There is not a similar course in another department.

4. Is this course required for certification/accreditation of a program?

no

If so, a statement to that effect should appear in the justification and supporting documents should accompany this form.

5. **For course proposals**, e-mail a syllabus to Faculty Senate which should be sufficiently detailed that the committees can determine that the course is at the appropriate level and matches the description. **There should be an indication of the amount and type of outside activity required in the course (projects, research papers, homework, etc.)**.