

# Fall 2026 Wicked Festival Detailed Program



Organized by Course Prefix, then Course Number and Title,  
then Professor's Surname

## **COMS 231: Communication Research Methods◇ Dr. Zehui Dai**

- 6-20 "Misinformation and Social Media" by Collin Barksdale, Sara Frink, Cambron Smith
- 5-13 "Mental Health Engagement and Resources on Campus at Radford University" by Sophia Thrasher, Lenia Martinez
- 5-38 "More Than an Athlete: Mental Health and Student Athletes" by Anaiah Jenkis, Jaylah Parker, Ethan Neal
- 6-33 AI and Human Communication: Exploring Authenticity and Trust in the Age of AI: by Ella Tolbert, Jaycee Mills

## **COMS 304: Multimedia Journalism◇ Dr. Hyeri Jung**

- 5-2: "Image and Language: How News Media Constructs Weight Stigma" by Joelle Watkins
- 5-8: "Greenwashing the Pink Tax: Harmful Ingredients in Cosmetics and How the Industry Markets them" by Rylee Lyons
- 5-56: "The Effects of the Looksmaxxing Phenomena on Young Men's Mental Health: A Case Study of Clavicular" by Annie Miron
- 5-18: "College Athletics in Chaos: How Lawsuits, Eligibility Disputes, and the Transfer Portal Are Reshaping College Sports" by Joshua ("Poz") Poslusny
- 6-2: "AI in Citizen Journalism: Opportunities, Challenges, and Consequences" by Katherine Clarke
- 6-10: "An Analysis of News Media Coverage of Heatwaves in Western Europe" by Lena Borges
- 6-17: "Beyond the Box Score: Comparing Corporate and Independent Sports Journalism Podcasts" by Lucas Burton

## **COMS 332: Argumentation and Advocacy ♦ Dr. Zehui Dai**

- 6-6 “Higher education institutions should integrate generative AI into their curricula and academic practices” (Pro: Emma Tomplins; Con: Anezka Pinto Kossa, Jillian Hunt).
- 6-26 “Public colleges in the U.S. should provide free education for all students” (Pro: Luca DeVito; Con: Constance Walker-Clark).
- 6-32 “Radford University should be a smoke-free campus” (Pro: Charlie Schoenig, Con: Logan Surber).
- 6-25: “The federal government should legalize marijuana” (Pro: Jaiden Braxton-Smith, Con: Sophia Thrasher).
- 5-29: “The government should provide universal free health care for all people living in the U.S” (Pro: Xena Wilcox; Con: Lauren Garber).

## **COMS 335: Media and Society ♦ Dr. Courtney Bosworth**

- 6-4: “Protecting Local Democracy: Expanding Access to Reliable News in the New River Valley” by Xavier Brown, Travis Gahafer, Kiersten Williams
- 5-1: “Building Stronger Communities: Expanding Access to Reliable News in the New River” by Valley Amelia Edmonds, Aurora Lara, Hailie Perry

## **COMS 610: Organizational Communication ♦ Dr. Zehui Dai**

- 6-35 “Brewing Connections: Arabica Café & Bakery” by Jessica Groft & Amber Hunt
- 5-27 “Inside the Women’s Resource Center for the New River Valley” by Cliresa Hall, Jolie Dineen, & Constance Olle
- 5-37 “From Recruitment to Retention: Communication Strategies for Retaining Gen Z Volunteers at the American Red Cross” by Lake Rickey
- 6-34 “Pressing Forward: Between the Lines of a Changing Roanoke Times” by Jamie Walker
- 5-39 “A Slice of Virginia: Benny’s Pizza” by Jacquelyn Ross, Trent Taylor, Will Hamilton

## **COSD 488-0: Final Honors Project ♦ Dr. Diane Millar**

- 5-43 “Drawing and Identification of Symbols for Social Games Routines, and Small Talk” by Chloe Willis

## **CRJU: Gender and Crime ♦ Dr. Lindsay Semprevivo**

- 5-33 “Comparing Domestic Violence Resource Disparities in Rural and Urban Areas” by Baylee Peterson, Jarie Shyllon, Jan Rivas Diaz, Owen Nutter

- 6-53 “Exploring the Limits of Law Enforcement in Addressing Issues of IPV” by Mason Cuomo, Tatyana Turner, Kasey Day, Brant Dees

