

**COMM 598: Practicum in Global Communication Research  
Spring 2020, ASC 231**

Instructors:

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Course Description:

COMM 598 is the required research capstone course for the M.A. in Global Communication, a program that is jointly taught with the London School of Economics. This course is only open to students in the Global Communication program. This class fulfills the MA thesis requirement at USC. It also requires a practicum experience (an internship/externship on or off campus).

Course Objectives:

- To advance research in global communication and media
- To develop skills using multiple research methods and field data collection
- To learn how to edit and revise one's work
- To produce a publishable or conference quality research project or industry white paper
- To gain work experience through an internship/externship

The practicum/internship experience will not only will help students gain work or research experience, but it can also help students gain access to data for their thesis project. Many students over the years have received permission from the organizations where they are interning to use work project data for their thesis projects or to survey members of the organization where they intern.

### Research Project:

This class offers students a number of options to choose from as they design their culminating research project:

- 1) Students can extend, refine and enhance their LSE dissertation project in order to submit it for publication.
- 2) Students can develop a project from another LSE or USC course and get it ready for either conference submission or have it published as an industry whitepaper (usually published on a website).
- 3) Some students may wish to begin a new project to create a portfolio piece that will be useful on the job market as a whitepaper or applied research, although they should be aware that this may be more time-consuming than the other options.

### Assignments and Grading:

(Assignment descriptions are posted on Blackboard.)

Project proposal and presentation	25% (only the written proposal is graded but the presentation is still required!)
Final research paper	60%
Presentation of final research paper	15%

Students will be supervised by one of the course instructors. Other professors in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism who have subject matter expertise can be contacted and asked to help guide the research project. The final research project is graded solely by the assigned supervisor—either Dr. Riley, Dr. Hollihan, or Dr. Aronson. Requests for extensions or incompletes must be submitted in writing/email to your supervisor and accompanied by a note from your doctor or other explanatory material.

### Readings:

Core readings are posted on Blackboard. Additional handouts will be uploaded to Blackboard based on the class' research topics and methodologies.

### Attendance and Deadlines:

Attendance is required for the first two weeks of the term and for all presentation days unless you have prior permission to be excused. Missed deadlines or missed classes without prior approval can result in lowering a grade by half a point.

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](https://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355– 24/7 on call*

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/>

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/>

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298*

[equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](https://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report/](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](https://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

<https://uscса.usc.edu/>

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](https://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Annenberg Student Success Fund*

<https://annenberг.usc.edu/current-students/resources/annenberг-scholarships-and-awards>

The Annenberg Student Success Fund is a donor-funded financial aid account available to USC Annenberg undergraduate and graduate students for non-tuition expenses related to extra- and co-curricular programs and opportunities.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to Dr. Riley as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for [DSP \(https://dsp.usc.edu/\)](https://dsp.usc.edu/) and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) [dspfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:dspfrontdesk@usc.edu).

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of

academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/COURSE CONTINUITY IN A CRISIS

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on [Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness](#).

Class schedule:

- January 16: Introductions  
Discussion of possible Annenberg practicum projects (all have to be data-based--post research topics by midnight Tuesday, January 21)  
Whitepaper discussion  
Internships discussion  
Internships for this term should be secured by the end of the drop-add period (Friday, January 31).  
OPT discussion  
Graduation discussion
- January 23: Proposal writing  
Discussion of proposal presentations  
Final project expectations—format should match publication outlet  
Global leadership expectations  
Qualitative and quantitative research methods updates (readings on Blackboard)  
Supervisor assignments and expectations  
Sign up for presentation dates  
First group meeting with supervisor
- January 30: Workshop on research software (if needed)
- February 6: Work with faculty on proposals
- February 13: Work with faculty on proposals
- February 20: *Skype call with first-year LSE students at 9:00 am (room TBA)*  
Presentation of proposed study (for students continuing their LSE dissertations)  
Post or send URL for slides
- February 27: Presentations of proposed topics continued (for students continuing prior LSE or USC coursework)  
Post or send URL for slides
- March 5: Presentation of proposed topics for students starting new projects)  
Post or send URL for slides
- March 12: ***Written proposals due*** by midnight (no class)
- March 19: Spring Break!
- March 26: Work with faculty on final project

- April 2: Work with faculty on final project
- April 9: Work with faculty on final project
- April 16: Work with faculty on final project
- April 23: Work with faculty on final project
- April 30: Work with faculty on final project
- May 1: Presentation of Practicum Research Papers, post slides or URL for presentation site by 8:00 AM (NOTE: THE PRESENTATION DAY IS A FRIDAY AND YOU NEED TO CLEAR THE WHOLE DAY IF YOU HAVE AN INTERNSHIP—breakfast and lunch will be served!) We will start at 9:00AM and should be finished by 4:30.  
***Final papers due by midnight—please email to your supervisor!***
- May 15: Happy Days! Commencement on the 15<sup>th</sup> (reception for families and guests follows the ceremony). Graduation party honoring the visit of Dr. Terhi Rantanen and the new grads and their families at Patti and Tom's house on May 16 at 6:00 PM (Invitation to follow).