

CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication

Spring 2019 | Section 8 | T/TH 7:30 – 8:50am | 111 Coates Hall

Instructor: Taylor Moran
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Office: Coates 325
Office hours: T/TH: 2-3pm or by appointment

Required Textbook:

Butcher, Joni. *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. 3rd ed. Kendall Hunt, 2016.

Additional reading materials may be assigned and will be posted on Moodle.

General Education Statement:

CMST 1061 is a General Education Humanities Course designed to familiarize 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:

- Workplace Communication
- Advocacy and Social Justice
- Communication in Human Relationships
- Visual and Mediated Communication
- Art and Culture

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

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).

Course Policies

Special Needs Accommodation: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation 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.

Attendance and Late Work: Attendance at each class meeting is expected. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, you are responsible for communicating that reason to me in advance of your absence.

Late work will be accepted without penalty until 11:59pm on the due date. Work turned in after the due date will incur a five percent deduction from the assignment grade for each day that it is late for up to one week after the original due date. After one week, I will no longer accept late work.

In extenuating circumstances, I reserve the right to accept late work without penalty when a student has provided proper documentation of a university sanctioned emergency or conflict that has inhibited them from turning in an assignment on time. University sanctioned emergencies or conflicts include: family death/emergency, debilitating or contagious sickness, religious observance, serious weather conditions, varsity athletic competition, sanctioned curricular requirements with documentation, court-imposed legal obligations.

Email: You are expected to check your LSU email for updates regarding the course. Likewise, I will do my best to answer your emails in a timely manner. If you email me after 5pm, you can expect a response the following day.

As workplace communication is one of the five pathways, you should begin practicing email etiquette. Please always open emails to me with a greeting (a simple “Hi Ms. Moran” will do), clearly state your reason for emailing, and sign off with your first and last name (“Sincerely, First Name Last Name”).

Classroom Respect: You will be expected to be courteous to others even when you do not agree with them. Do not talk over others or interrupt them. On presentation days, please make sure to be on time. If you arrive late on a presentation day, wait outside the room until you hear applause, then enter.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Assume that all assignments in this course are individual assignments unless you are instructed you may work with a partner or group. If I have found out you have turned in material that is not your own, I will report you to the Dean of Students. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an “F” in the course.

Technology Policy: Electronic devices are allowed in class for the sake of taking notes; however, if technology becomes disruptive or a distraction, I reserve the right to alter this policy. Devices are expected to be kept on silent. Headphones will not be worn in class.

Grades: Your final grade in the course will be determined based on the points you have earned during the semester (see below). I will offer assignment rubrics when applicable. You are welcome to discuss your grades with me; however, you must ask questions about your grade within one week of receiving your grade. After one week, your grades will be considered finalized. I reserve the right to amend this policy in the case of extenuating circumstances as defined above.

Assignments & Grades

Participation: Throughout the course, you will be periodically assigned homework and in-class assignments, all of which will contribute to your participation grade in the course. Participation assignments will be announced **in class only**. If you miss class, you risk missing points. At the completion of each pathway, I will post a participation grade on Moodle.

Pathway projects: You will complete five projects in this course: one project for each of the five pathways. These projects will require you to work individually, in groups, and with one or two partners depending on the assignment. Project assignments will be posted in further detail on Moodle and announced in class. I expect these projects to reflect creativity and innovation, rather than merely repeating material from the textbook.

Reading Quizzes: At the beginning of each pathway, you will be expected to attend class having read the chapter for that pathway. You will be quizzed on chapters 2-6.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be comprehensive up to that point in the semester.

Final Reflection Paper: To close out the semester, you will be expected to reflect on your time in the class. A more detailed assignment will be posted on Moodle as we approach the end of the semester.

Research Participation: Please see the final page of the syllabus for further information regarding the research participation requirement for this course.

Course Breakdown:

Participation	150 points
Pathway projects	100 points each (500 total)
Reading quizzes	10 points each (50 total)
Midterm exam	130 points
Final reflection paper	150 points
Research participation	20 points
Total points	1000 points

Grade Scale:

A+ 1000 – 970	A 969 – 930	A- 929 – 900	
B+ 800 – 870	B 869 – 830	B- 829 – 800	
C+ 799 – 770	C 769 -770	C- 729 – 700	
D+ 699 – 670	D 669 – 630	D- 629 – 600	F 599>

Tentative Course Schedule¹

Day	Agenda	Due/Notes
TH Jan. 10	Course introduction and review of syllabus	
T Jan. 15	What is Communication?	
TH Jan. 17	Pathway 1: Workplace Communication	Quiz 1
T Jan. 22 – T Jan. 29	Pathway 1 Continued	
TH Jan. 31	Presentations	Project 1 due
T Feb. 5	Mardi Gras Holiday	No class
TH Feb. 7	Pathway 2: Advocacy and Social Justice	Quiz 2
T Feb. 12 – T Feb. 19	Pathway 2 Continued	
TH Feb. 21	Presentations	Project 2 due
T Feb. 26	Pathway 3: Human Relationships	Quiz 3
TH Feb. 28 – March 7	Pathway 3 Continued	Midterm TBD
T March 12	Presentations	Project 3 due
TH March 14	TBD	
T March 19	Pathway 4: Visual and Mediated Comm.	Quiz 4
TH March 21 – TH March 28	Pathway 4 Continued	
T April 2	Presentations	Project 4 due
TH April 4	Pathway 5: Art and Culture	Quiz 5
T April 9 – TH April 11	Pathway 5 Continued	
T April 16 – TH April 18	Spring Break	No class
T April 23 – TH April 25	Presentations and final thoughts	Project 5 due

¹ This schedule is tentative and subject to change throughout the semester. Any schedule changes will be announced in class.

Research Participation System (RPS) 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 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 <https://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/>. 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 are posted on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies, <http://www.lsu.edu/cmst>. 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.