

CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication

Department of Communication Studies | College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Fall 2017

Section 9

T/Th 12:00 – 1:20 PM

Locket 235



Instructor: **Greg Langner**
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Office: **Coates 321**
Office Hours: **Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

Required Textbook:

Butcher, Joni. *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt, 2016.

Course Overview and Outcomes:

This course introduces students to the practical fundamentals of Communication as both an academic discipline and as a vital professional skill, emphasizing the following five areas: (1) Workplace (Business) Communication; (2) Public Discourse and Social Advocacy (Political Communication); (3) Visual and Mediated Communication (Film, Social Media, etc.); (4) Communication in Human Relationships; and (5) Art and Culture.

As a result of this course, students should:

1. Learn to apply vital critical thinking skills through practices of speaking, writing, and everyday action.
2. Develop a readiness to apply the key concepts learned from each section to a professional and political environment.
3. Learn to effectively assess social circumstances through interpretation of meaning, implication, and historical origin.

COURSE POLICIES

SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION

The *Americans with Disabilities Act* and the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* state: “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 can be arranged.” After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance and participation are expected, and you should note that attendance and grades are highly correlated in any class. If you are absent, you will not be allowed to turn in assignments that were due in class or make up any quizzes, exams, or assignments. The only possible exception to this rule is if you have a *documented* excused absence or other *prior* arrangement made with the instructor (prior arrangements are *never guaranteed*). You should notify the instructor in advance via email if you are going to miss class, and the reason for your absence. Work-related absences, work in other classes, oversleeping, or meetings with other instructors are not considered excused absences.

LATE WORK

Unless otherwise announced, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work will not be accepted.

CLASSROOM RESPECT

Do not talk when others are speaking. Give your full attention during class discussions and when your fellow students are presenting. Arrive to class on time. Communicate with your instructor via email regularly, and as needed.

TECHNOLOGY

Do not have your phone out during class; keep your phone on silent or vibrate. If you use your phone during another student’s presentation you will *automatically lose 10%* of your grade on that same presentation. Laptops and tablets are not permitted in this class unless otherwise stated by the instructor.

EMAIL

Always use your campus email when emailing the instructor; always state your first and last name, and the title and section number of the class in the body of the email. When the instructor answers your question via email, always respond to confirm.

PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize even a portion of any assignment, you will receive an automatic 'F' in the class. If you cheat during an exam, quiz, or the equivalent, you will receive an automatic 'F' on that assignment; and you may receive an automatic 'F' in the class, at the instructor's discretion.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit *may* be offered at some point in the semester. There is *no guarantee* for any extra credit opportunities.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES

INDIVIDUAL UNIT PROJECTS & EXAMS

75% of your total grade.

Creative Project 1, *Workplace (Business) Communication* (15%): In consultation with your instructor you will develop a (preferably web-based) project that creatively demonstrates your understanding of the concepts learned from the textbook, from additional readings and materials, and from class lectures, discussions, and activities on *Workplace Communication*.

Midterm Exam, *Art & Culture* (15%): You will be tested on your understanding of and ability to apply the concepts learned from the textbook, from additional readings and materials, and from class lectures, discussions, and activities on *Art and Culture*.

Creative Project 2, *Visual & Mediated Communication* (15%): In consultation with your instructor you will develop a web-based (required) project that creatively demonstrates your understanding of the concepts learned from the textbook, from additional readings and materials, and from class lectures, discussions, and activities on *Visual and Mediated Communication*.

Final Exam, *Communication in Human Relationships* (15%): You will be tested on your understanding of and ability to apply the concepts learned from the textbook, from additional readings and materials, and from class lectures, discussions, and activities on *Communication in Human Relationships*; you will be expected to integrate concepts learned from the other sections.

Final (Short) Paper, *Public Discourse & Social Advocacy* (15%): You will write a concise 700-900 word essay in APA or MLA format that demonstrates your understanding of *Public Discourse and Social Advocacy*, and applies the concepts learned to a prevalent social issue. This paper must address the historical, cultural, and philosophical complexities of discourse.

PARTICIPATION

17% of your total grade.

Frequently engaging in class discussions, fully participating in class activities, and respectfully communicating with your peers and instructor are all required to receive credit for Participation.

