# http://www.ric.edu/webcommunications/images/SealWithText_Small_Black.pngUNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC) PROPOSAL FORM

## Cover page scroll over blue text to see further important [instructions](#instructions): [if not working select “COMMents on rollover” in your Word preferences under view] **please read these.**

**N.B. ALL numbered categories in section (A) must be completed. Please do not use highlight to select choices within a category but simply delete the options that do not apply to your proposal (e.g. in A.2 if this is a course revision proposal, just delete the creation and deletion options and the various program ones, so it reads “course revision”) Do not delete any of the numbered categories—if they do not apply leave them blank. If there are no resources impacted please put “none” in each A. 7 category.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A.1. [Course or program](#Proposal) | **COMM 256 Social Media and Society** | | | |  |
| [Replacing](#Ifapplicable) | **comm 256 Human Communication and New Technology** | | | |
| A. 1b. Academic unit | **Faculty of Arts and Sciences** | | | |  |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | **Course revision** | | | |  |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | **Giselle Auger** | [Home department](#home_dept) | **Communication** | | |
| A.4. [Context and Rationale](#Rationale)  Note: Must include additional information in smart tip for all [new programs](#type) | **We are proposing to change the name of COMM 256 “Human Communication and New Technology” to “Social Media and Society.” The new title would more accurately reflect the content of the course, which is centered on analysis of and discussion about social media—i.e., one of the most relevant forms of “new technology” in the field of human communication. In addition to being more accurate, the new title would also be more attractive to students who may be interested in the course.**  **We are also changing the course description to address this name change and more accurately reflect the content of the course, as well as to make the description more student-centered.**  **Additionally, we are changing the “Offered” section and “Delivery Method” in order to better reflect when and how the course is offered.**  **Also, we are eliminating the current prerequisite (COMM 251W), as prerequisites are optional for 200-level courses and we do not feel that the prerequisite is necessary.**  **Further, we are proposing that this course receives General Education status, specifically in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category. We are proposing this change because we feel strongly that this course addresses a topic (i.e., social media and computer-mediated communication [CMC]) that is both interesting and highly relevant to the lives of all students—not just Communication majors—and therefore it would benefit all student to learn more about the ways in which social media and CMC affect our communication and interactions with others, specifically when examining this topic from a social science perspective.** | | | | |
| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact)  Must include to explain why this change is being made? | **The new course title more accurately reflects the actual content of the course and should therefore be beneficial to students without negative effect. The change in Gen Ed status to allow this course to be included as a Gen Ed course would provide undergraduate students with an additional Gen Ed course option that addresses a topic that is interesting and highly relevant to their own lives.** | | | | |
| A.6. [Impact on other programs](#impact) | **None** | | | | |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | [*Faculty PT & FT*](#faculty): | **None** | | | |
| [*Library*:](#library) | **None** | | | |
| [*Technology*](#technology) | **None** | | | |
| [*Facilities*](#facilities): | **None** | | | |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | **Fall 2023** | A.9. [Rationale if sooner than next Fall](#Semester_effective) | |  | |
| A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: Use the Word copy versions of the catalog sections found on the UCC Forms and Information page. Cut and paste into a single file **ALL the relevant pages from the college catalog that need to be changed.** Use tracked changes feature to show how the catalog will be revised as you type in the revisions. If totally new copy, indicate where it should go in the catalog. If making related proposals a single catalog copy that includes all changes is preferred. Send catalog copy as a separate single Word file along with this form. | | | | | |
| A.11. List here (with the relevant urls), any RIC website pages that will need to be updated (to which your department does not have access) if this proposal is approved, with an explanation as to what needs to be revised:  N/A | | | | | |
| A. 12 **Check to see if your proposal will impact any of our** [**transfer** **agreements,**](file:///C:\Users\gauger_6325\Downloads\transfer%20agreements) **and if it does explain in what way. Please indicate clearly what will need to be updated. This will impact our transfer agreements which will be updated as needed.**  This will impact transfer agreements related to the course. The name of the course in transfer agreements will need to be updated to “Social Media and Society,” the course description will need to be updated, and course information will need to be updated to reflect that the course is designated as a Gen Ed—although the course code and number will remain the same, lessening the urgency and impact of the change. | | | | | |
| A. 13 Check the section that lists “Possible NECHE considerations” on the UCC Forms and Information page and if any apply, indicate what that might be here and contact Institutional Research for further guidance.  N/A | | | | | |

B. [NEW OR REVISED COURSES](#delete_if)  **Delete section B if the proposal does not include a new or revised course. As in section A. do not highlight but simply delete suggested options not being used. Always fill in b. 1 and B. 3 for context. NOTE: course learning outcomes and topical outlines only needed for new or substantially revised courses.**

