



# Catch Up with Communication Studies

November 2024

Monthly E-Newsletter

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## What is Communication?



Broadly, communication is a purposeful behavior that people use to satisfy conversation goals. During interactions, people produce verbal and nonverbal messages that assist them in their pursuit of multiple conversation goals. As such, communication serves as a purposeful behavior that allows people to achieve various goals, such as providing comfort, maintaining the identity of their interactional partner, or avoiding topics. In sum, communication can be viewed as a means to achieve outcomes.

*-Dr. Colton Krawietz*



## Courses Spotlight

### Are you ready to register?

Registration for Spring 2025 is here! Here's some courses that we think would be PAWsome to take!

### Undergraduate Course

#### COMS 3350 Communication and Pop Culture



This pop culture course invites students to explore the powerful influence of media and entertainment on our daily lives and social norms. From TikTok trends to blockbuster films and sports, students will investigate how these seemingly everyday cultural elements communicate messages that shape our identities, behaviors, and values. By analyzing music, television, celebrities, and advertising, students will learn to decode the deeper meanings behind popular culture and understand its significant role in reflecting and creating societal standards. This course is ideal for those interested in understanding the “why” and “how” behind pop culture’s impact on our world.

Interested in this course? Message Dr. Caleb G. Hubbard at [cgh034@shsu.edu](mailto:cgh034@shsu.edu) to learn more about it!

## COMS 3393 Environmental Communication



This course will empower you to identify pressing challenges facing our environment and implement strategic communication methods to address them. You will engage in dynamic discussions with your classmates and work on thought-provoking reflective writing assignments, including analyses of environmental documentaries and controversies. By bridging theory and practice, you'll discover the vital role communication plays in environmental journalism, popular culture, reducing environmental risks, delivering environmental campaigns, and mitigating climate change. Consider taking COMS 3393 this coming spring to become an advocate for environmental protection and sustainable practices!

Interested in this course? Message Dr. Cindy Chen at [cindychen@shsu.edu](mailto:cindychen@shsu.edu) to learn more about it!

## Graduate Course

### COMS 5366 Sexual Communication



This course dives into how communication shapes our understanding of intimacy and sexuality across different relationships. Students will explore real-world examples, analyze research, and discuss how sexual communication impacts everything from long-term partnerships to casual encounters. One of the fun assignments lets students apply communication theories to popular media, offering a unique perspective on how sexuality is portrayed. This course is essential for anyone looking to understand the nuances of intimate communication in today's world.

Interested in this course? Message Dr. Lisa Dahlgren at [lxv024@shsu.edu](mailto:lxv024@shsu.edu) to learn more about it!

**Want to see what else we offer?**

[Undergraduate Course Catalog](#)

[Graduate and Professional Course Catalog](#)

**When does registration open for me?**

[Spring 2025 Registration Schedule](#)



## Faculty Spotlight

### Dr. Shuangyue “Shaun” Zhang, Professor



Teaching communication means helping my students develop the necessary skills to convey and interpret messages effectively across various contexts. This includes verbal and nonverbal communication, active listening, empathy, conflict resolution, and building rapport. Communication studies, to me, is about exploring how we connect with one another — whether through language, gestures, or technology.

At the undergraduate level, I teach Conflict, Negotiation, and Resolution, Relationship Communication, Interpersonal Health Communication, Intercultural Communication, and Introduction to Communication Theory and Research. At the graduate level, I teach Communication Studies Research and Methods, Statistical Methods for Communication, Advanced Interpersonal Communication, Interpersonal Conflict, and Advanced Intercultural Communication. I plan to teach Interpersonal Communication, a course I taught in the past but have not taught for over a decade.

I study interpersonal communication within close relationships. I have published articles on topics such as hurtful communication, forgiveness communication, and social network influence.

A fun fact about myself: I love swimming. If time permits, I would like to swim for at least half an hour a day.

### Tamara Arrington, MA, Lecturer



My goal as a teacher is for students to leave my classes better than they were before — better critical and pluralistic thinkers, better workers, better teammates, better relational partners.

I teach a wide range of classes, including Public Speaking; Interpersonal Communication; Small Group Communication; Communication for Business and Professions; and Conflict, Negotiation, and Resolution.

Fun fact about me: I collect funky things — houseplants, cacti, earrings (the funkier, the better).



## Student Organizations

### Lambda Pi Eta



We are excited to announce that we have 12 new members of Lambda Pi Eta that will be inducted later this November.

Be on the lookout for future Lambda Pi Eta events, as we invite alumni to speak on what they are doing with their communication degrees and other networking events.

### CommuniKats



Do you want to improve your communication skills or connect with like-minded students interested in communication? Connect with CommuniKats!

