

Spring 2022

Communication & Bullying

SPC 6934 | CRN 25397

W 6:30 - 9:15 PM (Hybrid)

This graduate course (M.A./Ph.D.) focuses on the ubiquitous societal problem of bullying as it occurs and is made to matter within school/youth bullying and workplace bullying. The ways communication shapes, and is shaped by, this problem are of particular interest. We'll assume that bullying is a fundamentally communicative process in which people use messages to symbolically co-create, interpret, and use meaning/s within bullying, and that issues on culture (ability status, class, ethnicity, sex/gender, race, sexual orientation, just for starters) and cultural identities inform, and sometimes govern, bullying. Some of the main questions that will guide our conversations include:

Why bully? How does bullying operate? Put differently, how is bullying performed and what impact does it have on those who bully, are bullied, and/or observe bullying? How do we respond to bullying? What might the study of bullying help us to understand about the power of communication, the interconnectedness of selves and others, and the roles that social difference, mindfulness/mindlessness, and ethics play in bullying?

Students will be asked to complete assigned readings, short writings, discussion facilitation assignments, and a final course project. There will be several different options available for the course project. In addition, students from all areas in Communication are welcome, as are those from other departments or fields. No previous coursework in bullying or Communication is required to do well in the course.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the course.

For more information, contact:

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