

Required courses for students selecting Broadcast or Print Journalism as their minor area of study:

Broadcast Journalism: Communication – 201, 203, 204, 305, 313, 320 and 350.

Print Journalism: Communication – 201, 203, 301, 303, 313, 320, and 350.

**Communication 350 – Media Law and Ethics**

History, principles and provisions of the law universally applicable today-to-day-functions of the mass media; Emphasis placed on the Law of Libel and Slander, Right of Privacy, and Contempt of Proceedings and Media Ethics. Liberia statutes decrees and laws affecting the mass media.

**Communication 401 – International Communication**

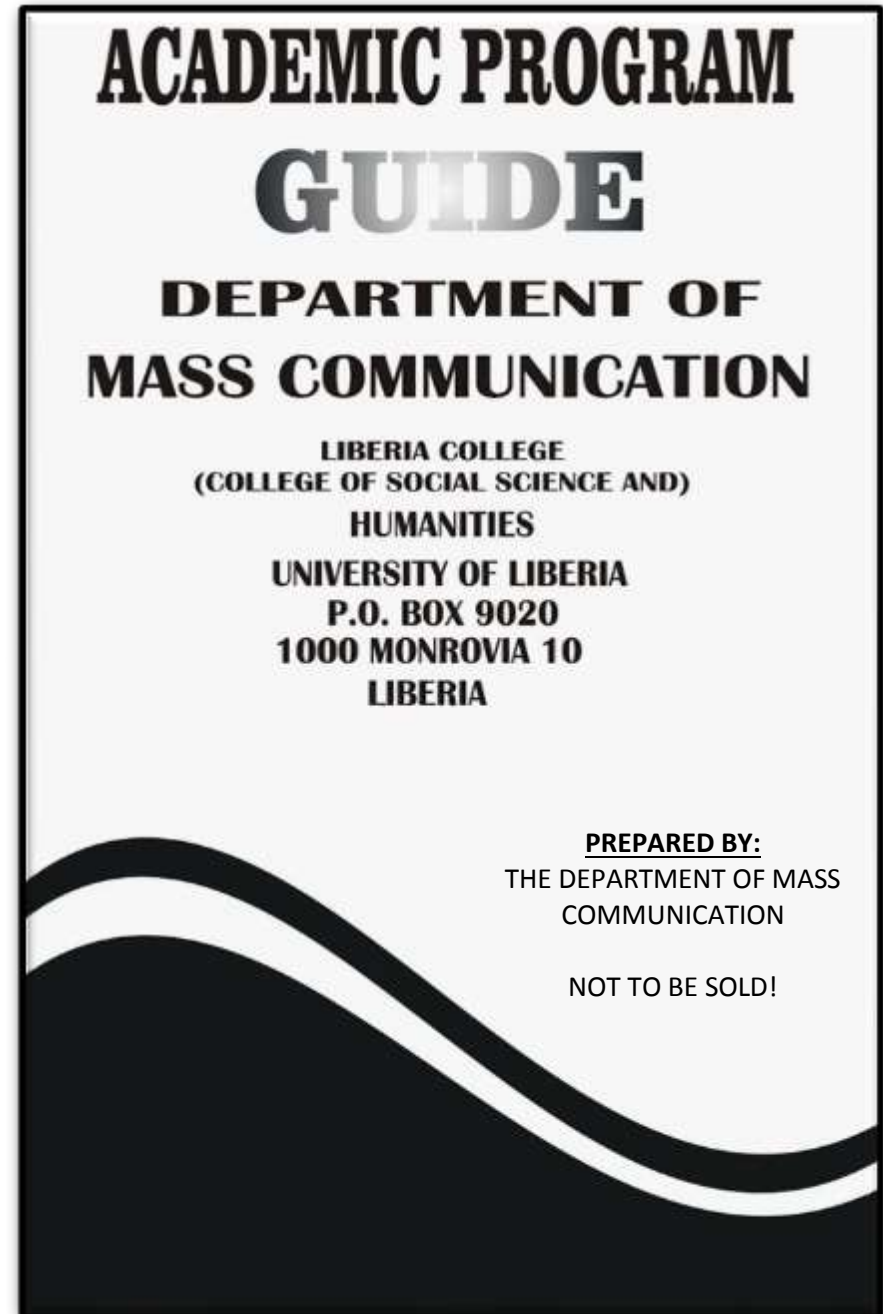
A survey of international media system, their structures, characteristics, historical background, and differing fundamental concepts of their role and conflicting theories of control.

**Communication 403 – Mass Media Research**

Social Research methods and theory are provided for the examination of both qualitative and quantitative approaches to mass media research. These include methods used by practicing writers and editors in the Mass Media analysis of theories of Mass communication, including models based on various theories; Content Analysis, survey research and Experiment. Project work is required.

