

# CMST 1150: Introduction to Communication Studies

Spring 2014

Section 1: MWF 12:30-1:20; Section 2: MWF 1:30-2:20

Instructor: **Mr. Kent Filbel**

Office: Coates 135

Phone: 578-6719

Email: [kfilli@lsu.edu](mailto:kfilli@lsu.edu)

Office Hours: **MWF 10:30-11:20 a.m.,**

**3:30-4:20 p.m.; T/Th 10-Noon; & by special appt.**

Graduate Asst.: **Ms. Stephanie Heath**

Office: Coates 322

Phone: 578-6887

Email: [sheath4@lsu.edu](mailto:sheath4@lsu.edu)

Office Hours: **T/Th 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

CMST 1150 surveys the history of the Communication Studies discipline and significant areas of communication research. The course introduces students who are majoring or minoring in Communication Studies to the research methods, history, research findings and communication contexts explored within the discipline. Specifically, the course introduces students to the three areas that make up LSU's Department of Communication Studies: rhetorical theory and criticism, performance studies, and communication theory. The course incorporates lectures by the instructor, reading assignments, reading quizzes, guest lecturers, and exercises/discussions. Full participation is expected of all students.

## TEXTS

Wood, Julia Introduction To Communication Studies. Thomson/Wadsworth: Belmont, CA, 2008.

Course Reading Packet. Available at *Copies Too*, 5251 Nicholson (at Lee Dr.), 761-1888

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are expected to attend all regularly scheduled class meetings, read all the assigned material from the text and reading packet prior to coming to class, and participate in class discussions and exercises. In addition, you will be responsible for completing short reading quizzes, and three exams.

*Attendance/Class Participation:* Attendance and participation is required. The course meetings will include a mixture of lectures, class discussions, and a variety of exercises. On occasion, a guest lecturer will present material relevant to our current topic but not covered in one of your reading assignments. You are responsible for all the reading as well as the lecture material. I will use a portion of the class time to present information designed to reinforce, clarify, or supplement the ideas introduced in your readings. In addition to in-class exercises, all students are required to complete 30 points worth of *research participation* outside of class. A page on Moodle will explain more.

*To receive credit for in-class exercises, you must be present during the exercise and contribute to the completion of your task or that of a group.*

Your participation grade will be calculated based on the total points of exercises you were present for and participated in. Exercises will not necessarily be announced in advance.

Because exercises are designed to facilitate in-class collaboration and discussion among students, let me know if an absence is university-excused. *Because class exercises are not graded, per sé,*

*but receive 100% when done conscientiously, there will be no unexcused make-ups for these exercises.* Excused make-ups will be allowed with no penalty.

*Quizzes:* There will be at least 8 regular quizzes throughout the semester that will cover the assigned course readings, often one per reading assignment. In addition to the regular quizzes, 2-3 quizzes will be extra credit. You will not be told which two will be extra credit before you take them. Although the reading assignments may include complex material, the quizzes will focus more often on important ideas presented in any article or chapter. The quizzes will be objective (multiple choice, matching and true/false) and relatively brief. They will typically be given prior to a lecture on the assigned reading. The lowest 3 of the 8 quiz scores will be dropped. Because 3 quizzes will be dropped, you will have to miss 3 quizzes before any makeup quizzes will be allowed. You will receive a zero for any quiz you miss. The quizzes should help you keep up with the reading and serve as practice for the exams.

*Exams:* Three exams will be given during the semester, one following each major unit of the course. All the exams may contain a combination of multiple choice, true/false, or matching questions. The third exam will be scheduled during the final exam period but will not be comprehensive.

*Grading:* For the purposes of calculating your final grades in the course, we will use the following **point** system. ***IMPORTANT!*** Ignore the percents on Moodle. Ignore them all semester. This course is based on **points** alone. The requirements will bear the following weights:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Quizzes (highest 5 of 8 quiz scores)   | 150 pts.        |
| Exam 1: Rhetoric   | 250 pts.        |
| Exam 2: Performance Studies  | 250 pts.        |
| Exam 3: Communication Theory   | 250 pts.        |
| Class Participation (In-class exercises, plus<br>a research participation component) | <u>100 pts.</u> |
|  | 1000 pts.       |

The following scale will determine your final grade:

A = 900+    B = 800-899    C = 700-799    D = 600-699    F = below 600

NOTE: "I" grades (Incomplete) cannot be given without the permission of the student's academic dean.

Any work, other than in-class exercises, handed in late without a university-approved excuse will be penalized 10%.

*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 of Disability Services (115 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letter, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.