

**Syllabus for CMST 1061–Fundamentals of Communication  
Fall 2017**

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**TA (1061-5):** Taylor Dawson

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**Office Hours:**

**Required Texts:**

Butcher, Joni. *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Kendall Hunt, 2017.

E-text version available: \$35 <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/5-pathways-communication>

You MUST have a copy of the text in some form. You will be required to turn in exercises from this workbook. I will NOT accept questions written on loose leaf paper. If you purchase the e-text, please be sure to print out the required activities and bring them with you to class.

Packback Access Fee: \$18

**Considering a Major or Minor in Communication Studies?**

A degree in communication studies will provide you with practical skills that are useful for a wide range of career choices. We do not narrowly train students for one specific job, instead we help students develop creative and critical ways to organize, build relationships, and solve a variety of communication problems. Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and many times a degree in communication studies will give you an edge over other job applicants in fields such as business, government, social and public services, sales, marketing, and the arts.

A **major** in Communication Studies requires 36 hours including 12 hours of core classes and 12 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level. A **minor** requires 15 hours with one core class and 6 hours at the 3000 level or above. More information is available at [www.lsu.edu/cmst](http://www.lsu.edu/cmst)

**Important Note on the Syllabus:**

This document contains all of your assignments, due dates, rules and regulations for this class. I will go over the syllabus with you on the first day of class, but it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with its content. Most everything you need to know about the class is included here. Please consult this syllabus for assignment guidelines, late penalties, and makeup assignments BEFORE e-mailing me with questions. If your question is not answered in the document below (or on the additional Moodle postings) please feel free to ask for clarification.

**General Education Statement:**

CMST 1061 is a General Education Humanities Course designed to familiarize the students with the fundamental concepts of communication. As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 1061 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.

**The Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act of 1973:**

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letter, please meet with me at some time during the first two weeks of class to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Fundamentals of Communication. During the semester, we will concentrate on five fundamental areas of communication: Small Group Communication, Public Discourse, Communication in Human Relationships, Visual and Mediated Communication, and Communication in Art and Culture.

**Course Goals:**

This course should help you read, write, think, and communicate critically. The goal is NOT simply to memorize terminology. You should certainly learn and understand the key concepts, but you should also know how to USE the concepts and relate the concepts to other subjects and other areas of life such as your personal life (know how to interpret and understand acts of communication), your social life (use the concepts to help you relate to others), and your professional life (help you communicate more effectively in the workplace).

**Packback Questions:**

Participation is a requirement for this class, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online curiosity community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask BIG questions about how what we're studying relates to life and the real world.

Your participation on Packback will count towards 150 points of your final grade.

**In order to receive your points each week**, you must post **1 Question and 2 Answers** relevant to our class subject matter each week.

Before you start posting, be sure to read the **Community Guidelines** found in the tutorial on Packback. If your post doesn't follow the Packback Community Guidelines, there is a chance it will be removed and you won't receive your points for that post.

There will be a **Sunday 11:59PM deadline** for submissions in your community each week.

Each week, we will spend time in class highlighting discussions from Packback, encouraging feedback, and recognizing top students.

**To start posting on Packback Questions:**

1. Navigate to <https://Packback.co/questions> and click “Register as a new student”.  
[Note: If you already have an account with Packback you can login with your credentials.]
2. Make sure to register with your LSU email address and real first and last name.
3. Enter our class community’s access code into the “Join a new Community” module on your dashboard.

The access code is:

1061-3: 2548749A-60C9-EF94-7DB8-5DD9EF5F96E9

1061-5: 4A4927F4-D72A-85B9-4D0D-5FF4A6ADDF01

4. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video:  
<https://vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions>

Note: The 3 students in each section who receive the highest overall curiosity points at the end of the semester will receive 10 bonus points at the end of the semester.

**The Inverted Classroom:**

This class will operate under the model of the “inverted classroom” instead of the traditional model in which you come to class unprepared, listen to the lecture on the material, then learn the material outside of class for the exam. This means you will need to come to class having already read the material and familiarized yourself with the content. This will allow you to be prepared to engage with your other group members as you learn more about the concepts by applying them in class activities.

