

**Honors Opportunities in the  
Hugh Downs School of Human Communication  
2014-2015**

**Faculty Honors Advisors:**

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The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication welcomes its Honors students. As an Honors student you will have the opportunity to work closely with some of the nation's top scholars in the study of Interpersonal, Organizational, & Intercultural Communication, Rhetoric and Performance Studies, as well as in New Media, Health Communication, and Strategic Communication. HDSHC faculty are well-known for their cutting-edge methodologies and innovative research. The knowledge and skills you develop as a HDSHC Honors student can provide professional as well as personal benefits, whether you pursue graduate study or other career development after college graduation.

Each Honors student in the HDSHC selects a program of study that mixes core requirements and electives. While we do not have a specific set of courses required for Honors students, you may opt to request an Honors Enrichment Contract for any course, and plans are underway for the regular offering of special Honors-only courses and sections.

If you are already enrolled as an honors student you should contact one of the Faculty Honors Advisors—either Dr. de la Garza or Dr. Martin, whose names and contact information are provided above. They, along with our other advisors, will assist you in planning your courses, but will especially help you to find a thesis director and prepare for the thesis experience. Be sure to meet with them and to attend the meeting for Honors students at the start of each semester

**Honors Enrichment Contracts:**

There are many opportunities to complete Honors contracts in Communication courses at the HDSHC. Contracts can generally be completed in any course that is taught by a faculty member or an instructor, as long as the faculty member/instructor agrees to do

so. (Contracts *cannot* be completed in courses taught by graduate students—who are listed as “staff” on the Course Schedule.)

Specific requirements vary from course to course and professor to professor, so students should discuss their proposed projects with the professor to negotiate an agreed upon contract. For example, some professors have a standard set of requirements that need to be completed in order to fulfill an honors contract. Some require a research paper on a topic related to the course where students conduct library research or complete a series of activities--in addition to regular coursework. Other professors require a 10-15 minute class presentation in addition to written work. A variety of options are possible, depending on what the professor negotiates with you. Be creative and have a good conversation with your professor when deciding what you will be doing!

For general information on Barrett Honors enrichment contracts, visit <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts/>

#### **Barrett Honors in the HDSHC –Facebook Page:**

Be sure and “like” the Barrett Honors in Human Communication at ASU page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asubarrettincom> (You do not need to ‘friend’ the Faculty Advisors in order to ‘like’ the page.) There will be special announcements and reminders on this page, as well as listings of events, and professional opportunities that you might wish to make part of your Honors experience in Communication. There will even be occasional funding, conference, and publication opportunities announced here.

#### **Other Opportunities in the HDSHC:**

Listed below are some of the regular opportunities available in the Hugh Downs School. This year, your FHAs are working to make several new opportunities available for Honors students only. These will be announced as the logistical details are worked out.

In the meantime, consider these opportunities:

For example, the Hugh Downs School has an active **internship program** where career-driven students can hone their communication skills and gain valuable practical experience in challenging positions—in large and small organizations. For information about the Internship program, go to <http://humancommunication.clas.asu.edu/undergraduate/internships>

In addition, the Hugh Downs school offers an annual summer school **study abroad opportunity** in Great Britain and Ireland where students can improve their intercultural communication skills (another set of skills valued by most employers), learn about the

cultures of the British Isles while earning up to 6 Communication credits. For information about this program, go to

<http://humancommunication.clas.asu.edu/comstudyabroad.asu.edu>

Finally, we are fortunate that many of our faculty work with honors students in helping them complete their thesis projects. Many professors serve as thesis directors, or readers on honors thesis committees and all faculty members are happy to meet with honors students to discuss possible thesis ideas. See “**Completing an Honors Thesis in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication**” for thesis guidelines and some past topics as well as a list of School faculty

<http://humancommunication.clas.asu.edu/undergraduate/barrett> .

**Completing an Honors Thesis in the  
Hugh Downs School of Human Communication  
(updated, September 2014)**

*Overview.*

Completing an Honors thesis in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication (HDSHC) allows for a broad range of possible topics and methodologies. Previous Honors Thesis projects have covered research that: compares body image among adolescents and older women, examined nonverbal behavior in the courtroom, explored how social media can be used to avert public relations disasters, analyzes social movements like PETA, questioned the role of identity in intercultural communication, and studied the culture of Arizona wildfire fighters. These are just a few of the topics—as an emphasis on human communication allows for one’s interests to be studied from a wide range of topical perspectives and in varying contexts.