## **DSN 402: Global Design Studio ♦ Professor Kevin Peterson**

- 5-45 “The Route to Better Health Runs Through Transit: Easier access for healthcare transportation for young adults in Montgomery County” by Lila Cooper, Abby Dillon, Serra Guler, Grace Morrow, Hannah Tucker
- 6-44 “Protect the WILD” by Nicole Otero, Jasmine Isekeije, Reese Loinette, Chioma Raphael
- 5-55 “Guiding Highlanders Toward Financial Well-Being” by Colleen Simpkins, Ella Holloman, Jordan Clark, and Kyia Carter
- 5-16 “From Campus to Community: Turning Degrees into Local Impact” by Sabrine Alegre, Logan Lewis, Gwyn Wilson, Alyssa Woods
- 6-55 “The Impact of Finances on Student Mental Health & Wellbeing” by Emma Hogsten, Trinity Reed-Winston, Coni Sandoval, Ethan Tickle, Sarah Zurfluh

## **EDUC 459: Methods for Social Studies Instruction Grades 6-12 ♦ Dr. Darren Minarik**

- 6-36 "How does housing instability stand between students and a high school diploma?" by Malorie Brogan, Kristen White
- 5-54 "Social Media and Political Polarization" by Benjamin Williams
- 5-26 "What the Flock? Do Flock cameras make our communities safer, or do they invade our right to privacy?" by Tucker Blevins, Jonathan Lloyd, Aaron Stiltner
- 6-48 "The Quest for Accurate Information in News Media" by Samuel Bateki Nong

## **ENGL 306: Professional Writing-18 ♦ Professor Jessica Mattox**

- 5-7 “The Effects of Social Media On Young Adults’ Mental Health” by Stephanie Dressler, Hazel Glenn, Keira Woods
- 5-51 “What’s Really Going On: The Impact of Inflation” by Elisha Beckwith, Tory Cox, Lewis Stuart
- 5-49 “Equal Means Equal” by Chrisopher Giop, Jacob Smith, Aniya Wilkerson
- 6-51: “End Homelessness, Empower Oregon” by Bailey LeGere, Elizabeth Manget, Bruno Salazar
- 6-39: “The Impact of Oil Spills on the Chesapeake Bay” by Sophia Bogan, Emily Lickert, Evan Martin

- 6-28: “Systemic Racism in American Education” by Cadence Dalton, Steven Harris, Benedicta “Benny” Oruma

## **ENGL 306: Professional Writing-20 ♦ Professor Jessica Mattox**

- 5-4: “Save the Bay” by Jackson Thomas, Tabitha “Tabby” Umbarger, Jazmin Waite, Kendra Wilkinson
- 5-14: “Cure or Crisis? The True Cost of Universal Healthcare” by Travis Claycomb, Mallory Laprade, Brianna Metz, Katelyn Woolwine
- 6-13: “Linguistic Discrimination in the Professional World” by Ruby Dowd, Nivea Scales, Elijah Stockton, Amanda Tomlin
- 6-24: “Restoring Rural Areas Post-Hurricane” by Noah Alewine, Jennifer “Jenni” Butcher, Kaylee Kaline, Trevor Stirling

## **GEOG 140: Intro to Environmental Science ♦ Dr. Naveen Joseph**

- 6-18 “Drying up of Mississippi and Colorado rivers and its economic impact on supply and demand in the US” by Ian Callaway, Kyle Murray, Ashton Bryant, Drew Eversole
- 6-22 “AI vs Farmland: How much farmland should we sacrifice for AI development?” by Dylan Graham, Ana Colon, Andrew Carter, Maren Williams
- 5-12 “Effects of Surface Coal Mining in Southern Appalachia” by Trevor Gammon, Brendan Stevens, Amelia Smith, Emi Lauter, Katerina Dowgiallo
- 5-19 “Deforestation in the Blue Ridge Mountain Region” by Aubrey Moore, Megan O'Brien
- 5-47 “Over Population of Deer in Radford” by Ben Carter, Zak Robinette
- 5-48 “Chemical Runoff in the Ocean” by Janayah Drummond, Azzy Straus
- 5-50 “Food waste on RU campus - A survey analysis” by Harleigh Dingman, Tzahmyra Valentine-Phillips, Elijah Jenkins, Riley Cross, Amaya Valdez, Michael Ramirez
- 5-53 “Emerald Ash Borers and their impact on the environment” by Natalia Esquivel Amador, Samuel Skocki
- 6-9 “When the New River rose: How Hurricane Helene affected Radford, Virginia” by Beau Holloway
- 6-27 “Microplastics in the New River” by Devin Cullop, Hannah Moore, Corie Hall, Hunter Marsh, Aiden Tiller, Matt Rea, Cody Munger
- 6-37 “Healthcare access in Virginia” by Bezawit Habte, Josh Ewing, Jazmin Waite

