

CMST 2060 PUBLIC SPEAKING  
Spring 2014 – Section: 003 (Audubon 212) MWF 8:30-9:20  
Section: 016 (Tureaud 201) MWF 12:30-1:20

**Instructor:** Travis L Williams, MA  
**Office:** Coates Hall 320 (MWF 11:00-12:30)  
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**Required Texts:** Crick, Nathan (2014). *Rhetorical Public Speaking*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Allyn & Bacon – Pearson Education, Inc.

**Course Description/ Goals:**

CMST 2060 is a *General Education Humanities Course* designed to familiarize students with the study of public speaking. The act of public speaking is the culmination (and often the beginning) of a long process of critical dialogue between oneself, language, and the imagined responses of the audience. In other words, it takes being confident in who you are, what you want to say, how you are going to say it, who you want to say it to, and why you should say anything at all. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of rhetorical public speaking.

*As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 2060 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.*

As a result of this course, students should:

1. Understand the principles of rhetoric and effectively utilize them in crafting well researched, reasoned, and appealing speeches.
2. Choose topics for public speaking that are timely, relevant, and adaptable given varying situations in which the message may be delivered, and for different audiences.
3. Effectively and critically evaluate message/speech content and delivery, both when examining one's own work as well as that of others.
4. Understand and utilize the verbal and nonverbal elements essential for exemplary speech delivery.
5. Analyze and discuss speeches of historical, political and social significance.

**Course Overview:**

Dr. Nathan Crick, author of *Rhetorical Public Speaking* wrote “The famous Greek speechwriter and teacher, Isocrates, once said that ‘none of the things which are done with intelligence take place without the help of speech, but that in all our actions as well as in all our thoughts, speech is our guide.’ In an age colonized by sound bites and the power of the visual image, perhaps this statement may sound naïve. However, it is the goal of this course to prove otherwise. *For public speaking is neither the mere act of standing up and saying words, nor just a catalog of helpful tips.* The act of public speaking is the culmination (and often the beginning) of a long process of critical

dialogue between yourself, language, and the imagined responses of your audience. In other words, it takes being confident in who you are, what you want to say, how you are going to say it, who you want to say it to, and why you should say anything at all. For that reason, *public speaking may possibly be the most challenging course you will take as an undergraduate student*" (emphasis added).

This course is not a basic public speaking class, instead this course introduces students to fundamentals of rhetoric and deploys methods of both theory and practice. In this course you will engage in the practice of public speaking while simultaneously learning and using rhetoric as a form of theory, scholarship, and methodology.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

Attendance & Participation: Your attendance at each class meeting is expected. You are expected to attend all classes just as you would be expected to go to work every day if this was any other job. Your class participation grade will be determined based on in-class discussion participation, assignments/exercises, and analysis of in-class presentations throughout the semester.

Readings: You will receive assigned readings weekly. These readings are to be completed before class. If readings are done prior to class, we will engage in activities and discussion which is how I lead class. If individuals choose not to do the assigned readings prior to class, daily quizzes will be implemented which I assure will be challenging.

Plagiarism: I have no tolerance for plagiarism. You are to assume that all assignments in this course are individual assignments unless explicit instructions are provided for a group project. Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. See the LSU policies on plagiarism here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>. Your paper would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submit a paper in which you "cut and paste" or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

Extra Credit: No extra credit assignment will be allowed.

Climate of Respect: In this course we will be discussing issues of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, politics, age, class, and other cultural issues that affect our social lives. ANY disrespect in this course whether written or said orally justifies the student being removed from the course. We should have a safe space to espouse opinions and views in this room but disrespect will result in severe negative consequences.

Communication: There are a few guidelines for communicating with your instructor. Frist, email is the best way to contact me. Emails are considered professional and legal documentation so please use effective communication skills. Place your NAME and SECTION number in the subject line. As far as grades goes, I cannot discuss grades in email so you must set up an appointment.

Grades: After you receive a grade you must wait 24 hours to discuss with me. Also you must resolve any grade issue within 7 days of the grade posted.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitations Act of 1973 states: “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.

Grades: Final grades will be determined based on scores earned in the following assignments. All work must be done during the semester and not made up after the fact.

Course Assignments:

Research Requirement .....	3%
Introductory Speech .....	5%
Commemorative Speech .....	10%
Enrichment Speech .....	10%
Advocacy Speech .....	10%
MediaShare Speeches .....	12%
Quizzes .....	10%
Participation .....	10%
Midterm Exam .....	15%
Final Exam .....	15%

Missed Presentations and Late-Work:

Quizzes and MediaShare are both part of your participation grade. If a student is absent the day she/he is scheduled to speak and has not made prior arrangements with the instructor, a ZERO grade will be recorded for the presentation portion of the assignment. If time permits on the last day of presentations for the assignment, the speech may be made up with the grade averaged in with the zero score.

If you are unable to make a scheduled speech time, you may still receive full credit for speech outlines if they are submitted by the start of class on the scheduled speaking day. If a speaker knows she/he cannot attend class the day of an assigned speech presentation, she/he can find a replacement without penalty.

#### Late Work:

Major class assignments are to be turned in by the time class starts on the day that they are due. Assignments will not receive credit if turned in after the end of class on the day that they are due. Any work turned in during class time will be considered late and will automatically be reduced by one letter grade. *In other words if you arrive late to class, the assignment is late and will automatically be penalized one half letter grade.*

In the same sense, if you arrive late to class on the day of your speech, your assignment will be reduced by one letter grade, even if you are “on time” for your own presentation. Showing respect for your classmates by arriving on time to class on the day of presentations is of great importance. Major class assignments will be accepted prior to the established deadline.

Just as with any other job, you would certainly make every effort to contact your co-workers or boss if extenuating circumstances prevented you from meeting an important deadline. The same should be true for this class.

*Prior arrangements must be made with the instructor if extenuating circumstances prevent you from meeting an important deadline.* If you miss work due to a university approved absence, you will be responsible for providing documentation to confirm the excused dates and for coordinating make-up work, making every effort to make arrangements before the absence when possible.

#### Research Participation Requirement:

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 December 3 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 <http://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/>. 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 once logged in can be found on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies. Go to <http://www.lsu.edu/cmst>. Then 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](mailto:researchadmin@lsu.edu)

#### Do you have a major?

Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and analysis. Alan Greenspan, for example, stated, "To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education – literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills." We hope this course contributes to your success.

To learn more about communication, you may want to major or minor in the Department of Communication Studies. The program explores how people sustain and change,

experience, and make sense of the world through symbolic action. Students develop conceptual skills to analyze written, oral, and visual messages. Students gain practical experience in such areas such as public speaking, group decision-making, performance, and film. Such skills are elemental to careers in business, government, law, social services, 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) or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel ([kfilli@lsu.edu](mailto:kfilli@lsu.edu)), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.