Additionally, Honors theses can also employ a range of methodologies, including online or paper survey questionnaires, ethnographic fieldwork and autoethnography, a range of interview types, creative performances, participant observation, and rhetorical analyses.

Completing an honors thesis in the HDSHC provides the first step towards establishing your expertise formally, while it provides you with valuable research experience . The thesis process will help you hone your investigative skills, as well as your oral and written communication skills, which all COM majors recognize as increasingly important in today’s competitive work environment.

*Faculty Honors Advisors.*

The Faculty Honors Advisors in the HDSHC are Dr. Amira de la Garza ([Delagarza@asu.edu](mailto:Delagarza@asu.edu)) and Dr. Judith Martin ([Judith.Martin@asu.edu](mailto:Judith.Martin@asu.edu)). Their offices are located in StaufferHall: Dr. de la Garza is in Room A341, and Dr. Martin is in Room A458. You may also visit the HDSHC website faculty page to find out their current office hours, as they change each semester:

<http://humancommunication.clas.asu.edu/people/faculty>

*First Steps.*

1. Students are encouraged to select a research topic in an area that is particularly interesting to them. One place to start is to consider which communication courses are of particular interest. Of course, Communication faculty members are available to discuss students' potential thesis topics and methods.
2. Students should also consider their research methods preference/expertise when choosing a research topic. This is of extreme importance to completing many projects!
3. Communication faculty members are available to discuss students' potential thesis topics and methods. You should schedule a time to talk with one of the Faculty Honors Advisors if you'd like to determine the possibilities and 'fit' of particular faculty members in the HDSHC who may serve as the members of your committee.

*Academic Requirements of All Honors Students in the HDSHC.*

- The maximum number of honors thesis credit allowed by for a thesis/creative project in our School is 6 credits (Students must register for COM 492 and COM 493).
- Before enrolling in COM 492 or 493, **all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session**. You can meet this requirement by completing *one* of the following:
  - o HON 498 "Thesis Prep Course," a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus
  - o One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett
  - o The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard.

For general Information about Barrett College thesis/creative project guidelines (including information about thesis prep workshops, visit

<http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>)

*Specific Thesis Requirements.*

Please obtain a *Thesis Planning Checklist\** from one of the Faculty Honors Advisors. This checklist should be signed and dated by a FHA as you progress with your thesis process in anticipation of the Barrett requirements for filing a prospectus, submitting a draft, and scheduling your ultimate defense.

1. **Methods.** It is highly advisable that you meet with an honors advisor at least a year before you propose your thesis to determine the methods you might need to accomplish your desired thesis project. This may require enrollment in a methods course or an independent study in methods with an approved faculty member. If you have let time lapse and have not yet done this, please schedule this meeting as soon as possible.
2. **Your Committee Chair.** The Committee Chair must be approved by a Faculty Honors Advisor (Dr. de la Garza or Dr. Martin). You may select a chair for your thesis committee from the list of faculty provided herein. If you have particular reasons for requesting

someone else, please schedule a meeting with an Honors advisor to determine the appropriate avenue to pursue. There are numerous instructors and lecturers in the Hugh Downs School who are strong scholars and offer particular strengths that may be desirable to you, depending on your research interests. It is advised that the Director of your committee have a Ph.D., but this, also, is negotiable, based on your ability to demonstrate that the scholar is being selected on the basis of particular expertise that will benefit your specific thesis plans.

3. **Committee Composition.** In addition to your Committee Chair, you *must* have a second reader with a Ph.D., from the faculty of Arizona State University at large, including the faculty of the HDSHC. Your committee may have a third committee member, who may be an expert of your choice with expertise related to the thesis project. This person need not have a Ph.D., and may also be someone external to Arizona State University, but must indicate a willingness to serve.

*It is the responsibility of the Honors Student to file the names of the Committee Chair and Committee Members with Barrett: The Honors College, as required by Barrett.*

## Hugh Downs School of Human Communication

### Honors Thesis Planning Checklist

This checklist is provided to assist Honors students to remember the internal requirements within the HDSHC towards completion of the Honors Thesis. The FHAs will not collect this form from you, but will maintain their own records to assure that progress is being made to help you graduate with Honors.

