

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

CMST 4119-01, 11:00-12:30, M-F, 225 Coates
Summer 2015

Dr. Renee Edwards
Office Hours: M-Th 1:00-2:00
136 Coates Hall
578-6821
edwards@lsu.edu

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.

Objective

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.

Text (required)

Burgoon, J. K., Guerrero, L. K., & Floyd, K. (2010). *Nonverbal Communication*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Communication across the Curriculum

This course is certified as a "Communication-Intensive Course" and meets all of the requirements explained on the CxC Web site: <http://cxc.lsu.edu>, including the following: Emphases on formal and informal assignments in written communication and spoken communication, class time spent on communication, 40% of the final grade based on communication projects, revisions after faculty feedback on 2 formal projects (one for each emphasis), and a student/faculty ratio of 35:1. Because it meets these requirements, students may count it toward "Distinguished Communicator" certification on LSU transcripts.

Exams – 35% of the final grade

There will be two objective exams during the semester (multiple choice, true/false) over material from the textbook as well as any additional topics discussed in class.

Reading Quizzes – 10% of final grade

For each chapter, you will take a quiz on Moodle in order to help you learn the material. The quizzes must be completed before the beginning of class on the day for which the chapter is assigned. You may take the quiz multiple times to earn the highest grade possible.

Lab Reports – 10% of final grade

Throughout the term, we will conduct in-class experiments on processes of nonverbal communication. These will be done in small groups (about 6 students per group). For each experiment, you will submit a lab report, either individually or with a partner. See additional documents on Moodle.

Research Paper – 20% of final grade. See additional documents on Moodle.

Option 1: Lab Experiment Development

You will write an 8-10 page paper about a lab experiment you develop concerning some specific topic of nonverbal communication. Your paper will include:

- a summary of two journal articles and information from the textbook leading to a research question or hypothesis (use additional sources as needed; they must be scholarly) [Part 1]
- a description of materials and procedures that would be followed in the lab experiment
- an explanation of what would be learned in the lab experiment
- a discussion about how knowledge of your topic could affect social and personal relationships, with attention to ethical implications

A rough draft of Part 1 (5 pages; 5% of the final grade) is due in the middle of the session. The final paper (15%) is due at the end of the term. *Both the draft and final paper must be submitted in hard copy on the due dates; emailed versions are not permitted. Late papers will lose 10 points per day.*

Throughout the session, you will submit components of the paper: topic, reference list in correct citation style (APA), and a summary of one journal article. Points will be deducted from the overall grade for not turning in these assignments (1 point each for the topic and reference list; 3 points for the article summary).

Option 2: Traditional Paper

You will write an 8-10 page paper about some narrow aspect of nonverbal communication. Your paper will include

- a summary of four journal articles and information from the textbook leading to a research question or hypothesis (use additional sources as needed; they must be scholarly)

- a discussion about how knowledge of your topic could affect social and personal relationships, with attention to ethical implications
- with written approval, you may incorporate observations into your paper.

A rough draft of 5 pages summarizing two articles (5% of the final grade) is due in the middle of the session. The full paper (15%) is due at the end of the term. *Both papers must be submitted in hard copy on the due dates; emailed versions are not permitted. Late papers will lose 10 points per day.*

Throughout the session, you will submit components of the paper: topic, reference list in correct citation style (APA), and a summary of a journal article. Points will be deducted from the overall grade for not turning in these assignments (1 point each for the topic and reference list; 3 points for the article summary).

Oral Presentations – 15% 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.

Attendance and Participation – 10% of final grade

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.

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 (at least a week before the midterm).

CMST 4119 Schedule and Assignments – tentative

June 8	Introduction to the course and each other. First Impressions	Review Syllabus
June 9	Introduction to Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 1
June 10	Sociocultural Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 2
June 11	Artifact Presentation and Paper Assignments	
June 12	Bio-Evolutionary Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 3
June 15	Finding sources. APA style.	Topic Due
June 16	The Body as a Code: Appearance and Adornment	Chapter 4 DRESS DIFFERENTLY Preliminary list of sources due, hard copy required
June 17	Visual and Auditory Codes: Kinesics and Vocalics	Chapter 5
June 18	Continued	Summary of article due
June 19	Contact Codes: Haptics	Chapter 6
June 22	Proxemics	
June 23	Place and Time Codes: Environment, Artifacts, and Chronemics	Chapter 7
June 24	Continued. Review	
June 25	Exam 1	Chapters 1-7
June 26	Impression Formation	Chapter 9
June 29	Expressing Real and Desired Identities	Chapter 10 Part 1 of paper due
June 30	Expressing Emotions	Chapter 11
July 1	Relational Messages: Intimacy and Affection	Chapter 12
July 2	Relational Messages: Power, Dominance, and Influence	Chapter 13
July 3	Happy Independence Day!	
July 6	Managing Conversations	Chapter 14
July 7	Deceiving Others	Chapter 15
July 8	Presentations by Graduate Students	
July 9	Presentations of papers	Final Paper Due
July 10	Review and special activity	Attendance required
July 11	12:30-2:30, Saturday, FINAL EXAM	Chapters 8-15

Graduate Students

1. Graduate students will take the same exams (30% of grade) as undergraduates.
2. Graduate students should turn in abstracts for 5 research articles relevant to recently discussed chapters (10% of final grade). One abstract is due on or before each Wednesday: June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8. The *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior* is a good source.
3. Graduate students will write formal research papers. The papers should be 12-15 pages long, should thoroughly review the literature on a given topic and propose hypotheses or research questions (50% of grade). A rough draft of 5-7 pages is due on June 29 and the full paper is due on July 9.
4. Graduate students will deliver a 15-20 minute lecture to the class on their paper topics (10% of final grade).
5. Daily attendance is expected as a matter of course. Because your distribution of grades is different from undergraduates, your current course grade in Moodle will not be accurate.