

CMST 1061 Summer 2015 Section 2
M-F 9:50 – 10:50 AM

Instructor: Nicole Costantini

Email: ncosta1@tigers.lsu.edu

Office: Coates 322

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 11 AM – 12 PM, or by appointment

Required Text: Butcher, Joni. *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. Kendall Hunt, 2014. Supplemental reading will be posted to Moodle.

General Education Statement: CMST 1061 is a General Education Humanities Course designed to familiarize the students with the fundamental concepts of communication. As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 1061 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.

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.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Fundamentals of Communication. During the semester, we will concentrate on five fundamental areas of communication:

Small Group (Professional) Communication

Employers consistently expect quality communication skills in employees. In this section we will examine the role communication plays in work-related settings. We will discuss theories and techniques to help excel in working with others in order to achieve a common goal.

Public Discourse

Public discourse is central to the practice of citizenship. In this section we will explore how persuasive messages are constructed, presented to, and received by public audiences. We will examine such areas as political discourse, social issue posters, and persuasive advertisements.

Communication in Human Relationships

All human relationships are built through communication. In this section we will examine theories and techniques that help us understand and enable effective relationships with others. We will discuss areas such as managing conversations, apologizing, dealing with conflict, and compliance-gaining.

Visual and Media Communication

In our post-literate electronic world, humans increasingly communicate via still and moving images and image technologies. In this section we will explore practical approaches to communication in visual culture, film, and mediated arts.

Art and Culture

Humans communicate culture by everyday behaviors. In this section we will discover how we achieve unique identities through everyday behaviors, values, and norms. We will explore such areas as cultural storytelling, parody, and community-building rituals and festivals.

*****Please Note** that these areas are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Some communication concepts can fit into two or more of these categories.

Also, many topics exist under each area. There is simply not enough time to cover every aspect of every area.

Course Goals: This course should help you read, write, think, and communicate 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 acts of communication), your social life (use the concepts to help you relate to others), and your professional life (help you communicate more effectively in the workplace).

The Americans with Disabilities Act and 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 Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letter, please meet with me at some time during the first two weeks of class to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend each scheduled class session. Attendance will count as a part of your class participation grade. If you are unable to attend class, you will not receive participation points for that day. Since this is a summer session class, we will have less time together than we would during a regular semester so attendance is particularly important.

You are expected to participate in each class session. Some classes will be discussion based and some will be activity based. Discussion is vital to learning the methods and theories we will cover in class, and it also makes the material easier to get through. Students should come each day prepared for any discussions and I expect that each student will raise their hand at least once per class to contribute to the conversation. If we are having an activity day, you should be present to participate in the activity.

Cell Phones/Laptops/Tablet Devices- The use of cell phones are strictly prohibited in our class sessions. If your cell phone rings during class, I reserve the right to answer it. While I understand that texting has become largely integrated into our communication practices, it is a distraction in class. If you are caught texting, I will ask you to bring your cell phone to the front of the room and you will also lose participation credit for that day. You are welcome to take notes using laptops or tablets but if you are found to be using a laptop/tablet for anything other than note taking, I will ask that you do not bring your device to class again.

Plagiarism- There will be a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. All students are expected to do complete their own work and properly cite all sources used in any assignment/speech/project/homework. Unless otherwise stated, all students are expected to turn in their own individual work – the class will be notified of any group assignments. Please refer to LSU policies regarded plagiarism, which can be found here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>

**If you have any questions or are unsure of what an act of plagiarism is, please do not hesitate to ask.

Late Work: All students are expected to turn in assignments at the beginning of class on the days that they are due. I do not accept late work. If you know in advance that there is an event or situation that will cause you to not be able to turn in an assignment on its due date, please talk to me. I will not be able to help you if I'm made aware of the situation after it occurs. I also understand that sometimes events occur

that are outside of your control. I will only accept work after the due date with proper documentation – i.e. a doctor's note, a death certificate, etc.

