

CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication Syllabus Spring 2014

Wade Walker

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:30a-12p & 2:30-3p, or by appointment

Office: Coates 327

Phone: 225-578-6889

Email: wwalk21@lsu.edu

Textbook:

eText available through http://www.pearsoncustom.com/la/speech_lsu/

Crick, Pecchioni & Butcher. *Deconstructing Communication: An Introduction to Rhetorical, Performance and Communication Theory*. Pearson Custom Publishing, 2007.

Course ID: walker90147

Other materials and articles via Moodle

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of Communication Studies. Communication Studies is comprised of three areas: rhetoric, performance, and communication theory. These three areas serve as lenses through which to view the communication process. Communication theory examines intra- and interpersonal communication with special attention to communication in relationships and the role of the individual in communication. Performance concentrates on the historical, cultural, and aesthetics of performance texts, events, and processes. Rhetoric focuses on the analysis of public argument and the persuasive power of linguistic and aesthetic forms. We will explore the major concepts of agent, audience, message, and meaning, through these perspectives. At the end of the semester, you should have a richer understanding of the similarities and differences between the areas of communication and have acquired practical knowledge of the communication process itself.

Course Goals:

This course should help you read, write, and think 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 a dramatic performance), your social life (use the concepts to help you relate to others), and your professional life (help you communicate more effectively in the workplace).

General Education Statement:

CMST 1061 may be used to partially fulfill General Education requirements in the humanities area. This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of communication. The areas of rhetoric, performance, and communication theory each provide insights into human interaction. Human beings create messages that enable us to express, criticize, and even

negotiate our values – our core ideals about what we consider intrinsically right or wrong that show us how to conduct our lives.

In this course, we will explore how we, as human beings, create socially significant messages which help us shape our identity, persuade others to take action, and shed light on the value systems of our culture. We will learn how individuals create and use messages to generate common meaning with others, to facilitate cooperative action, to perform social and cultural roles, and to reinforce or alter prevailing attitudes in our society.

This course will provide us with a variety of lenses through which to view and examine the communication process. At the end of the semester, we should have a richer understanding of the similarities and differences between the areas of communication and have acquired practical knowledge of the communication process itself.

ASSIGNED COURSEWORK (MAX POINTS AVAIL./ASSIGNMENT)

- 30 • Research Learning Requirement
- 120 • Quizzes / Participation
- 100 • Reading Responses
- 150 • Communication Theory Assignment
- 150 • Rhetoric Assignment
- 150 • Performance Assignment
- 100 • Examination I
- 100 • Examination II
- 100 • Examination III (Final)

Grade Distribution = 1000 pt scale

- A = 900 – 1000 pts
- B = 800 – 899 pts
- C = 700 – 799 pts
- D = 600 – 699 pts
- F = 599 and below

Grades: All work must be done during the semester and not made up after the fact. If you are concerned about your grade during the class, please contact me for help.

Extra Credit: No extra credit assignment will be allowed.

Attendance: Any absences from class will negatively affect your final grade, as you will miss information and in-class activities vital to the successful completion of your coursework. From PS-22: Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been

missed. The course instructor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons. Valid reasons for absences include:

1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances.
8. Participation in varsity athletic competitions or university musical events

The student is responsible for providing reasonable advance notification and appropriate documentation of the reason for the absence.

Participation/Quizzes: You are expected to participate in all class activities. Activities are graded according to the quality of the work you produce, by the standards derived from the topics covered in the course. Your participation grade will be negatively effected if you frequently fail to attend class, if you fail to read assigned material, if you fail to bring printed material with you to class, if you are disruptively using technology (this includes texting, wearing headphones, and surfing the web).

Quizzes are frequently given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up. If you arrive late you will not be given extra time to complete the quiz. It is your responsibility to arrive in class on time, despite the devious machinations of traffic, weather, and alarm clocks.

