Overview

In the course of the next three weeks we will focus on Communication as a discipline, and Communication as a concept. Readings for the first week will orient us to two key issues:

1. What is communication (as both a [scholarly and vernacular] concept, and as a process)?
2. What are the history, current state, and future prospects of the field?

Discussion on 10/1 will center around the following readings:


These readings are all in the Pequod packet.

In the second week we will examine some of the “grand masters” of the Communication field; scholars whose approaches to Communication have been particularly influential, even though they may not be affiliated explicitly with the Communication discipline. As they form an intellectual backdrop for the field, how does each of these readings help us better understand why and how communication represents an important site of scholarly inquiry?

Discussion on 10/8 will focus on the following:
In the third week, **10/15**, we will consider some examples of the research interests of faculty in the Communication Processes area of the Ph.D. program. Most of the members of this area are affiliated with the Department of Communication. The department’s research and curricular focus centers around three interrelated core areas: Social Interaction, Organizational Communication, and Mediated Communication, with problem-oriented concerns including Health, Identity, Organizational Quality, Globalization, and Gender falling at the intersection of these core areas of focus.

The readings for this week come from Linda C. Lederman & W. David Gibson (Eds.). *Communication theory: A casebook approach*. This is the second edition of a reader constructed for use in our undergraduate communication theory course to make available to students a sampling of the multiple perspectives within the department. You should read articles by Lederman, Mokros & Deetz, Mandelbaum, Stewart et al., Frank & Ekman, Aakhus, Ruben, Taylor, Doerfel, Rice, and Katz. Pay particular attention to two of these articles that relate best to your research interest, and come to class prepared to discuss these in detail, in addition to the others.