## **GEOG 140 Honors: Intro to Environmental Science ♦ Dr. Naveen Joseph**

- 6-43 “Ocean acidification in the Hawaiian islands” by Alex Lovern, Shanell Lawson, Jeremiah Garretson
- 6-46 “Forever chemicals and its effects in Virginia” by Nikita Arnold, Paige Comstock, Camryn Miller, Alexandra Jerez
- 6-47 “Human impacts on the Chesapeake Bay” Emma Staples, Samantha Spencer, Keely Newman
- 6-49 “Feral/Stray Cats and why they are invasive in Virginia State” by Kaitlyn Bignotti, Aspen Nagal
- 6-50 “Effects of nitrate pollution on the Great Barrier Reef” MJ Luckett, Haley Taylor, Allison Schilpp, Addison Myers

## **OURS 100: Introduction to Research and Creative Inquiry♦ Dr. Joseph Wirgau**

- 6-15 “Unifying Minds: Connecting Mental Health Services In The NRV  
Students: Jameson Childers, Ariel Mullins, Liz Yates, and Xena Wilcox  
Mentors: Joe Wirgau, Therese Root
- 5-52 Building a Strong Foundation: Bridging Student Service and Housing Needs in the NRV  
Students: Azylnn Coates, Addison Deel, Andrew Hawthorne, Eliza Meyers  
Mentors: Joe Wirgau, Therese Root
- 5-40 Catering to the Community: Connecting the New River Valley Student Population to Food Access Volunteerism  
Students: Layla Criner, Isabella Deel, Lauren Hatfield, Noemi Clymer Kurtz  
Mentors: Joe Wirgau, Therese Root
- 5-41 Building Public Trust: Have the NRV to Make a Change  
Students: Jameson Childers, Azlyn Coates, Isabella Deel, Vanessa Aguilar-Avila, Zigi Utah  
Mentors: Joe Wirgau, Haley Gilley, Therese Root, Chloe Willis
- 6-29 Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Volunteerism in the NRV.  
Students: Vanessa Aguilar, Mary Harrison, Genesis Villca  
Mentors: Joe Wirgau, Therese Root
- 6-40 First Steps, Lasting Impact: Students Helping Early Childhood Development in the NRV  
Students: Zigomma Utah, Kaitlyn Berry, Kaylee Pettit, Ella Ployhart  
Mentors: Joe Wirgau, Therese Root

## **PHIL 115 Honors: Wicked Problems ♦ Dr. Carter Turner**

- 5-9: "AI and the Loss of Human Expression" by Hudson Fox, Jett Leard, Geneva Pinkley

- 5-11: “How Social Media Increases Political Polarization for the Younger Generation” by Sophia Carpentti, Olivia Taylor, Joel Williams
- 6-8 “Atypically Typical: Addressing Disability and Ableism in Media” by Grace Barrett, Teagan Gilhooly, Katherine Rose
- 5-42 “Addressing Increased Rates of Suicide Among Young People in the United States” by Allie Moore, Addison Blankenship, Elizabeth Sisk
- 6-41 “Single-Use Plastic Pollution” by MacKenzie Bolling, Bailee Bowman, Caitlin Owlett
- 6-16 "Designed to Last Forever: Peeling Back the Labels on Processed Foods" by Kayla Winston, Kennady Hanshew, Bella Bailey

## **PHIL 115: Wicked Problems ◇ Dr. Heather Keith**

- 5-32 “Deforestation: Developing Land For Agriculture in Southeastern United States” by Raine Driggs, Brooklyn Arven, Cara Swearengin
- 5-21 “A Product a Day Keeps the Blood at Bay: Period Poverty at Radford and Beyond” by Noemi Clymer Kurtz, Denise Galvez Castillo, Allison Blevins, Reese Smith
- 5-28 “The ICE Age: Making Immigration Enforcement Safer for the Public” by James Kennedy, Lorenzo Dean, Desiree Williams
- 6-3 “RU Nuts? Habitat Destruction on Radford Campus” by Ana Kilbourne, Isabella Cooney, Thea Franklin
- 6-42 “Beyond red and blue: Rebuilding the American middle ground” by Parker Addison, Emi Teope, Taylor Epperly, Chris Alexander, Andrew Hawthorne

