

# SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Department of Communication Studies

Department of Information Studies

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

### PHD IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

#### Admission Requirements

Admission will require a relevant masters' degree (MA/MSc/MPhil). It will also be limited to candidates whose academic and scholastic records show a potential for successful completion of doctoral degree programme.

#### Requirements for Graduation

Course Work	-	18 Credit Hours
Seminar (4)	-	12 Credit Hours
Thesis	-	45 Credit Hours
<b>Total Credit Required</b>	-	<b>75 Credit Hours</b>

#### Programme Duration

The minimum time for the completion of the Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies degree shall be four years for full-time students and six years for part-time students.

The course is structured into the following four phases:

#### YEAR ONE

Students will take a minimum of 4 prescribed and 2 elective courses. An elective may be taken from another Department in consultation with the Supervisor.

**Core Courses:** Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Theories of Communication, Readings in Communication Theory & Research, Advanced Communication Research Methods.

**Electives:** Current Issues in Communication Studies, Political Communication, Communication and Public Policy, Integrated Marketing Communication.

Students are required to take Comprehensive Examinations at the end of Year One and after successful completion of course work. Students must pass the comprehensive examination before proceeding to the next level.

#### SEMESTER ONE

##### Core Courses

FSSP 701:	- Philosophy of the Social Sciences	-	3 Credits
COMS 701:	- Theories of Communication	-	3 Credits

##### Elective (Student choose one)

COMS 703	- Current Issues in Communication Studies	-	3 Credits
COMS 705	- Political Communication	-	3 Credits

#### SEMESTER TWO

##### Core Courses

COMS 702	- Readings in Communication Theory & Research	-	3 Credits
COMS 704	- Advanced Communication Research Methods	-	3 Credits

**Elective (Student choose one)**

COMS 706	- Communication and Public Policy	-	3 Credits
COMS 708	- Integrated Marketing Communication	-	3 Credits

**YEAR TWO**

Students will progress to Ph.D candidature in Year Two after passing all written examinations on their course work and the comprehensive examination

Experiential Research Learning: In Year Two students will be required to undergo practical training in research work. A student is also required to present a report and a seminar on his/her experiential learning at the end of the second year.

In total, a student will be required to present two seminars: Seminar 1 on Research Proposal and Seminar II on Experiential Research Learning.

Experiential Research Learning:

COMS 710: Seminar I	-	3 credits
COMS 720: Seminar II	-	3 credits

**YEAR THREE**

A student is expected to work on his/her thesis and to present a thesis progress report at Seminar III.

COMS 730: Seminar III	-	3 credits
COMS 700: Thesis		

**YEAR FOUR**

A student will be required to continue thesis work and to present preliminary findings from his/her research at Seminar IV. The PhD thesis is expected to be prepared and presented for examination by the end of Year Four.

COMS 740: Seminar IV	-	3 credits
COMS 700: Thesis	-	45 credits

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****FSSP 701: PHILOSOPHY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The course aims at exposing doctoral students to the epistemological underpinnings of social science research. It focuses on the differences and similarities between the social and natural sciences, causal relationships, social laws, and the ontological significance of structure and agency. The course also attempts to elucidate the nature of scientific enquiry such as observational procedures, patterns of argument, metaphysical presuppositions, and evaluate the grounds of their validity. Students will also be exposed to contemporary social science explanatory frameworks such as realism, post-modernism and post-structuralism. The course should enable students to design and undertake independent projects with a critical focus on the epistemological assumptions underlying their research with a consideration of contemporary evolving methodology.

**COMS 701: THEORIES OF COMMUNICATION**

This is seminar format discussion of the philosophy and principles underlying communication theories. Incorporated is a discussion of the research underpinning the formulation of the selected theories discussed. A student shall submit for assessment a term paper written on the theories underpinning his/her thesis research.

### **COMS 702: READINGS IN COMMUNICATION THEORY AND RESEARCH**

A student shall submit an annotated bibliography of 50 items (selected from peer-reviewed journal articles and other relevant publications) agreed upon with the supervisor as a basis for developing two papers for seminar presentation. The readings shall relate to the student's thesis area. One of the papers shall be on communication theory and the other on communication research. The two papers shall be presented at two separate seminars and are to be submitted for assessment after the seminar.