**Communication 412 – Development Communication**

Emphasis is laid on conceptual definition and scope of development communication. The role of communication (modern and traditional media) in national development is underscored; as well as analysis of the Diffusion Theory, which exposes students to practical methods of promoting development activities in the areas of health, education, and agriculture; and an overview of communication in policy and planning for development in the rural setting, for example. They include broadcast journalism, community radio station management, public relations and advertisement, media management, photojournalism and magazine and feature writing.



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**Communication 420 – Internship or Practicum**

Valuable on the job practice of what the student has learned in class; provides senior students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with daily activities at both the Broadcast and Print institutions. All intern students are required to work on either The Varsity Pilot Newspaper or UL Radio FM 106.6 for two months; thereafter, each student may select a media institution of his/her choice for affiliation.

**Short courses**

Short term courses for working journalists are conducted periodically. They include courses in broadcast journalism, community radio station management, public relations and advertisement, media management, photojournalism, magazine and feature writing.

**Proposed Courses**

A proposal to revise the curriculum has been sent to the University of Liberia. When approved by the Academic Coordinating Committee (ACC) and the Faculty-Senate, the following courses will be introduced beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2021-2022. The revision also includes name and code change for courses. Specifically, journalism-related courses will be short-named JOUR (short for Journalism) and Communication-related courses will be short-named COMM (for Communication).

Additionally, we have petitioned the University to have the department’s name changed from ‘Mass Communication Department’ to ‘Department of Communication and Media Studies’. The name will reflect the new course structure and the eventual transformation to a full school of communication.

**Proposed New Courses**

COMM 308 – Corporate Social Responsibility Communication; JOUR 313 – New Media & Journalism; COMM 405 – Webcare: Advance PR; COMM 317 – Corporate Communication; COMM 420 – Thesis; JOUR 316 – Newspaper Production; JOUR 303 – Investigative Reporting; COMM 321 – Organizational Communication; and JOUR 318 – Elections Reporting.

**Communication 303 – Magazine and feature Writing and Editing**

Special emphasis in lead writing; however, theory is given on the purpose, form, style and spirit of the editorial; Exposure to methods of examination and interpretation of current events to influence readers' emotions. Principles and practices in writing feature editorials for newspapers, magazines and the electronic media. Survey and history of magazine; Principles and problems of magazine editing, planning, content selection, manuscript revision, copy editing, caption and title writing; Editorial responsibility; and Book and movie reviews for the mass media. Project work is required. Communication 203 is a prerequisite.

**Communication 305 – Television Production and Direction**

Creating, planning, producing and directing a television program and understanding operational problems in TV studio; Functions, limitations and capabilities of standard and visual processing. Lab and project work are required.

**Communication 309 – Human Rights Reporting**

Students learn how to identify human rights issues and the root causes, the legal framework, including Liberia's Constitution and the relevant international human rights laws. The course also provides a platform for students to learn how to interview sources, including sensitive treatment of victims of human rights violations and produce effective news stories and features stories for both print and electronic, with the necessary elements of a Rights Media. Students will apply the panel method (Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination, Empowerment, and Linkage) to Human Rights and ethical reporting.

**PAST CHAIRPERSON**

1. Prof. T. Nelson Williams (1984 – 1987) – BA, MA.
2. Associate Professor Lamini Waritay (1987-1990) – BA, MSc.
3. Associate Professor Steve Tweh (2001-2005) –
4. Assoc. Prof. Joe Worlobah Mulbah (2005 – 2011) – BA, MA, MA, LLB.
5. Asst. Prof. Weade Kobbah-Boley (2012 – 2016) – BA, MA
6. Associate Prof. Alhaji G.V. Kromah (2016-2018) – BSc, M.A, LLB.

**Current Chairperson**

7. **Euriah M. Togar (2019 – ) BA, MSc, cPhD**

## Faculty

1. Prof. Richmond S. Anderson – BA, MA, MS.ED.
2. Albert S. Lloyd (Full time instructor) – BA, MA.
3. Charles B. Coffey (Adjunct faculty) - BA, MA, MSED.  
Frank B. Sainwola (Adjunct faculty) – BA, Certificate,
5. Senyon W. Kieh (Teaching Assistant) – BA.

## Administrative Staff

1. Nancy Crusoe (BBA) – Secretary
2. Henry W. Johnson (BPA) – Junior Record officer
3. Sydney L. Nicol, Jr. (BA) – Radio Station Manager
4. Alphonso George (BA) – Deputy Radio Station Manager

## Communication Courses by Description

### **Communication – 201 Introduction to Communication;**

Nature and functions of Mass Communication; Definition of Communication; Communication models; Characteristics of interpersonal, group and Mass Communication; Major functions of and Mass Communication; and Mass Communication theories.

