

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

CMST 4119-01, 10:30-11:50, TTH, 111 Coates

Fall 2014

Professor

Dr. Renee Edwards

TTh 9:30-10:30 and most afternoons

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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.

Objectives

1. 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.
2. Students will be able to conduct original research related to nonverbal communication.
3. Students will be able to make oral presentations about elements of nonverbal communication.
4. Students will be able to make oral presentations summarizing their own observations about an element of nonverbal communication.
5. Students will be able to write a research paper summarizing previous research as well as their own observations about an element of nonverbal communication.

Communication across the Curriculum

This is a certified Communication-Intensive (C-I) course which meets all of the requirements set forth by LSU's Communication across the Curriculum program, including

- *instruction and assignments emphasizing informal and formal [mode 1] and [mode 2];*
- *teaching of discipline-specific communication techniques;*
- *use of draft-feedback-revision process for learning;*

- *practice of ethical and professional work standards;*
- *40% of the course grade rooted in communication-based work; and*
- *a student/faculty ratio no greater than 35:1.*

Students interested in pursuing the LSU Distinguished Communicators certification may use this C-I course for credit. For more information about this student recognition program, visit www.cxc.lsu.edu.

LSU Writing Center in Studio 151

Students who want help with writing projects are encouraged to make appointments with a writing tutor in Studio 151, Coates Hall, well in advance of due dates by going to <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/cxc/writing/> to read information on how to prepare for and what to expect during a tutorial. There you will also find instructions on how to schedule tutorials on line. Hours are limited, so schedule early.

Textbook (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 term (including a description of how you made them and conclusions you can draw from them) and a discussion. You will combine your revisions of Part I with this section to create your complete paper (25%)

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, activities, and required writing or participation. The lowest two grades will be dropped.

Grading Summary and Scale

Individual Quizzes =	20%	90-100 = A
Group Quizzes =	10%	80-89 = B
Final Exam =	10%	70-79 = C
Paper Part I =	10%	60-69 = D
Complete Paper =	25%	
Artifact Presentation =	5%	
Paper Presentation =	5%	
Activities/Assign =	15%	

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.

CMST 4119 Schedule and Assignments – tentative

Aug 26	Introduction to the course and each other. First Impressions	Review Syllabus
Aug 28	Introduction to Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 1
Sept 2	Continued. Chapters for artifact presentations	Assignment: Post topic for artifact presentation.
Sept 4	Sociocultural Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 2
Sept 9	Observation activity	
Sept 11	Paper Assignment	Assignment, “Finding Journal Articles”
Sept 16	Bio-Evolutionary Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 3
Sept 18	Methods of observation.	Paper topic due.
Sept 23	The Body as a Code: Appearance and Adornment.	Chapter 4
Sept 30	Continued APA style. Recording activity.	DRESS DIFFERENTLY Preliminary list of sources and method due, hard copy required
Oct 2	Visual and Auditory Codes: Kinesics and Vocalics	Chapter 5
Oct 7	Contact Codes: Haptics and Proxemics	Chapter 6
Oct 9	Continued	Thesis statement and Summary of one article due, hard copy required
Oct 14	Place and Time Codes: Environment, Artifacts, and Chronemics	Chapter 7
Oct 16	Message Production and Processing	Chapter 8
Oct 21	Social Cognition and Impression Formation	Chapter 9
Oct 23	Expressing Real and Desired Identities	Chapter 10. Part I of paper due
Oct 28	Expressing Emotions	Chapter 11
Oct 30	Relational Messages: Intimacy and Affection	Chapter 12
Nov 4	Relational Messages: Power, Dominance, and Influence	Chapter 13
Nov 6	Managing Conversations	Chapter 14
Nov 11	Deceiving Others	Chapter 15
Nov 13	Flex Day	
Nov 18	Paper Presentations	Final Paper Due
Nov 20	NCA Convention; no class	
Nov 25	Paper Presentations	
Nov 27	Happy Thanksgiving	
Dec 2	Paper Presentations	
Dec 4	Special Activity	Attendance required
Dec 9	5:30-7:30 in regular classroom or TBA in CBT	Final Exam