### **COMS 703: CURRENT ISSUES IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

This seminar format course is designed to assemble accomplished communication practitioners to lead discussion in their areas of practice. Topics will be selected based on current development in the area of practice of the guest practitioner. This multidisciplinary course aims to give an overview of Ghanaian communication studies on democracy and citizenship. Each week, student will be required to undertake different activities, usually based on at least one of the provided articles.

### **COMS 704: ADVANCED COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS**

Linkages in the various steps in communication research as a matter of consistency is the main focus of this course. The course also involves the development of data collection instruments and techniques for their respective data processing as guided by research ethics. Single method, triangulation or mixed method approaches are discussed with emphasis on approaches to the gathering, analysis and presentation of data. Students are guided through practical data collection for analysis of the data generated from research and taken through sequential organizations and presentation of results.

### **COMS 705: POLITICAL COMMUNICATION**

Political Communication is the intersection between politics and communication. It is generally concerned with production and consumption of political information. How such information spreads and influences politics is the main focus of this course. It probes the interrelatedness between the message production and consumption from symbiotic and adversarial perspectives. Techniques and tactics of spinning, lobbying and the role of the social media in contemporary politics are subjected to critical analysis.

### **COMS 706: COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Understanding the centrality of communication in policy formulation and implementation within the civil and public services has become a 21<sup>st</sup> century challenge. This course explores the role of communication in the policy process and the link between communicating with citizens and creating, implementing, and evaluating public policy. The course examines the interconnectedness between communication and policy interventions as well as the analytical, critical and practical skills, necessary for communicating policy to different stakeholders in the policy process. It discusses key theories, models and frameworks and their practical value to policy analysis. It also examines how to build an epistemic community around policy issues; promote proactive relations and improved access to information and engage the media and other stakeholders within the policy space.

### **COMS 708: INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATION**

The course seeks a broad discussion of the various professions in communication and how they relate to the business context. It encompasses theoretical and rhetorical analysis of professional communication, persuasion in the market place and the management of communication within organizational contexts.

### **COMS 710: SEMINAR 1**

Students present at a seminar his/her research proposal

**COMS 720: SEMINAR II**

Student presents research experience report at a seminar

**COMS 730: SEMINAR III**

Preliminary findings of the student's research are presented at this seminar

**COMS 740: SEMINAR IV**

At this seminar, the student presents the full findings of the research

## DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION STUDIES

### PHD IN INFORMATION STUDIES

#### OVERVIEW

The curriculum in the Ph.D programme includes both required (core) courses and electives. Required courses cover the fundamental tools that every scholar in the Information Studies field must possess to conduct research in the discipline. Elective courses provide additional tools that are suitable to pursue the student's specific research interests. The Ph.D in Information Studies is geared towards producing professionals who are cognisant of and capable of coping with the changing patterns and new competencies in their field. By the end of the degree programme, graduates should be able to define and articulate user needs as well as implement procedures designed to meet such needs.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates for the Ph.D Programme should have a relevant Masters Degree.

**DURATION:** A full time student is expected to complete the programme in four (4) years and part time student in six (6) years.

#### GRADUATION REQUIREMENT:

Course Work	:	18-24
Seminar	:	12
Thesis	:	45
Range	:	75 – 81

### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

#### YEAR 1

##### FIRST SEMESTER

CORE COURSES		CREDITS
FSSP 701	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	3
INFS 703	Quantitative Research Methods	3
<b>ELECTIVES (Students should select 3-6 credits)</b>		
INFS 705	Legal and Ethical Issues in Information	3
INFS 707	Theories and Models of Leadership	3
INFS 709	Scholarly and Scientific Communication	3
<b>TOTAL CREDITS:</b>		<b>15</b>

##### SECOND SEMESTER

CORE COURSES		CREDITS
INFS 702	Qualitative Research Methods	3
INFS 704	Knowledge Management	3

<b>ELECTIVES (Students should select 3-6 credits)</b>		
INFS 706	Leadership in Information Centres	3
INFS 708	Human Information Behaviour	3
<b>TOTAL CREDITS:</b>		<b>12</b>

## YEAR 2

INFS 710	Seminar I – Proposal Seminar	<b>3</b>
INFS 720	Seminar II – Experiential Learning Seminar	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS:</b>		<b>6</b>