1. Methods Meeting with FHA (ideally held at least a year before submitting your prospectus).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ FHA Sign.: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

2. Methods Readiness Confirmed with FHA.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ FHA Sign.: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Identification of Committee Member.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ FHA Sign.: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

4. Identification of Committee Composition.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ FHA Sign.: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Communication Honors Faculty:

The following faculty are automatically eligible to serve as an Honors Thesis Director in the HDSHC. Please check the [Faculty Listing on the HDSHC website](#) to see others who are possible choices as a Director or committee member:

[Bradley Adame](#), Assistant Professor

Research interests: social influence, crisis communication, message design

[Jess K Alberts](#), President's Professor

Research interests: conflict, relational communication and, work-life issues

[Benjamin Broome](#), Professor

Research interests: intercultural conflict, facilitation, dialogue and peace building

[Dan Brouwer](#), Associate Professor

Research interests: rhetoric, social sphere and social movements

[Pauline Hope Cheong](#), Associate Professor

Research interests: communication technologies and social media, culture, religion, transnational and international communication

[Steven R Corman](#), Professor

Research interests: organizational communication, networks, terrorism and technology

[Pauline Davies](#), Professor of practice

Research interests: Science communication & broadcasting; science in society; cancer & physical sciences communication

[Olga I Davis](#), Associate Professor

Research interests: health equity, identity and culture, critical health communication, diaspora performance

[Sarah "Amira" De la Garza](#), Associate Professor (Faculty Honors Advisor)

Research interests: culture, spirituality and identity, performance ethnography, creative writing and qualitative & postcolonial research methodologies

[Uttaran Dutta](#), Assistant Professor

Research Interests: intercultural communication, design and methodology

[Kory Floyd](#), Professor

Research interests: physiology, affection, family communication and nonverbal communication

[Laura Guerrero](#), Professor

Research interests: relational and nonverbal communication and emotion

[Lee Gutkind](#), Professor

Research interests: creative nonfiction, writing

[Linda Lederman](#), Professor and Director

Research interests: health communication and instructional communication

[Eric Margolis](#), Associate Professor

Research interests: sociology of education, visual sociology, qualitative research methods

[Judith N Martin](#), Professor (Faculty Honors Advisor)

Research interests: intercultural communication, ethnicity and communication, and sojourner communication

[Robert D McPhee](#), Professor

Research interests: structuration theory, organizational constitution, communication theory

[Kathy Miller](#), Visiting Professor

Research interests: organizational, health, and family communication

[Paul Mongeau](#), Professor

Research interests: interpersonal communication and social influence

[Anthony J Roberto](#), Associate Professor

Research interests: health communication campaigns, persuasion and interpersonal communication

[Robert Shuter](#), Research Professor

Research Interests: intercultural communication, multinational organizational communication, diversity and communication, new media across cultures

[Sarah Tracy](#), Professor

Research interests: organizations, work-life wellness, emotion and workplace bullying

[Belle Edson](#), Associate Instructional Professional

Research interests: contemporary rhetorical studies, feminist theory, the rhetoric of social movements and performance studies

[Clark D Olson](#), Full Academic Professional

Research interests: rhetorical irony and political widow rhetoric

[Jennifer Linde](#), Senior Lecturer and Artistic Director of The Empty Space

Research Interests: performance studies, civil dialogue, gender studies



*Samples of Past Honors Thesis Topics in the HDSHC:*

(These are provided to simply demonstrate the array of possibilities, and are not meant to limit you in any way. If you are interested in something not listed here, by all means discuss it with your professors and Faculty Honors Advisor! We will help you accomplish your desired goals!)

**Interpersonal Communication**

Maintenance Strategies in Long Distance versus Proximal Close Relationships.  
Comparisons of Body Image among Adolescents and Older Women

**Organizational Communication**

Sex Differences in Managerial Work Styles  
Conflict Resolution Strategies in an Insurance Company  
Job Satisfaction and Work Variables  
Analysis of Organizational Structure of Barrett: The Honors College  
Ethnographic Study of Arizona Wild Fire Fighters

**Intercultural Communication**

Cultural Analysis of the Arizona Tribal Gaming Initiative  
Relationship between Intercultural Friendship Patterns and Attitudes toward Intercultural Dating  
Nonverbal Communications in Various Settings in Western Samoa  
Autoethnographic Grounded Theory Analysis of Identity and Intercultural Communication

**Health Communication**

Persuasion strategies related to Pharmacists and Patient Compliance  
Causes of Unsafe Drinking on Campus  
Using the EPPM Persuasion Model to Increase Sun Safety Among College Females

**Rhetorical**

Feminist Songwriters and Women's Bodies  
Social Movement Analysis of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)  
Contested American Values Demonstrated in the Welfare Reform Act of 1998

**New Media**

Use of Social Media to Avert Public Relations Disasters  
Analysis of Online Content of Religious Blogs

**Performance Studies**

Forced Labor and Sex Trafficking among Filipino women  
Performing Femininity  
Exploring Discursive Identity Construction and "What it Means to be a Man"