Discussing Grades: Any questions or concerns that you may have about your grades should be addressed in person. I prefer that you come to office hours (or make an appointment with me) for these discussions. You can email me about setting up an appointment or to give me a heads up about coming to office hours, but do not send questions about your grade electronically. Emailed questions will receive the automated response of “please come to my office hours to address your concerns.”

We will have a 24/7 policy for discussing grades on major assignments. This means that there will be a 24 hour grace period for you to reflect on your grade before we can discuss it. After the 24 hour grace period, you have 7 days to discuss that particular assignment with me. Once the 7 day period has passed, all grade discussion for that assignment will be over.

After many semesters of hearing this phrase, I am putting a ban on the following sentence and any variation of it: “...but I need an A in this class to_____.” While I do take sympathy with all of the phrases that could fill in the blank, your grade is your responsibility and pleading with me at the end of the semester is not going to help you. I want each of you to succeed and will do my best to assist you. That being said, all grades in this class will be based on merit. It is your responsibility to complete assignments, keep up with the reading, participate in class, etc. It is also your responsibility to keep up with your grades over the course of the semester. We will have much more productive conversations if we talk consistently during the semester than we would if you only come to see me at the end.

If there is an outside situation that is affecting your performance in our class, please talk to me about it as early as possible. The earlier that we can make accommodations, the better off you will be; it is much harder to deal with a situation after the fact.

Grades: This course will be graded on an 8 point scale. This is the norm for all 1061 classes. Our grade scale will be as follows:

1000 - 920 = A
919-840 = B
839-760 = C
759-680 = D
679-000 = F

Grading Breakdown:

Reading Quizzes – 70 points (7 quizzes at 10 points each)
Midterm Exam – 150 points
Final Exam – 150 points
Participation – 175 points
Learning Portfolios – 150 points (6 entries worth 25 points each)
Communication Challenge Assignments – 125 points (5 at 25 points each)
Capstone Project - 100
Capstone Project Paper – 50
Capstone Presentation – 30

Course Schedule 1061 (A) Sec 2 – M-F 9:50 AM – 10:50 AM

M 6/8 – Syllabus

T 6/9 – Class Activity

W 6/10 – What is Communication? Chapter 1

Th 6/11 – What is Communication? cont.

F 6/12 – Small Group (Professional) Communication – Reading

M 6/15 – Small Group cont.

T 6/16 - Small Group cont.

W 6/17 – Communication Challenge

Th 6/18 – Public Discourse - Reading

F 6/19 – Public Discourse cont.

M 6/22 – Public Discourse cont.

T 6/23 - Communication Challenge

W 6/24 – Communication in Human Relations - Reading

Th 6/25 – Communication in Human Relations cont.

F 6/26 – Communication in Human Relations cont.

M 6/29 - Communication Challenge

T 6/30 – Cushion Day

W 7/1 – Midterm Review – Learning Portfolios 1 – 3 due

Th 7/2 – Midterm Exam

F 7/3 No Class – University Holiday

M 7/6 – Visual and Media Culture – Reading

T 7/7 – Visual and Media Culture cont.

W 7/8 – Visual and Media Culture cont.

Th 7/9 Communication Challenge

F 7/10 - Art and Communication - Reading

M 7/13 – Art and Communication Cont.

T 7/14 – Art and Communication Cont.

W 7/15 – Communication Challenge

Th 7/16 – Capstone Project Assigned - Learning Portfolio 4 - 5 due

F 7/17 - Workshop

M 7/20 – Workshop

T 7/21 - Workshop

W 7/22 – Capstone Project Presentation – Professional Communication in Small Groups & Public Discourse

Th 7/23 – Capstone Project Presentation – Human Relationships & Visual & Media

F 7/24 - Capstone Project Presentation – Art and Communication – Learning Portfolio 6 due

M 7/27 - Capstone Project Paper due

T 7/28 – Study Day

W 7/29 - Finals

Th 7/30 - Finals