### **Communication 203 – Fundamentals of News Writing**

Communication 203 is a foundation course in journalism. It deals with basic techniques of news gathering, analyzing and writing; fundamental principles of journalism, news values and ethics. Practical writing assignments are given to acquaint students the major elements of news reporting and improve their writing skills. Considerable attention is given to writing exercises involving the basics of news reporting and writing. Students in this course participate in practical sessions with the Varsity Pilot Newspaper. Communication 203 is a prerequisite for communication 204, 301, 313, 303, 304, 309 and 313. It cannot be done concurrently with any of these courses, even if they are scheduled in the same semester.

### **Communication 204 Broadcast Script writing**

This course deals with fundamentals of writing for the electronic media. Emphasis is placed on broadcast news style, writing and editing news such as basic principles of news casting, on-the-spot coverage; use of internet, new media, digital editing and program production. Students taking this course are required to spend one hour weekly in the lab. Lab and project work are required for grading. Communication 203 is a prerequisite.

### **Communication 301 – News Writing and Editing**

Preparation of copy and other elementary desk work on a newspaper, including evaluation, correction of errors of fact and expression, and condensation of news stories; Headlines writing; news display and page make-up. Lab and project work are required. Communication 203 is a prerequisite.

**Communication 313 – History of the Liberian Media**

This course will give students an appreciation of the development of journalism and the mass media in Liberia from the inception of the first medium to present. It covers the development of print, electronic and new media and their relevance to the Liberian society. Students will undertake various studies and trips to media institutions for comparative study and analysis.

**Communication 314 – Radio and TV Management**

Focus is placed on current managerial principles and practices of the Broadcast industry. Relevant aspects of the course include the principles of management theories and practices and best practices in managing the electronic media. It also deals with international media conventions and national regulations affecting the electronic media industry in Liberia, with various departmental functions; Cost and income figures; Sales and advertising techniques and Government regulations.

**Communication 315 – Photojournalism**

Principles of photography including historical perspectives and special techniques; Exposure to medium and small format photographers for publication and caption writing. Lab and project work are required

**Communication 320 – Principles of Public Relations and Advertisement**

Origin and development of public relations and current practices and problems; communication and publicity techniques; and Functional role in modern society. Project work is required.

**Our Mission**

- Adequately prepare students by equipping them with digital and critical thinking skills for profession careers in communication and journalism to cope with the lightning-speed changes in the field because of emerging digital technologies that continue to shape the communication and media landscape.
- Position students to contribute to knowledge sufficiently and effectively in the fields of journalism and communication through research and scholarship as well as creative and professional activity.

**Our Vision**

Become a full school of communication and media studies at the University of Liberia by 2030.

**Our Philosophy**

The basis of all learning should be grounded in a search for professional values, the pursuit of wisdom and understanding; and the application of these for the development and advancement of society and the world. We believe the teaching of communication and application of its tenets is the catalyst for unity, peace, stability and development.

**Our History**

The University of Liberia began as Liberia College which was established in December 1851 by an Act of the Liberian Legislature. Its first structure was built by monies from the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia. The cornerstone for what is now known as Liberia's highest institution of learning was laid on January 25, 1858. The University opened its walls to its first seven students in 1863. The college's first President, Joseph Jenkins Roberts was also first President of Liberia. In 1951, Liberia College was transformed to the University of Liberia.

The University of Liberia has eight degree granting Colleges,

Liberia College (College of Social Science and Humanities), the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, William V.S. Tubman Teachers College, William R. Tolbert college of Agriculture and Forestry, College of Business and Public Administration, the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, Science College and Engineering College.

**Department of Mass Communication**

The Department of Mass Communication is an integral part of Liberia College. It was established in 1983 through a bilateral agreement between the Liberian Government and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to train journalists and other media practitioners. In 1984, actual instruction began.

**Objectives**

The Department seeks to prepare students to assume greater responsibilities in the operation and administration of media institutions and serve as catalysts for national development.

The four year program allows students to major in either print or broadcast journalism and minor in any academic discipline at the University of Liberia.

The students’ academic program is enriched by courses selected as electives in any area of their choice, including professional workshops, seminars, faculty and student exchanges. During their tenure at the Department of Mass communication, students are required to write articles for the Varsity Pilot, a weekly publication of the Department and produce programs and news for Lux FM 106.6, a student operated radio station. The Varsity Pilot and LUX FM radio, newspapers and radio stations in Monrovia.

Working at these media allows students the opportunity to work alongside professional journalists and experience the media world.