CommuniKats is open to new members, all students welcome.

Contact current CommuniKats president Kylee Patterson at [kmp118@shsu.edu](mailto:kmp118@shsu.edu) or follow on Instagram at @CommuniKats for more information and updates!



## Celebrations and Success

### All of Us Research Program: The Influence of Behavioral Health and Personality Types on Depression: Alexandra Andrews and Dr. Cindy Chen



Alexandra Andrews, an undergraduate student in the Department of Psychology, conducted a research project utilizing the All of Us data to examine the correlation between personality types and depression. The study aims to explore the mechanisms behind this association, investigate the influence of specific personality traits, and develop more targeted and effective strategies to enhance mental well-being and address depression in diverse populations. She received a \$2000 grant to conduct the project, with Dr. Cindy Chen serving as her faculty advisor.

[View Alexandra Andrews's research poster here.](#)

## International Conference on Education, Teaching, and Learning (EDCON) 2024: Effectiveness of Various Student-Teacher Communication Methods on Student Engagement and Motivation in Online Classrooms During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Promethi Das Deep, Nitu Ghosh, and Dr. Cindy Chen



Dr. Cindy Chen worked with Promethi Das Deep (Graduate Student in the School of Teaching and Learning) and Nitu Ghosh (Graduate Student in the Department of English) on a paper titled “Effectiveness of Various Student-Teacher Communication Methods on Student Engagement and Motivation in Online Classrooms During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Their paper was accepted by the 3rd International Conference on Education, Teaching, and Learning 2024 (EDCON 2024) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and was presented at the conference on September 19th, 2024. Findings of the paper revealed that live video sessions were more effective than pre-recorded

videos, voice-only sessions, or email/text communications in engaging students and motivating students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Communication Day: Let's Play!: Department of Communication Studies

Last month, we celebrated Communication Studies and students like you with this semester's Communication Day! It was PAWsome to see everyone and get to know you. We hope you had a great time and can't wait to see you again!



Pictured, left-to-right:

Back Row: Suzi Honeywell, MA; Dr. Anya Lu; Allyzah Allene D. Cabugao, MA; Dr. Kelly Weikle; Dr. Frances Brandau; Dr. Cindy Chen; Dr. Rebekah M. Chiasson; Dr. Colton Krawietz; Dena Horne, MA; Michelle Plitt, Assistant to the Chair  
Front Row: Kristen Hester, MA; Dr. Lisa Dahlgren; Michesha Washington, MA; Dr. Caleb G. Hubbard; Joy Mallory, Administrative Assistant



## Research Spotlights

### Artificial Intelligence in Teaching: Dr. Rebekah M. Chiasson



Dr. Chiasson recently published research comparing the teaching clarity and competence of feedback given by human professors and by ChatGPT, and the student participants' views on the feedback. This talk adds to the discussion about the role and place of generative artificial intelligence in teaching.

Interested? Message Dr. Rebekah M. Chiasson at [rmc080@shsu.edu](mailto:rmc080@shsu.edu) or attend her research talk!

**Does the Human Professor or Artificial Intelligence Offer Better Explanations to Students?  
VR and AI in the Classroom Research Talk Series  
CHSS 330, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Open to All!**



## Pet Spotlight

### Mrs. Michelle Plitt's Pawesome Pets!



**Daisy May**  
Major in Communication Through Belly Scratching

**Nosey Rosie**  
Major in Furniture Redesign



**Zuma**  
Major in HISStory  
Double Minor in Bite Me and  
I Was Meant to be an Only Child



# Important Upcoming Dates

## November

### Wednesday, November 7th

- Does the Human Professor or Artificial Intelligence Offer Better Explanations to Students?; Dr. Rebekah M. Chiasson**  
***VR and AI in the Classroom Research Talk Series***  
**CHSS 330, 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

Learn about research conducted by faculty in the Department of Communication Studies in this semester's Research Talk Series: VR and AI in the Classroom. Open to all!

### Wednesday, November 27th

- Reading Day; No Classes**

### Thursday, November 28th

- University Holiday; No Classes**

### Friday, November 29th

- University Holiday; No Classes**

## December

### Thursday, December 5th

- Last Class Day; Last Day to Resign by 4PM**

### Friday, December 6th

- Reading Day; No Classes**

### Monday, December 9th - Thursday, December 12th

- Final Examinations**

### Thursday, December 12th - Saturday, December 14th

- Commencement**

### Monday, December 16th

- Deadline for Filing Grades**



## Want to be Featured?

Join the conversation and use the form below to help us tell your stories!

[Newsletter  
Submission Form](#)



## Contact Us

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