## **POSC 111: Big Questions in Political Science ◇ Dr. Stephen Joyce**

- 5-3 “Age Limits for Senators and members of the House of Representatives” by Apphia Cui, Jasmine Lively, Noah Provo, William Simpson
- 5-10 “Term Limits for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives” by Isaiaha Dalton, Andrew Picateggi, Uriah Rutan
- 5-20 “Abolish Judicial Review and Judicial Supremacy” by Bianca Hernandez Alvarez, Charlee Libby, Zoe Peters
- 6-5 “Constitutionalizing Jus Sanguinis Birthright Citizenship instead of Jus Solis Birthplace Citizenship” by Tyler Coates, Jaden Davis, Claire Keefe, Jett Leard
- 6-12 “Make the Constitutional Amendment Process Easier” by Hayden Busby, Ozkar Chambers, Aylor Collins, Desiree Williams
- 6-1 “No More Winner-Take-All Electoral College Vote Elections” by Natalie Kirmse, Mya Medrano, Gianna Seger, Brooklyn White
- 6-7 “Reforming the Presidential Pardon Power” by Julissa Hernandez Osuna, Jojo Liebler, Olivia Taylor, Joel Williams

## **POSC 130: Changing the World ◇ Dr. Paige Tan**

- 5-15 "Flock Cameras in Radford" by Jesse Boyd, Noah Brown
- 6-11 "Flock Off: Flock Cameras in Pulaski" by Madison Steiner, Abby McCoy, Desiree Williams, Sophie Willis
- 5-36 "Data Centers" by Sully Manley, Olivia Walburn, Luca Barton
- 5-44 "Homeless Not Helpless" by Alyssa Reed, Gavin Vanover, Lamis Mahayni, Frankie Cox
- 5-24 "RU Nourished" by Ellie Cobb, Aicha Kone, Liv Hamilton
- 5-30 "Cleaner New River " by Christian Hill, Isaiah Kigwe, Taka Gideon, Danny Murry
- 5-5 "Armed Conflict" by Rowan McManus, Kyle Murray, Adam Davis
- 5-35 "Chasing Normal " by Cadence Bell, Mason Whitaker

## **POSC 330: State and Local Government ♦ Dr. Chapman Rackaway**

- 5-6 "How Do We Bridge the Wealth Gap in Virginia?" by Kyle Murray, Logan Lester
- 6-23 "Who Powers Radford? Rethinking Utility Monopolies Through a Local Lens" by Therese Root, McKenzie Morman
- 5-34 "Preparing for Natural Disasters in SWVA" by Carter Safewright, Sally Ford
- 5-25 "The Underfunding of the New River Valley Regional Jail" by Natalie Ingram (with support from Sydney Howell-Wampler)
- 6-21 "Community Solutions" by Jesse Boyd, Payton Seals
- 5-23 "How Declining State Funding Drives Tuition Increases" by Jillian Hunt, Naomi O'Toole
- 5-17 "Felony Disenfranchisement" Tupper Gillie, Ayden "Brody" Miller

## **POSC 350: U.S. Foreign Policy ♦ Dr. Paige Tan**

- 5-31 "Should the US Remain Allied with Israel?" by Dylan Graham, Trinity Ellis, Grey Spence
- 6-31 "You Can't Choose Your Friends: Authoritarian Partners and Human Rights in US Foreign Policy" by Sarah Seagraves, Sally Ford
- 6-30 " America First in Afghanistan: How Should the Trump Administration Engage the Taliban to Advance U.S. Interests? " by Sydney Howell-Wampler, Tyler Russell
- 6-14 "The Human Rights Tragedy in Burma" by Jakob Genest, Mikey Lester
- 6-38 "Keeping the Nation Secure in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" by Emma Hemphill, Carter Safewright, Micah Gwynn
- 5-46 "Living in the Gray: Deterring Russian Gray-Zone Attacks in Europe" by Caleb Shaffer, Gabriel Yates, Emma Senkfor
- 6-54 "Chips, Power, and Competition: How Should the US Respond to China's Tech Rise?" by Delaney Gutierrez Catacora, Jackie King
- 6-19 "Counterterrorism, Humanitarianism, and Power: America's Syrian Dilemma" by Noah Provo, Baylee Peterson

- 6-45 "Deterring China from Attacking Taiwan" by Devin James, Tyler Gray
- 5-22 "Civilians under Attack: War Crimes in Ukraine" by Jillian Hunt, Claire Keefe

## **SOWK 321: Social Welfare Policy ♦ Dr. Ali-Sha Alleman**

- 6-52 “Sex in the City: Examining Risk Factors for Prostitution” by Emma Snead