Assignments: Assignments to be turned in must be typed. This includes papers, outlines, or any other material assigned to be completed outside of class. Handwritten work will NOT be accepted. If you do not own a printer or computer, utilize the computer labs located on campus to complete your work. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Reading Response Papers – Respond to specific concepts from a major area of focus (Comm. Theory, Rhetoric, Performance) and apply to current topics. Papers will begin with a thesis, have a paragraph describing the concept, and a paragraph describing a real world application of the theory discussed. Paper will be 12pt Times Roman Numeral font with 1 inch margins.

Major Papers – For each project, you will write a 2-3 page paper detailing how your project explores the concept of Agent, Message, Meaning, and Audience. Papers with be 12pt Times Roman Numeral font with 1 inch margins.

Plagiarism: Please see the Student Code of Conduct (an excerpt of which appears below)

6. Plagiarism is defined as the lack of citation or the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's words, structure, ideas, or data. When a Student submits work as his/her own that includes the words, structure, ideas, or data of others, the source of this information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific

references, and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks as well. Failure to identify any source (including interviews, surveys, etc.), published in any medium (including on the internet) or unpublished, from which words, structure, ideas, or data have been taken, constitutes plagiarism; Plagiarism also includes:

- 6a. Falsifying or fabricating any information or citation in any academic exercise, work, speech, thesis, dissertation, test, or examination.
- 6b. Submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructors; (from the [Student Code of Conduct](#) section 8.1.6)

Make-up Exams: The make-up exam is a comprehensive essay exam given immediately following the final exam. A make-up exam will only be provided to students with university approved excuses (university travel, illness, etc.) that can be verified by written documentation. Written documentation must be given to the instructor the first day the student attends class following the absence. Otherwise, the absence will not be excused and the student will receive a zero (0) for the test grade.

Research Participation: 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 30 points of your total grade; you will receive your 30 points if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. Please note that all research learning credits must be completed and allocated by *Tuesday April 30* at 11:59 PM (the 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. 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 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 before it is too late.

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.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan 16)

Intro to Class

Week 2 (Jan 21-23)

COMM. THEORY - Agent

Week 3 (Jan 28-30)

COMM. THEORY - Audience

Week 4 (Feb 4 - 6)

COMM. THEORY - Message

Week 5 (Feb 11 -13)

COMM. THEORY - Meaning
Comm. Theory Reading Response Due Tues.

Week 6 (Feb 18 - 20)

EXAM I - Tuesday
SW PCA/ACA Conference – Thurs class cancelled

Week 7 (Feb 25 - 27)

RHETORIC - Agent
Comm. Theory Project due Thurs.

Week 8 (Mar 4 - 6)

RHETORIC - Audience
Mardi Gras Break – No Class Tuesday

Week 9 (Mar 11 - 13)

RHETORIC - Message
Rhetoric Reading Responses due Tues.

Week 10 (Mar 18 - 20)

RHETORIC - Meaning
EXAM II – Thurs.

Week 11 (Mar 25 - 27)

PERFORMANCE - Agent
Rhetoric Project Due Thurs.

Week 12 (Apr 1 - 3)

PERFORMANCE – Audience
SSCA Conference – No Class Thurs.

Week 13 (Apr 8 - 10)

PERFORMANCE – Message

Week 14 (Apr 15 - Apr 17)

SPRING BREAK – No Classes

Week 15 (Apr 22 - Apr 24)

PERFORMANCE - Meaning
Performance Reading Response Due Tues.

Week 16 (Apr 29 - May 1)

Performance Projects Due (Day of Performance)
Final Exam Review

Week 17 (May 5 -9)

Final Exams

1061.10 T/TH 12 - 1:30p = Friday (May 9, 2013) 5:30pm – 7:30pm

1061.11 T/TH 3 - 4:30p = Wednesday (May 7, 2014) 7:30am – 9:30am

Final Exam Schedule Website: <https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/academics/final-exams/>

***NOTE: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor has the authority to update schedule if needed. A supplementary list of exact speech dates for each student will be provided after the final roster has been established.*