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**Sample Plan of Study:**

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**MA Thesis/Non-Thesis Plan of Study for (Insert Name Here)**

My studies so far in the Communication Department at USF have adopted a Third World perspective to understand social movements as an area of organizing resistance. Using labor organizations as the site of my research, I investigate how communication works among laborers in organizing their movements or, in other words, what are the communication strategies of laborers in organizing resistances in the Third World countries. In addition, my research interest lies in exploring communication issues of female laborers from a Third World standpoint.

My plan of study has been a personal journey of bringing Third World voices in the Western academy where the voices of subalterns are historically absent. And my research interest stems from my background as a Third World female scholar in the Western academy. Similar to most people in the Third World countries, as a Bangladeshi citizen, I have come from a climate of social instability and economic inequity, and, most importantly, my female identity often makes me more vulnerable. Thus, my work on Third World labor organizations, especially female laborers, is also an effort to make contributions in the context of women’s empowerment.

In my first year of coursework, I have strongly focused on the areas of organizational communication and media study as the theoretical outlines. The qualitative methodology of organizational communication along with theories of framing and sensemaking, feminism, and post-colonialism have intersected in my research to explore how social movements have been organized and how narratives regarding movement are being structured by the mass media. For example, two of my recent research projects have dealt with a students’ movement and a garment workers’ protest in Bangladesh by using media framing and postcolonial theoretical frameworks. My research aims to explore how power and control work within an organization, how western dominance and hegemony work in Third World countries, how neo-colonialism functions in a subtle ways in the age of neoliberalism, and what makes Third World feminism different from feminism in the West. Through my works on Third World social movement I am hoping to make a contribution on the discipline of organizational communication by bringing into view alternative ways of organizing movements that differ from predominant Western understandings.

In the spring of 2020, I will sit for my comprehensive exam with a focus on organizational communication, media framing, and Third World feminism.

Please note that for the MA Thesis Track the student would have an oral defense of their thesis instead of comprehensive exams.

**Course Work**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title of Courses | Credits | Semester | Professor | Grade |
| Method Courses |
| COM 7325: Quantitative Methods\* | 3 | Fall 2018 | Dr. Joshua Scacco | A |
| COM 7933: Framing and Sense-making\*(PhD Seminar) | 3 | Spring 2019 | Dr. Jane Jorgenson | A |
| COM 7325: Qualitative Methods\* | 3 | Fall 2019 | Dr. Mariaelena Bartesaghi | A |
|  Theory Courses |
| COM 6001: Theories and Histories of Communication\* | 3 | Fall 2018 | Dr. Patrice Buzzanell and Dr. Marleah Kruzel | A |
| WST 6560: Advanced Feminist Theory (Women’s and Gender Studies, USF) | 3 | Fall 2018 | Dr. David Rubin | A |
| COM 6934: Power and Control in Organizational\* | 3 | Spring 2019 | Dr. Mahuya Pal | A |
| COM 7933: Postcolonial Thoughts in Communication\* (PhD Seminar) | 3 | Spring 2019 | Dr. Ambar Basu | A |
| Warning SPC 6903: Directed Reading + ( Should be taken for MA Thesis students who need hours in Summer) | 3 | Summer 2019 | Dr. Jane Jorgenson | A |
| COM 7933: Ethics\*(PhD Seminar) | 3 | Fall 2019 | Dr. Lori A. Roscoe | A |
| COM 6345: Contemporary Cultural Studies | 3 | Fall 2019 | Dr. Aisha Durham | A |
| COM 6121: Organizational Communication - ( For MA-Non Thesis) | 3 | Spring 2020 | Dr. Jane Jorgenson | A |
| WST 6107: Transnational Feminisms (Women’s and Gender Studies, USF) - ( For MA-Non Thesis) | 3 | Spring 2020 | Dr. David Rubin | A |
| SPC 6903: Directed Reading - ( For MA-Non Thesis) | 3 | Spring 2020 | Dr. Jane Jorgenson | A |
| Warning SPC 6971 Thesis: Master’s + | 6 | Spring 2020 | Dr. Jane Jorgenson | Z |

**Total Hours: 36**

\* Fills MA requirement

 + For MA Thesis Track Only

 - For MA Non-Thesis

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 Major Professor Date

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 Committee Member Date

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 Graduate Director Date