<b>SENIOR (PRINT JOURNALISM MAJOR)</b>			
<b>First Semester</b>	<b>Credit hrs.</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>	<b>Credit hrs.</b>
Communication 401	3	Communication 412	3
Communication 403	3	Communication 420	3
English 411	3	English 422	3
Minor	3	Minor	3
Minor	3	Minor	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>SENIOR (BROADCAST JOURNALISM MAJOR)</b>			
<b>First Semester</b>	<b>Credit hrs.</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>	<b>Credit hrs.</b>
Communication 401	3	Communication 412	3
Communication 403	3	Communication 420	3
English 411	3	English 422	3
Minor	3	Minor	3
Minor	3	Minor	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>JUNIOR (BROADCAST JOURNALISM MAJOR)</b>					
<b>First Semester</b>		<b>Credit hrs.</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Credit hrs.</b>
Communication 303	3	3	Communication 314	3	
Communication 305	3	3	Communication 320	3	
Communication 313	3	3	Communication 350	3	
Communication 309	3	3	Minor	3	
Minor	3	3	Elective	3	
Elective	3			<b>15</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>Total Credits</b>		

<b>JUNIOR (PRINT JOURNALISM MAJOR)</b>					
<b>First Semester</b>		<b>Credit hrs.</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>		<b>Credit hrs.</b>
Communication 301	3	3	Communication 304	3	
Communication 303	3	3	Communication 320	3	
Communication 309	3	3	Communication 313	3	
Minor	3	3	Communication 350	3	
Communication 315	3	3	Minor	3	
Elective	3	3	Elective	3	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>18</b>	

Students also have ample opportunities to upgrade, design and upload content to the Department's Website, [www.ummasscom.org.lr](http://www.ummasscom.org.lr).

The department has numerous linkages with other media institutions locally and internationally, including the Press Union of Liberia, the Liberia Media Center, and Journalists for Human Right and the International Research Exchanges Board.

### Admission Requirements

All students admitted into the Department of Mass Communication must pass the university of Liberia Entrance and Placement Exams. All students admitted must be proficient in written and spoken English and ready to develop and acquire additional skills in communication.

The Department admits students enrolled in foreign universities who desire to transfer if they meet the requirement of a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA of 2.5 and above).

Send all enquiries to [masscommdept@ul.edu.lr](mailto:masscommdept@ul.edu.lr) or [togarem@ul.edu.lr](mailto:togarem@ul.edu.lr) . For news, information, updates, and to know more about us, go to [www.masscom.ul.edu.lr](http://www.masscom.ul.edu.lr) .

**We are located in the MassComm Building on the University of Liberia Fendall Campus located in Louisiana, Montserrado County**

### Courses offered

Core courses incorporate local realities with modern and / or contemporary communication theories, print and broadcast journalism, visual journalism, new media and communication research.

Our research students have opportunities to conduct research as a part of course requirements, and where necessary, work as research assistants for key projects supervised by instructors and professors of the Department.

All students are required to spend one semester in an undergraduate internship at any media institution of their choice in Liberia. Students employed with media institutions are required to explore internship opportunities at institutions other than those employed with. This provides opportunities for hands on practical training in a real work environment.

The Department also offers short term courses for working journalists in all areas of communication study. The duration of these courses range from one week to one year.

Information on these specialized courses are publicized periodically. They include broadcast journalism, community radio station management, public relations and advertisement, media management, photojournalism and magazine and feature writing.

Students are required to complete a total of 127 credit hours to qualify for graduation. Of this number of credit hours a total of 60 should be in the major area, 18 credits in the minor. Two three credit hours course can be selected as an elective.

Required Courses by Numbers

Freshman Courses

All freshman and sophomore students are required to take Core College courses prescribed by the college as follows:

**FRESHMAN COURSES**

First Semester		Credit hrs.	Second Semester		Credit hrs.
English	101	- 3	English	- 102 -	3
French	101	- 3	French	- 102 -	3
Geography	101	- 3	Math	- 104 -	3
Physical Sc.	101	- 3	Physical Sc.	- 102 -	3
Math	101	- 3	Social Sc.	- 102 -	3
Physical Ed.	101	- 1	Physical Ed.	102	1
ROTC -	101	- .5	ROTC 200 series		.5
Total credits		16.5	Total credits		16.5

**SOPHOMORE COURSE**

First Semester		Credit hrs.	Second Semester		Credit hrs.
Communication	201	3	Communication	204	3
Communication	203	3	English	202	3
English	201	3	French	202	3
French	201	3	Philosophy		3
Geography	202or	3	307or		
History	201		Philosophy	403	3
			Social Sc.	201	3
Philosophy	300	3	ROTC	202 series	.5
ROTC	201	.5			
Total Credits		18.5	Total Credits		15.5