### **Working in Groups:**

Early in the semester, you will be assigned to a 5-6 member team. Your group will work together throughout the semester completing a communication project for each of the five communication units. Although you may hate working in groups and probably have had bad experience with group work in the past, working in groups can be beneficial for a number of different reasons”

1. Students often learn better from working with the material in a group setting and figuring out for themselves how to best apply the concepts rather than listening passively to a lecture from the teacher.
2. When students try to explain concepts to each other, it often clarifies the concepts for other students.
3. Students learn how groups function (or fail to function) properly. In order for groups to function effectively, individuals must fulfill different responsibilities, make individual contributions, learn how to compromise and deal with conflict, and learn how to divide work equitably among the member.
4. Groups often make better decisions than individuals. Debating the right path to take often leads to a more creative outcome.
5. By working in groups, students can learn how to work with people who have different backgrounds, experiences, opinions, personalities, and communication styles.

### **In-Class Workbook Exercises:**

Workbook exercises for each unit will be assigned for in-class participation. When instructed to do so, please have these exercises completed BEFORE coming to class. You will use the class time to compare notes with your group members before making a presentation on the information to the class. Each student must turn in their own workbook exercise in order to receive full participation points. **[Again, answers on loose leaf paper will NOT be accepted.]** Students who participate, but do not turn in the required exercise will receive only half credit on the assignment. **Late workbook exercises will NOT be accepted.**

### **Project-Based Learning:**

Instead of group projects, think of the projects as “application activities.” For these communication application activities (projects), each group will be presented with the same problem. Group members must work together to analyze the problem and make specific choices, using the designated communication concepts, to prepare the best “conclusion” together. All groups will present their “answer” to the “problem” on the same day. The communication projects will be briefly discussed in class by the instructor and TA. We will highlight the group decisions that worked well and some decisions that may not have worked so well.

It is important to keep in mind that these are LEARNING activities designed to help you better understand the communication concepts. The point values are weighted very lightly, but you should still put forth your best effort. Please remember, any suggestions or comments we offer are meant to help you. Again, these projects are designed to be learning tools. We are critiquing the projects, not you.

### **Final Project Paper:**

Each student will be required to complete a final project paper in lieu of a final exam. You will choose a final project from a list of options, complete that project, and write a paper illustrating your findings. In this project paper, you should demonstrate your understanding of the communication concepts you learned this semester. You will be provided with a list of questions to answer within your final paper. Full instructions for this assignment will be posted to Moodle later in the semester.

#### **Final Project Options:**

1. Select a university organization such as LSU Food Pantry, Volunteer LSU, or any other organization from the list of organizations found at:

<https://lsu.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations>

Explain how you would use a communication concept you learned in this class to help promote this organization, recruit more members, or get their message out to the public.

2. Focus on your current place of employment.

Identify a communication problem inherent in your current workplace. How might you use a communication concept you learned about this semester to help solve this problem?

3. Attend a showing of a movie currently playing at the movie theater.

Use your knowledge of a specific communication concept in the Human Relationships chapter to analyze how the characters dealt with this area of interpersonal communication.

4. Elaborate on a specific Packback Question posed by your Community.

Use the appropriate communication concepts in order to answer this question thoroughly.

### **Research Participation Requirement:**

CMST 1061 requires a research participation element.

Full instructions appear on the next page!!!

Do not e-mail me at the end of the semester and say you have no idea what this is and that I never mentioned it in class.

### **Research Participation Requirement:**

The material you will learn in this course is the product of research. The goal of the research participation requirement for the Department of Communication Studies is to help you gain knowledge about the process by which scholars attempt to understand human behavior. All students taking CMST 1061, 2010, 1150, and 2060 must complete a research participation requirement. For each course in which you are enrolled, you must complete 2 research credits. You can fulfill your requirement by:

1. Participating in research studies conducted in the Department of Communication Studies. All studies that last between 0 and 30 minutes will count as one credit. Any study that lasts between 31 and 60 minutes will count as two credits. Study descriptions will specify the number of credits a student can earn for completion. There will be several survey and experimental studies conducted throughout the semester. These studies are held on campus at various times and in various locations or are administered online. All available studies are approved by the Institutional Review Board at LSU.
2. Participating in an organized departmental function such as debate. Only departmental sanctioned events will count toward a student's research participation requirement.
3. Serving as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies. The number of credits and requirements for those credits differ by faculty.

