What Integrated Clusters Might Mean to Communication and Media Studies Students

The idea of Integrated Clusters is something new here at Plymouth State University. By having Integrated Clusters as the main organizational framework for your academic experience, you will be able to differentiate yourself from other college graduates because of the kinds of engagement that this structure fosters. One key aspect (and there are more than one!) is that interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration will be a natural part of every student’s experience in their major. Additionally, Integrated Clusters emerge around areas of interest that are relevant to the real world and lived experience. So, your experiences both inside the classroom and outside of the classroom will be relevant to the world today and point toward the possibilities for tomorrow and beyond. The communication and media industry is already interdisciplinary and collaborative by nature. So it is most likely that any job you seek will requires interdisciplinary thinking and collaborative engagement. As a Communication and Media Studies major, you will benefit by this new structure and the new way of engagement that we are advocating through Integrated Clusters because it will teach you how to engage in the same way the marketplace does. I fully believe that Integrated Cluster experiences will better prepare you for the real world workplace and for a sustainable future that is not yet in sight to us today. By the time you graduate from Plymouth State, you will be able to talk about your educational journey in experiential ways and you will be an interdisciplinary thinker, collaborator, problem-solver, and change agent for the future.

Dr. Annette Holba
Course Spotlight - CM2000:

Studies in Communication and Media

CM 2000: Studies in Communication and Media is required for every Communication student, regardless of their focus. This class, which is recommended to every incoming Communication student, presents the perfect introduction to what the study of Communication is and what it isn't.

Taught by both Professor Scott Coykendall and Dr. Eun-Ho Yeo, the course briefly describes Communication as a whole and how it can be implemented in your life. The type of work done in this course includes basic reading and writing supplemented by dynamic video essays that allow for creative expression and enhanced understanding of the material.

Straight from Professor Coykendall, here's how professors designed this course for students:

“We imagined CM 2000 Studies in Communication and Media as two things. First, we wanted a way to speak to new majors in both options about the sorts of questions our discipline(s) asks (after all, we already communicate all the time, what could there be to study?). Second, we wanted to start new students off with an understanding how we expect comm. majors to write, present, read, and analyze texts/messages.”

Being a communication major as I am, (Joey Burgess, UG ‘19) I have already completed CM 2000 and it truly is a great introduction to this department. It served as a stepping stone into the college experience and provided insight to the key concepts and relevant topics of the major.
Unique Courses in Communication and Media Studies

CM2991 - Social Media Audience Engagement:
Explore the benefits of understanding how to engage with audiences through all forms of social media!

CM3100 - Communicating Through Animation:
Develop new ways of visual communication that you may never have had access to before!

CM 3670 - Journalism:
Improve and develop your writing skills through a new perspective!

CMDI 2100 - The Digital Imagination:
Satisfy one of your General Education requirements, while you explore and enhance your creative side through visual arts!

CMDI 2020 - Sex and Cinema in the 20th Century (and Beyond):
Explore the evolution and social construction of sex, gender and sexual orientation in narrative cinema during the 20th century (and beyond).
The Communication Honor Society, or Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), consists of a group of students who are passionate about going the extra mile. They are all about giving back.

For example, LPH films the Sidore Lecture Series on campus. This way, the lectures are archived for future viewings.

Starting this semester, LPH is also sponsoring a mentor program for the department. Upperclassmen will be able to work with underclassmen and help them along the way with things like choosing courses, how to handle course work, and whatever else they may need.

Juniors and Seniors in LPH (who are new to the Society) are eligible to be inducted in the Spring semester. Then they can say that they graduated with honors, and it is a great resume builder!

Qualifications for induction are:
* 60+ credits completed overall
* 12+ credits completed in the major
* Overall GPA of 3.00 or more
* GPA within the major at least 3.25

If you would like to join LPH, or just check out what they do, please come to a meeting.

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PSU FILM CLUB

With the help of its new President, PSU’s renowned Film Club has evolved into a student-run creative machine. Weekly meetings include collaborative projects and pitches, followed by discussions in a family-like atmosphere.

Film Club is a place for creators. Students can create films, photography projects, art pieces, and just about anything one could dream up.

The goal is to create a space for students to express their ideas and have the support and resources to execute them.

Meets: Wednesday @ 4:15pm Lamson 031 Lab (Basement of Library)
Advisors: Scott Coykendall
President: Alexandra (Lexi) Hadley