|  | Old ([for revisions only](#Revisions)) ONLY include information that is being revised, otherwise leave blank. | New Examples are provided within some of the boxes for guidance, delete just the examples that do not apply. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| B.1. [Course prefix and number](#cours_title) | **COMM 256** | **COMM 256** |
| B.2. Cross listing number if any |  |  |
| B.3. [Course title](#title) | **Human Communication and New Technology** | **Social Media and Society** |
| B.4. [Course description](#description) | Explores how human communication occurs through new technologies, including the Internet, social media, mobile communication, and virtual spaces. Students will study both theory and praxis in professional and personal contexts. | Students will explore how human communication occurs through social media and related forms of computer-mediated communication. Students will study both theory and praxis in interpersonal, social, and professional contexts. |
| B.5. [Prerequisite(s)](#prereqs) | **COMM 251 or COMM 251W** | **No prerequisite.** |
| B.6. [Offered](#Offered) | **Spring** | **Spring, Summer** |
| B.7. [Contact hours](#contacthours) |  |  |
| B.8. [Credit hours](#credits) |  |  |
| B.9. [Justify differences if any](#differences) |  | |
| B.10. [Grading system](#grading) |  |  |
| B.11. [Instructional methods](#instr_methods) |  |  |
| B.11.a [Delivery Method](#instr_methods) | **On campus** | **In person, Hybrid** |
| B.12. CATEGORIES  12. a. [How](#required) to be used |  | **Restricted elective for major/minor; free elective** |
| 12 b. Is this an Honors  course? | **No** | **No** |
| 12. c. [General Education](#ge)  N.B. Connections must include at  least 50% Standard Classroom  instruction. | **No** | **Yes: Social & Behavioral Sciences** |
| 12. d. Writing in the  Discipline (WID) | **No** | **No** |
| B.13. [How will student performance be evaluated?](#performance) |  |  |
| B.14 [Recommended class-size](#class_size" \o "Check appendix XVIII in the UCC Manual for Best Practices) |  |  |
| B.15. [Redundancy statement](#competing) |  |  |
| B. 16. Other changes, if any |  | |

| B.17**.** [**Course learning outcomes**](#outcomes)**: List each one in a separate row** | [**Professional Org.Standard(s)**](#standards)**, if relevant** | [**How will each outcome be measured**](#measured)**?** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Written Communication:* Students will produce writing that is organized, clear and grammatically correct, supported by evidence, and adheres to academic standards for social sciences. |  | **Papers** |
| *Critical and Creative Thinking:* Students will analyze multiple perspectives on social media and CMC before drawing their own conclusions. Students will produce innovative, original work that expresses their own experiences with and opinions about social media and CMC. |  | **Class participation, Group activities, Exams, Presentations, Papers.** |
| *Oral Communication*: Students will be able to deliver a clear and professional oral presentation that engages their audience and effectively informs them about a topic of interest. |  | **Class participation, Group activities, Presentations.** |
| *Collaborative Work:* Students will work collaboratively with a group in order to accomplish an assigned task. |  | **Group activities, Presentations.** |
| *Civic Knowledge:* Students will be able to identify how social media and CMC can have positive and negative impacts on our social and political systems. |  | **Class participation, Group activities, Exams, Presentations, Papers.** |
| *Ethical Reasoning*: Students will understand the ethical issues that are faced in the use of social media and CMC in personal, social, and professional contexts. |  | **Class participation, Group activities, Exams, Presentations, Papers.** |
| *Scientific Literacy:* Students will understand how social science research related to social media and CMC is conducted, and will be able to interpret and make meaning from the results of this research. |  | **Class participation, Exams, Presentations.** |

| B.18. [**Topical outline**](#outline)**: DO NOT INSERT WHOLE SYLLABUS, JUST A TWO-TIER TOPIC OUTLINE suitable for the contact hours requested. Proposals that ignore this request will be returned for revision.** |
| --- |
| 1. Introduction to CMC and Social Media    1. Characteristics of CMC and social media 2. Social Media and Interpersonal Communication    1. Perception and relationship formation    2. Emotion    3. (Anti)Social media    4. Cyberbullying    5. Online dating 3. Social Media, Culture, and Politics    1. Political communication and “fake news”    2. Strategic communication and social media    3. Privacy    4. Influencers    5. Social media and body image    6. Free speech and cancel culture 4. CMC and Social Media in Professional Communication    1. Virtual collaboration and CMC in the workplace    2. eHealth, mHealth, and telehealth |

## D. Signatures

* **Changes that affect General Education in any way MUST be approved by ALL Deans and COGE Chair**.
* Changes that directly impact more than one department/program MUST have the signatures of all relevant department chairs, program directors, and their relevant dean (e.g. when creating/revising a program using courses from other departments/programs). Check UCC manual 4.2 for further guidelines on whether the signatures need to be approval or acknowledgement.
* Proposals that do not have appropriate approval signatures will not be considered.
* Type in name of person signing and their position/affiliation.
* Send electronic files of this proposal and accompanying catalog copy to [curriculum@ric.edu](mailto:curriculum@ric.edu) to the current Chair of UCC. Check UCC website for due dates. Do NOT convert to a .pdf.

##### D.1. Approvals: required from programs/departments/deans who originate the proposal. THESE may include multiple departments, e.g., for joint/interdisciplinary proposals.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Giselle Auger | Chair of Communication | Giselle A. Auger | 2/24/2023 |
| Joseph Zornado | Chair of COGE | \*Approved by email | 4/7/2023 |
| Earl Simson | Dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences | Earl Simson | 4/7/2023 |
| Jeannine Dingus-Eason | Dean of Education | \*Approved by email | 4/7/2023 |
| Jayashree Nimmagadda | Interim Dean of Social Work | \*Approved by email | 4/7/2023 |
| Justin Dilibero | Interim Dean of Nursing | \*Approved by email | 4/7/2023 |
| Marianne Raimondo | Interim Dean of Business | \*Approved by email | 4/11/2023 |

##### D.2. [Acknowledgements](#acknowledge): REQUIRED from OTHER PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS (and their relevant deans if not already included above) that are IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSAL. SIGNATURE DOES NOT INDICATE APPROVAL, ONLY AWARENESS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BEING SUBMITTED. CONCERNS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE UCC COMMITTEE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION; all faculty are welcome to attend.