The research participation requirement is worth 3% (30 points) of your total grade. You will receive your 3% (30 points) if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. **Please note that all research participation credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday of dead week.**

ALL available options to earn credit are posted on an electronic bulletin board located at <http://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/>. When you go to this website, you will first have to request an account. Students must request a new account every semester regardless of whether you have requested an account in a previous semester. Once you have secured an account for this semester, you will be able to log in and see the options available to you for your various CMST courses. The Psychology Department also uses this site for its research requirement. You cannot complete Psychology research for your CMST research participation requirement.

Please note that various ways to fulfill your research participation requirement will appear on this site throughout the semester. You are encouraged to check the system on a regular basis for current credit options that fit your interests as well as your schedule.

Detailed instructions on how to request an account and to navigate the system once logged in can be found on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies. Go to <http://app1003.lsu.edu/artsci/cmstweb.nsf/index>. Then click on RESEARCH and STUDIES. Scroll down to find the document titled "RPS - Instructions for Students."

You are encouraged to create an account during the first week of classes so that any problems that arise can be remedied early. If you have questions about this requirement or the online system that keeps track of credits, please email [researchadmin@lsu.edu](mailto:researchadmin@lsu.edu).

**\*\*\*Research Participation Requirements must be completed by the last Tuesday of the semester.**

**24/7 Rule:**

Because of time constraints with such a large class, it is recommended that you dispute any grade via e-mail.

Please wait 24 hours after receiving a grade before disputing it. This will allow you time to read and process any comments made by the instructor or TA. If you do have a dispute after this time, please let us know within 7 days of receiving the grade. Otherwise, the grade will automatically stand as it is.

Also, please keep a check on your posted grades throughout the semester and let me know **immediately** if there has been an error in grading. **You MUST notify me of a grading error within 2 weeks of the grade being posted to Moodle.** Otherwise, the grade in question will remain as it appears. I will not go back and try to locate an assignment from 2 months earlier.

**E-Mail:**

If you e-mail me with a question about an assignment or any other question concerning the class, please allow at least 24 hours for a reply. If you e-mail me the night before an assignment is due, there is no guarantee I will read and respond to your e-mail before class time. There is also no guarantee that I will check my e-mail over the weekend. If you have an assignment due on Monday, please do not wait until Saturday or Sunday to e-mail me with questions.

**Absences and Missed Assignments:**

Since this class relies very heavily on in-class participation, excessive absences will have a negative impact on your overall grade.

You must provide valid written documentation of a university excused absence in order to make up any missed work. (See PS-22). Otherwise, a grade of '0' will be assigned for that exam or assignment.

**Exams:**

If you miss an exam, you must provide valid written documentation of a university excused absence in order to make up the missed exam. (See PS-22) Otherwise, a grade of '0' will be assigned for that exam. If you are traveling with a sports team or other university sponsored event, please make arrangements to take the exam BEFORE you leave.

**In-Class Workbook Exercises:** If you miss an in-class workbook exercise for a university excused absence, you may complete a workbook exercise assigned by your instructor. This activity will be graded for correctness. You will not automatically receive the 10 points.