## YEAR 3 & 4

		<b>CREDITS</b>
INFS 730	Seminar III – Thesis Progress Report Seminar	3
INFS 740	Seminar IV – Preliminary Findings Seminar	3
INFS 700	Thesis	45

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **FSSP 701: Philosophy of the Social Sciences**

The Philosophy of the Social Science course aims at exposing doctoral students to the epistemological underpinnings of social science research. The course focuses on the differences and similarities between the social and the natural sciences, casual relationship, social laws, and the ontological significance of structure and agency. It also attempts to elucidate the nature of scientific inquiry such as observational procedures, patterns of argument, metaphysical pre-suppositions, and evaluate the grounds of their validity. Students will also be exposed to contemporary social science explanatory frameworks such as realism, post-modernism and post-structuralism. The course should enable students to design and undertake independent projects with a critical focus on the epistemological assumptions underlying their research with a consideration of contemporary evolving methodology.

### **INFS 702: Qualitative Research Methods**

This course exposes graduate students to research; information sources and literature reviewing; the nature and uses of qualitative inquiry, assumptions underlying qualitative research, qualitative research process, instruments for qualitative research, methods of qualitative data analysis/interpretation, use of statistical software for qualitative data analysis (Nudist, Nvivo, Xsight, MAXQDA, etc), report writing, and ethical issues in qualitative research. Students design and conduct qualitative inquiry. Students design and present a sample qualitative research paper in library and information settings (design instrument – interview schedule, observation guide, check list; carry out sample data analysis & interpretation, etc).

### **INFS 703: Quantitative Research Methods**

The course is designed to exposes graduate students to quantitative research design and process, standardized measurements and assessment; ethical issues in quantitative research, use of statistics in research; levels of data analysis – univariate, bivariate and multivariate; data analysis and interpretation; descriptive statistics; inferential statistics; hypothesis testing – non-parametric test (Chi-square, Spearman, Kruskal Wallis, Mann-Whitney U-test, etc) and

parametric test (Z-test, t-test, F-test/analysis of variance-ANOVA, Pearson, regression) using statistical software (SPSS, STATA, MINITAB, SAS, MS-Excel, etc); research proposal and report writing. Students design and present a sample quantitative research paper in library and information settings (design instrument-questionnaire; carry out sample data analysis & interpretation, etc).

### **INFS 704: Knowledge Management**

This course focuses on how to effectively mobilize and manage the human capital of individuals in society and organizations for improve performance and decision making. It is aimed at introducing students to the key issues, requirements and systems necessary for managing knowledge especially at corporate level to ensure development. Some of the topical issues are: Philosophy and theories of knowledge, Knowledge organization, Organizational learning, Knowledge assets, Indigenous knowledge and Knowledge transfer. This course will allow students to prepare and deliver seminars on topical issues in Knowledge Management

### **INFS 705: Legal and Ethical Issues in Information**

The course examines the various legal and ethical issues and the ethical dilemmas that commonly confront information professionals. An in depth examination of the framework for institutional policy for access; public domain information; protection of classified materials and official secrets Act, Freedom of information; copyright and related issues; ethics of information provision, role of professional bodies in the formulation and application of ethical code would be explored. In addition the course will deal with public policy, economic, and legal issues surrounding the provision of information and library services, intellectual freedom, equitable access to information, privacy, and intellectual property.

### **INFS 706: Leadership in Information Centres**

The purpose of this course is to understand leadership and develop leadership in the context of

Libraries, Archives and Museums. To apply leadership theories and concepts to current issues, problems, and opportunities involved in contemporary information centres; to analyze how effective leadership can impact information centres and shape the development of its vision, values, mission, goals and culture; to understand the leader-member relationship in organizations; to experience practical aspects of leadership by working within organizations; to practice leadership in the classroom and contribute to the learning of others; and to learn to work in teams and achieve mutual goals.

### **INFS 707: Theories and Models of Leadership**

This course examines theories and models in leadership studies. The role of theory in social science, and both classic and contemporary leadership theories/models are presented. Emphasis on critical analysis of theoretical perspectives are discussed. The course covers among others, Authentic Leadership Theory, Bass's Transformational Theory, Charismatic Leadership Theory, Contingency Theory, The "Yale" Model of Persuasion (and ELM) and Ethical Leadership Theory.

