

If you're unsure of whether you're interested in studying organizational communication, **consider these questions:**

If the FBI and CIA had communicated more effectively with each other, could the attacks of September 11th have been prevented?

Could the lives of the astronauts on the Challenger and Columbia space shuttles been spared had there not been organizational barriers that prevented effective communication of critical safety information?

How did Bernie Madoff get away with running his company as a Ponzi scheme, swindling investors out of 20 billion dollars?

What makes Google such a coveted place to work that the odds of an applicant getting hired there are lower than a high school senior's odds of getting accepted by Harvard?

Why do we often see frustratingly slow and inadequate responses to humanitarian crises following natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina?

From these questions and many others, we get a sense of why the study of organizational communication is so important. In this course we will look at the issues researchers are currently exploring as well as investigate historical background and theoretical frameworks for looking at organizations and organizing.

In COMM 385 we will combine lectures, discussions, in-class activities, readings and assignments to help us analyze and think critically about the complexities of organizations and organizing.

If you have any questions about the class as you're planning your schedule, please feel free to email me at jilliank@usc.edu.