**Group Participation for Communication Application Activities:** If you will not be in class on a workshop day, you MUST contact your group members to let them know of your absence and to complete any work that is assigned to you by your group in order to receive your participation points. Your group members who are present in class must sign and turn in a paper verifying that you are helping out in order for you to receive your participation points for that day. It is the responsibility of you and your group members to inform me of your participation points. If I do not receive documentation from your group members before the end of class, you will not receive points for that day's workshop. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**\*\*\*Note that the day before and the day after a scheduled university holiday are REGULAR CLASS DAYS. Classes will be held and assignments will be due. Please make travel plans with this in mind. Vacations are NOT university excused absences.**



## **Course Assignments and Point Values**

### **Exams (450 points)**

Exam 1 = 150 points (Ch. 1 & 2)

Exam 2 = 150 points (Ch. 6 & 5)

Exam 3 = 150 points (Ch. 4 & 3)

### **Packback Questions (150 points)**

### **Communication Application Activities (50 points)**

5 @ 10 points each

### **Group Participation (50 points)**

10 points for each of the 5 Communication Application Activities workshop days

### **In-Class Workbook Exercises (120 points)**

12 Exercises @ 10 points each

### **Project Proposal (25 points)**

### **Final Project Paper (125 points)**

### **Research Participation Requirement (30 points)**

**Total Points for Class = 1000 points**

### Course Grading Scale:

A+	= 1000-970
A	= 969-930
A -	= 929-900
B+	= 899-870
B	= 869-830
B -	= 829-800
C+	= 799-770
C	= 769-730
C -	= 729-700
D+	= 699-670
D	= 669-630
D -	= 629-600
F	= 599-000

You have a total of 1000 points to be earned this semester. Your class grade is based on completing the assignments given on the syllabus.

Since the +/- system already splits fine hairs between letter grades, I do not round up any scores.

There may be a few opportunities for extra credit work, but there is no guarantee. If an extra credit opportunity does arise, it will be announced in class and must be completed by the specified deadline and you must turn in all the required parts (such as a ticket stub and/or brief paper) to receive credit. Please be aware that extra credit work will always consist of attending an outside-of-class event. Most of these opportunities will likely have an admission cost. Extra credit opportunities will be worth 10 bonus points each at the end of the semester.

### How to Determine Your Current Class Grade:

If you want to know your grade in the class at any given time, add up all of the points you have on Moodle and divide by the number of points possible at that time. DO NOT rely on Moodle's average and NEVER look at Moodle's PROJECTED GRADE. IT WILL NOT BE ACCURATE.

## Calendar of Assignments

M	8/21	Syllabus
W	8/23	Ch. 1: What is Communication? (p. 1-6)
F	8/25	Bring to class: Exercise #1 (p. 7) and Exercise #5 (p. 15)
M	8/28	Bring to class the following Exercise as assigned below: Last names beginning with A-I: Exercise #2 (p.9) Last names beginning with J-R: Exercise #3 (p. 11) Last names beginning with S-Z: Exercise #4 (p. 13)
W	8/30	Ch. 2: Professional Communication in Small Groups (p. 17-26); Bring to class the following Exercise portion as assigned below: Last names beginning with A-F: Exercise #1, Question #1 (p. 27) Last names beginning with G-L: Exercise #2, Question #2 (p. 27) Last names beginning with M-Q: Exercise #4, Question #1 (p. 33) Last names beginning with R-T: Exercise #4, Question #2 (p. 33) Last names beginning with U-Z: Exercise #4, Question #3 (p. 33)
F	9/1	Bring to class: Exercise #5 (p. 35-36)
M	9/4	No Class: Labor Day
W	9/6	Groups Assigned
F	9/8	Evaluation of past communication application activities

### **[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--1**

M	9/11	Workshop
W	9/13	Communication Application Activities Due
F	9/15	<b>Exam #1 (Ch. 1 &amp; Ch. 2)</b>

### **[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--2**

M	9/18	Ch. 6: Art and Culture; Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)
W	9/20	Cultural Storytelling
F	9/22	Parody

### **[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--3**

M	9/25	Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)
W	9/27	Evaluation of past communication application activities
F	9/29	Workshop

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--4**

M	10/2	Communication Application Activities Due
W	10/4	Ch. 5: Visual and Mediated Communication
F	10/6	Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--5**

M	10/9	Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)
W	10/11	Evaluation of past communication application activities
F	10/13	Workshop

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--6**

M	10/16	Communication Application Activities Due
W	10/18	<b>Exam #2 (Ch. 5 &amp; Ch. 6)</b>
F	10/20	No class: Fall Holiday