### **INFS 708: Human Information Behaviour**

This course requires an understanding of human information behavior as it relates to contemporary problems in library and information services, and as it can serve as a theoretical and professional base for such services. Exploration of various contexts of information behavior, and the processes of information seeking, searching, using, and

valuing. Review of a variety of studies on different aspects of human information behavior, with an interpretation of their connection with library and information services.

### **INFS 709: Scholarly and Scientific Communication**

This course will examine ways in which scholarly and scientific information are produced, disseminated, and evaluated. Print and digital modes of production, as well as formal and informal models will be discussed. Challenges and opportunities for providing access to information will be examined, focusing on the open access movement and institutional repositories. Emphasis will be placed on the role of the information professional in scholarly communication. Methods of evaluation will focus on quantitative methods, such as bibliometrics and usage statistics.

### **INFS 710: SEMINAR 1 – PROPOSAL SEMINAR**

In Year II each student will make a presentation on his/her research proposal in the first semester.

### **INFS 720: SEMINAR 11 - EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SEMINAR**

In year II each student is expected to undertake an attachment covering the whole year. Students will make a presentation on the research/experiential learning undertaken at the end of the Second Semester.

### **INFS 730: SEMINAR 111 - THESIS PROGRESS REPORT SEMINAR**

In Year III each student will make a presentation on the progress of work on his/her thesis.

### **INFS 740: SEMINAR IV - PRELIMINARY FINDINGS SEMINAR**

In Year IV, each student will make a presentation on the provisional findings of his/her thesis.

### **DETAILS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Candidates will be attached to various projects on campus. The projects are being run by the Institute of African Studies, the School of Public Health, the Regional Institute of Population Studies and the Balme Library. Students will also have the opportunity to take part in conferences, workshops and seminars that are held in conjunction with the projects.

#### **A. African Presidential Papers and Libraries (APPL) Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA) Project (being run by the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana)**

This project is designed to conduct extensive field research, documenting African presidential papers and related materials. It also aims to prepare the materials for major publications, focusing on leadership and governance. It is believed that the information gathered would generate cutting edge knowledge on African leadership and governance and create an intellectual foundation for transformational leadership in Africa.

Students would be involved in the search for information on different papers, speeches written and delivered by current and past presidents of West African countries. These activities will enrich the literature search skills of the students and also expose them to the use of multimedia facilities for the publication of research materials.

#### **B. Regional Institute of Population Studies Project:**



## **Deltaic Environments, vulnerability and Climate Change: The role of Migration as an Adaptation and its policy implications (DECCMA)**

This programme of research is intended to assess migration as an adaptation in a deltaic environment with a changing climate. It is expected to take a systemic and multi-scale analytical perspective in order to deliver policy support to create the conditions for sustainable gender-sensitive adaptation.

Students will be involved in gathering data from migrants in the Volta delta where there is significant climate change.

## **C. Library Information Resources to enhance the University of Ghana, School of Public Health Program 2014 - 2016**

The Morehouse School of Medicine and the University of Ghana's School of Public Health are collaborating to bring national epidemiological data into the University's Public Health Library and train librarians to provide services covering both published information and data. As African research develops, the availability of adequate data poses an increasing challenge to the institutions. Consequently, students will participate extensively in this Program to collect data, digitize and manage the digital repository.

This project will help students to acquire experience not only in data manipulation but they will also be exposed to the creation and management of digital repositories.

## **D. Projects in Balme Library**

### **The digitization unit**

The digitization unit was set up in 2011 through the collaboration of the Royal Institute of Netherlands (K.I.T), and the University of Ghana to digitize (scan) the rare, unique and useful collections of the library and the University community. The unit is currently embarking on two major projects namely, the Heritage collections and the Theses projects. Presently, 992 theses and 670 rare collections have been digitized and are in the final process of uploading.

Students would be involved in the process of digitization including metadata and the preservation of digitized materials.

### **The University of Ghana Archives**

The University of Ghana Archives is responsible for preserving documents of historical value produced by University officers, faculty, students and alumni. Such documents may include the history, policies, decisions, procedures, operations or other activities of the University.

Students would be involved in the collection, record maintenance and use and record disposition, that is, storage, archiving and destruction of records.

## **COLLABORATION**

The Department is in the process of firming collaboration with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Electronic Information for Libraries EIFLnet to provide short courses, workshops and conferences to improve access to knowledge for education, learning and research. This would involve both staff and students