

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

CMST 4119-01, 11:00-12:30, M-F, 218 Coates

Summer 2014

Professor

Dr. Renee Edwards

M-Th 10:00-10:45 and most afternoons

136A Coates Hall, 578-6821

edwards@lsu.edu

Overview

This course provides an in-depth study of nonverbal communication. Because CMST 2010 or an equivalent is a prerequisite for the class, students should already understand the communication process and have some familiarity with nonverbal messages and their many forms and functions. This course will examine nonverbal communication in two ways. The first will be to examine theories and research about the codes and communicative functions of nonverbal behaviors. This will provide a cognitive understanding of the importance, pervasiveness, and effect of nonverbal communication, as well as the role it plays in the overall communication process.

The second way that we will examine nonverbal communication is to experience actively how individuals use it, and discover what happens when nonverbal rules are violated. We will explore nonverbal abilities and expectations to understand the range of nonverbal communication. This will provide students with a subjective awareness of their own and others' nonverbal messages.

Objective

The primary objective of this class is to enhance the student's ability to observe, interpret, and analyze the role of nonverbal behaviors and messages.

Text (required)

Burgoon, J. K., Guerrero, L. K., & Floyd, K. (2010). *Nonverbal Communication*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Exams – 40% of the final grade

- **Chapter Quizzes** – 30% of final grade. Beginning with Chapter 3 and each additional day for which a chapter is assigned, students will take two in-class quizzes. The first will be based on the student's reading and understanding of the material. After the quiz, students will form groups and re-take the quiz. Both grades will be entered into the student's gradebook on Moodle. At the end of the session, the grade for chapter quizzes will be based on the 10 best individual grades (20% of the final grade) and the 10 best group grades (10% of the final grade).
- **Final Exam** – 10% of the final grade

Research Paper – 35% of final grade

You will write an 8-10 page paper about some narrow aspect of nonverbal communication. Your paper will include

- A summary of two journal articles and information from the textbook plus the Reference List (use additional sources as needed; they must be scholarly). This is Part I of the paper and is due around the middle of the term (10%).
- A description of observations you make this summer (including a description of how you made them and conclusions you can draw from them)
- An explanation of how your conclusions are similar or different from previous research on the topic
- A discussion about how knowledge of your topic could affect social and personal relationships, with attention to ethical implications

Throughout the session, you will turn in additional sections of your paper as part of “Activities and Written Assignments.” The complete paper is due at the end of the session (25%). *Your paper must be submitted in hard copy on the due date; emailed versions are not permitted. Late papers will lose 10 points per calendar weekday.*

Oral Presentations – 10% of final grade

- **Artifact Presentation** – You will give a presentation in which you show and explain an example of a concept or topic in the chapter (3-5 minutes). For this presentation, you will probably use PowerPoint.
- **Paper Presentation** – You will make a presentation of your research paper to the class at the end of the semester; 4-6 minutes long.

Activities and Written Assignments – 15% of final grade

Throughout the session, you will submit components of the paper: topic and thesis statement, sources, method for conducting observations, summary of an article, and reference list in the correct citation style (APA). Other assignments will include peer feedback, responses to activities, and required writing or participation. The lowest two grades will be dropped.

Attendance and Participation

You will learn about nonverbal communication in two ways: cognitively and subjectively. The first way is measured by having students take exams and write papers. Subjective learning is more difficult to measure. By subjective learning, you should become more aware of nonverbal cues. Because I cannot peek inside your mind, I must rely on what you say. Your active attendance and participation help me to understand your subjective learning. Daily attendance is essential.

Moodle

Grades will be recorded in Moodle - you should check it regularly to make sure it is accurate. You must notify me of any problem within three days of grades being recorded. Missing grades will be counted as “zero.”

Notice

The Americans with Disabilities Act and the 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 for Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of the accommodations as soon as possible (at least a week before the midterm).

CMST 4119 Schedule and Assignments – tentative

June 9	Introduction to the course and each other. First Impressions	Review Syllabus
June 10	Introduction to Nonverbal Communication Chapters for artifact presentations	Chapter 1 Assignment, “What is communication?” Assignment: Post topic for artifact presentation.
June 11	No Class Sociocultural Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 2 Assignment, “Cultures and Co-cultures”
June 12	No Class	Assignment, “Finding Journal Articles”
June 13	TBD. Paper Assignment	
June 16	Bio-Evolutionary Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 3 First set of quizzes
June 17	Paper topics. Methods of observation. Observation Activity	
June 18	The Body as a Code: Appearance and Adornment.	Chapter 4 DRESS DIFFERENTLY
June 19	Artifact Presentations. APA style. Recording activity.	Preliminary list of sources and method due, hard copy required
June 20	Visual and Auditory Codes: Kinesics and Vocalics	Chapter 5
June 23	Contact Codes: Haptics and Proxemics	Chapter 6
June 24	Artifact Presentations	Thesis statement and Summary of one article due, hard copy required
June 25	Place and Time Codes: Environment, Artifacts, and Chronemics	Chapter 7
June 26	Message Production and Processing	Chapter 8
June 27	Social Cognition and Impression Formation	Chapter 9
June 30	Expressing Real and Desired Identities	Chapter 10. Part I of paper due
July 1	Expressing Emotions	Chapter 11
July 2	Relational Messages: Intimacy and Affection	Chapter 12
July 3	Relational Messages: Power, Dominance, and Influence	Chapter 13
July 4	No Class: Independence Day Holiday	
July 7	Managing Conversations:	Chapter 14
July 8	Deceiving Others	Chapter 15
July 9	Presentations	Final Paper Due
July 10	Presentations	
July 11	Special Activity	Attendance required
Saturday, July 12	12:30-2:30, regular classroom	Final Exam

Graduate Students

Graduate students will take the same quizzes (30% of grade) as undergraduates, but other assignments will be different:

1. Instead of posting on Moodle, graduate students should turn in 1-2 page abstracts of 7 articles. These should be relevant to 7 separate chapters and are due (hard copy) the day the chapter is to be addressed in class. (10% of final grade)
2. Graduate students will write formal research papers. The papers should be 12-15 pages long, should thoroughly review the literature on a given topic and propose hypotheses or research questions (50% of grade).
3. Graduate students will deliver a 20-30 minute lecture to the class on their paper topics (10% of final grade).
4. Daily attendance is expected as a matter of course. Because your distribution of grades is different from undergraduates, your current course grade in Moodle will not be accurate.