**\*\*\*No Packback Questions and Answers due this weekend. Enjoy your break!!!**

M	10/23	Ch. 4: Communication in Human Relationships; Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)
W	10/25	Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)
F	10/27	Video examples/Discussion

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--7**

M	10/30	Evaluation of past communication application activities
W	11/1	Workshop
F	11/3	Communication Application Activities Due

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--8**

M	11/6	Ch. 3: Public Discourse; Bring Exercise #2 (p. 55) to class – you will complete it DURING class time today.
W	11/8	Pathos
F	11/10	Bring to class assigned Exercise (See Moodle for List)

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--9**

M	11/13	Evaluation of past communication application activities
W	11/15	Workshop; <b>Project Proposal Due</b>
F	11/17	Communication Application Activities Due

**[Packback Question and Answers due by 11:59 PM Sunday]--10**

M 11/20 Exam #3 (Ch. 4 & Ch. 3)

**[Reminder: It's a good idea to have RPR completed by this time.]**

W 11/22 No class: Thanksgiving

F 11/24 No class: Thanksgiving

M 11/27 TBA

W 11/29 TBA

F 12/1 TBA

**Final Project Papers Due by 3:00 PM on Wed. Dec. 6.**

**--I will be in my office at this time to collect papers.**

**--You may also turn them in at any time prior to this. Place them in the envelope attached to my office door.**

**--I will NOT accept papers via email. No Exceptions!!!**

M 1/30		Communication Challenge #1 Workshop	
W 2/1		Communication Challenge #1	
F 2/3		EXAM #1	
M 2/6	Ch. 3: Public Discourse (p. 37-51)	Public Discourse	
W 2/8		Cont.	
F 2/10		Cont.	
M 2/13		Evaluation of past projects; Communication Challenge #2 Workshop	
W 2/15		Communication Challenge #2 Workshop	Exercise #1: Article Analysis (p. 53) and any 2 additional Exercises of your choice
F 2/17		Communication Challenge #2	
M 2/20	Ch. 4: Communication in Human Relationships (p. 69-84)	Communication in Human Relationships	
W 2/22		Cont.	
F 2/24		Cont.	
M 2/27		No Class: Mardi Gras	
W 3/1		No Class: Mardi Gras	
F 3/3		Evaluation of past projects; Communication Challenge #3 Workshop	

M 3/6		Communication Challenge #3 Workshop	Your choice of Exercise #4: Confirming and Disconfirming Messages (p. 91-93), Exercise #7: Compliance-Gaining (p. 99-104) or Exercise #8: Conflict (p. 105-109) and any 2 additional Exercises of your choice
W 3/8		Communication Challenge #3	
F 3/10		Exam #2	
M 3/13	Ch. 4: Visual and Mediated Communication (p. 111-130)	Visual and Mediated Communication	
W 3/15		Cont.	
F 3/17		Evaluation of past projects; Communication Challenge #4 Workshop	
M 3/20		Communication Challenge #4 Workshop	Exercise #2: Visual Techniques (p. 133) and any 2 additional Exercises of your choice
W 3/22		Communication Challenge #4	
F 3/24	Ch. 5: Art and Culture (p. 141-152)	Art and Culture	
M 3/27		Cont.	
W 3/29		Cont.	

F 3/31		Evaluation of past projects: Communication Challenge #5 Workshop	Exercise #2: The Social Front (p. 155-157) and any 2 additional Exercises of your choice
M 4/3		Communication Challenge #5 Workshop	
W 4/5		Communication Challenge #5	
F 4/7		Exam #3	
M 4/10		No Class: Spring Break	
W 4/12		No Class: Spring Break	
F 4/14		No Class: Spring Break	
M 4/17		TBA	
W 4/19		Project Presentations	All Final Communication Papers Due
F 4/21		Project Presentations	
M 4/24		Project Presentations	RPR Deadline on Tuesday
W 4/26		Project Presentations	
F 4/28		Review	

**Final Exam:**1061-3 (9:30-10:20): **Monday, May 1: 10:00 am-12:00 noon**1061-5 (12:30-1:20): **Tuesday, May 2: 12:30-2:30 pm**