ONE-ON-ONE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETING

5% of your total grade.

At some point during the semester you will be required to schedule a one-on-one meeting with the instructor to discuss your professional development during and beyond your college career. For this discussion you will be expected to engage using your understanding of the concepts learned in class. *Do not wait until the end of the semester to schedule this meeting; there is no guarantee that I will be able to meet with you in the final three weeks, and I will not be scheduling these meetings during Finals Week at all.*

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SYSTEM (RPS)

3% of your total grade.

See attached page in the back.

A+ (97% - 100%)

A (93% - 96%)

A- (90% - 92%)

B+ (87% - 89%)

B (83% - 86%)

B- (80% - 82%)

C+ (77% - 79%)

C (73% - 76%)

C- (70% - 72%)

D+ (67% - 69%)

D (63% - 66%)

D- (60% - 62%)

F (0% - 59%)

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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Class Topic(s)	Material Due
1	T 8/22	Introductions & Syllabus Review	
	Th 8/24	Overview of <i>Workplace (Business) Communication</i> .	CHAPTERS 1 & 2.
2	T 8/29	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 8/31	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
3	T 9/5	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 9/7	Discussion/Activities TBA.	CREATIVE PROJECT 1 DUE.
4	T 9/12	Overview of <i>Art & Culture</i> .	CHAPTER 6.
	Th 9/14	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
5	T 9/19	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 9/21	Midterm Review.	
6	T 9/26	MIDTERM EXAM.	
	Th 9/28	Overview of <i>Visual & Mediated Communication</i> .	CHAPTER 5.
7	T 10/3	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 10/5	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
8	T 10/10	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 10/12	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
9	T 10/17	NO CLASS, INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE	Online participation through Moodle.
	Th 10/19	NO CLASS, "FALL HOLIDAY"	
10	T 10/24	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 10/26	Project 2 in-class workshop.	
11	T 10/31	Discussion/Activities TBA.	CREATIVE PROJECT 2 DUE.
	Th 11/2	Overview of <i>Communication in Human Relationships</i> .	CHAPTER 4.
12	T 11/7	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 11/9	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
13	T 11/14	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
	Th 11/16	NO CLASS, INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE	Online participation through Moodle.
14	T 11/21	FINAL EXAM	
	Th 11/23	NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING	
15	T 11/28	Overview of <i>Public Discourse and Social Advocacy</i> .	CHAPTER 3.
	Th 11/30	Discussion/Activities TBA.	Reading/Viewing on Moodle.
Final	W 12/6	FINAL, 5:30 – 7:30 PM	FINAL PAPER DUE.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SYSTEM (RPS) INSTRUCTIONS

The material you will learn in this course is the product of research. The goal of the research learning requirement is to help you to 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 learning requirement. For each course in which a student is enrolled, he or she 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. Each study 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 through online survey software. All available studies are approved by the Institutional Review Board at LSU.

2. Participating in an organized departmental function such as debate or public speaking

Competition. Only departmental sanctioned events will count toward a student's research learning requirement; thus, no credit will be given for a student attending an outside speaker or performance.

3. Serving as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies. The number of units and requirements for those units will be set by the researcher and either accepted or rejected by the student. The research learning requirement is worth 3% of your total grade; you will receive your 3% if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester.

Please note that all research learning credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday, November 28, at 11:59 PM (the Tuesday prior to the start of the concentrated study period).

ALL available options to earn credit are posted on an electronic bulletin board located at

<https://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/>. When you go to this website, you will first have to request an account. Once you have secured an account, you will be able to log in and see the options available to you for your various CMST courses.

Please note that **various ways to fulfill your research learning requirement will appear on this bulletin board 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.

It is very important that when you sign-up for a credit option that you attend that option or cancel your sign up. **Failure to show up twice during one semester will result in your access to the system being restricted and you being unable to complete your research learning requirement.** Valid excuses for failing to cancel a sign up and missing a credit option are the same as those found in LSU Policy Statement 31.

Detailed instructions on how to request an account and to navigate the system are posted on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies, <http://www.lsu.edu/cmst>. Click on RESOURCES and RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SYSTEM. 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 before it is too late. If you have questions about this requirement or the online system that keeps track of credits, please email researchadmin@lsu.edu.