

CMST 2010 Interpersonal Communication Syllabus

Spring 2019, TTh, Design Building 103



Instructor Information

Instructor

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Email

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Office Location & Hours

Coates 136A; T-Th 7:30-9:00,
3:00-4:00, or by appt

General Information

Catalog Statement: CMST 2010 Interpersonal Communication. (3) Theories and research in human communication.

Description

Goal of General Education Social Sciences for CMST 2010: *LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural and linguistic forces.*

CMST 2010 Interpersonal Communication meets the criteria for a *General Education Social Sciences* course by addressing:

- *Informing factors of global interdependence.* To be human is to be social and to be social is to communicate interpersonally. This course examines the role of the interdependence in relationships in the communication process on both individual and global levels.
- *Economic forces.* The dyad, which is at the heart of interpersonal communication, is the foundational link in all social networks. Specifically, interpersonal communication examines an assessment of the costs and rewards in determining the value of pursuing or not pursuing a given relationship.
- *Political dynamics.* The *sine qua non* of people relating to each other and the world is **communication**. Interpersonal communication examines definitions, models, and theories of communication in order to examine how people construct ideologies that inform their interactions with others. Message strategies used to construct and display power within relationships are examined.
- *Cultural and linguistic difference.* Interpersonal Communication provides students with an understanding of how cultural differences impact the communication process. Linguistic differences are examined through the lens of language construction and how verbal messages impact relationships.

Expectations and Goals

As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 2060 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.

As a result of this course, students should:

1. Master factual knowledge about interpersonal communication
2. Understand various types and forms of interpersonal communication and relationships
3. Recognize communication patterns and their implications for social relations.

Course Requirements

Required Text

Reflect and Relate: An introduction to Interpersonal Communication, 4th edition by Steven McCornack

Assignments

Students will be graded on their work on:

- **Exams (450 points).** Three exams will be held during the semester. Each exam carries 150 points. The examinations will consist of 50 multiple choice questions on the textbook chapters and lectures.
- **Quizzes (100 points).** A total of 12 quizzes will be given in class during the semester and the lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped, giving you a total of 10 quiz grades for the semester, 10 points each. These quizzes will test you on the day's reading assignment, lectures from the previous class, the day's lecture or other in-class activities. The quizzes may be given at the beginning, middle or end of class and you must be present to take the quiz and turn it in for credit. If you show up late and miss or quiz or leave class before the quiz is given, you cannot make up the quiz. If you have a question or concern about your quiz grade, you have 2 weeks to discuss it. Quiz grades will not be changed after the two-week period, especially at the end of the semester. Since I drop 2 quiz grades, there will be no make-up quizzes. If you are absent on a quiz day, you will earn a 0 for that quiz.
- **Journal entries (260 points).** Throughout the semester, you will complete 5 journal entries that relate to the book chapters, one practice and four graded. You will be asked questions and expected to explain the communication theory, as well as discuss your interpersonal communication experiences as it relates to this theory. There will be 12 possible journal entries throughout the semester on Moodle. You must answer 4 questions, one from each section, in 500 words or less and by the due dates, which are highlighted in the class schedule. With at least three weeks available to complete each journal entry, no make-ups will be offered. Sample journal entries and their accompanying grades are available on Moodle.
- **Group presentation (100 points).** At the beginning of the semester, the class will be randomly assigned into groups of four. The groups will be work together to prepare two lively 5-minute presentations on the topic that tickled your fancy in class discussions. The presentations will be held in February and April. Detailed guidelines will be available on Moodle.
- **Research participation and class participation (90 points).** Participating in research studies conducted in the Department of Communication Studies constitutes 3 percent of your grade. More information on research participation can be found on pages 7-8 of the syllabus. Class attendance and participation are expected, and earn you 5 points each week. Roll sheets will be passed around to keep a record of attendance. It is your responsibility to sign the roll sheet.

Final grades will be determined based on scores earned in these assignments. All work must be done during the semester and not made up after the fact.

Course Assignment	Percentage of the Grade	Maximum Points
Research participation	3%	30
Attendance and participation	6%	60
Journal entries	26%	260
Quizzes	10%	100
Group presentation	10%	100
Exams	45%	450
Total	100%	1000 points

Grading Scale

A+	97-100
A	93-96.99
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-68.99
D-	60-62.99
F	59.99 and below

Please note, in accordance with the Federal Buckley Amendment, grades will **not** be discussed through email, over the phone or in class. You **must** discuss a grade in person during office hours within 2 weeks of receiving the grade. After 2 weeks, discussion and changes to grades will **not** be possible. This means do **not** come at the end of the semester about a grade from the first week of class.

Classroom Decorum

As this class largely consists of dialogue, in-class exercises, and group discussion, please respect the work, opinions, and the presentations of your classmates.

- Listen to conversations, participate in them. Show support. You will be required at one point or the other to provide feedback to your peers.
- Do not use your phone during the class. Contrary to popular belief, the world is not going to collapse if you don't check your messages and social media for an hour.
- Do not use personal computers, tablets, and similar devices during the group presentations. You will learn how to deal with a distracted audience, but you don't need to play the part of that audience for your classmates.
- Be on time. Do not disrupt your classmates' dialogue with your late arrival.
- Controversial subjects may arise. Be open-minded and allow the conversation to progress.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Week 1	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 01/15	Introductions, syllabus, and research participation	Read syllabus
Thu, 01/17	Introduction to communication	
Week 2	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 01/22	Introduction to interpersonal communication	Read Chapter 1
Thu, 01/24	Journal Entry Workshop; <i>bring a laptop/tablet</i>	Sample journal entry due in class
Week 3	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 01/29	Self Concept and Disclosure	Read chapter 2
Thu, 01/31	Group assignments, group work (<i>be there</i>)	
Week 4	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 02/05	Perceiving Others	Read chapter 3
Thu, 02/07	Creating Meaning	Check Moodle for assignments
Week 5	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 02/12	Emotions	Read chapter 4
Thu, 02/14	Emotional intelligence	
Week 6	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 02/19	Exam 1 (review chapters 1-4)	Bring scantron B
Thu, 02/21	Verbal Communication	Journal entry 1 due by 11:59pm
Week 7	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 02/26	Nonverbal Communication	Read chapter 8
Thu, 02/28	Group presentation 1	Check Moodle for guidelines
Week 8	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 03/05	<i>Mardi Gras break, no class</i>	
Thu, 03/07	Listening	Read chapter 6
Week 9	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 03/12	Exam 2 (review chapters 6-8)	Bring scantron B
Thu, 03/14	From Initial Interaction to Intimacy	Journal entry 2 due by 11:59pm

Week 10	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 03/19	Conflict	Read chapter 9
Thu, 03/21	Relationship Dissolution	Check Moodle for reading
Week 11	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 03/26	Family Communication	Read chapter 11
Thu, 03/28	Family Communication	
Week 12	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
04/02-04/04	<i>Conference, no class</i>	Journal entry 3 due by 11:59pm
Week 13	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 04/09	Exam 3 (review chapters 9-11 and lecture notes)	Bring scantron B
Thu, 04/11	Group presentation 2	Check Moodle for guidelines
Week 14	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 04/16	<i>Spring Break, no class</i>	
Thu, 04/18	<i>Spring Break, no class</i>	
Week 15	Topic/Activity	Week's assignments
Tue, 04/23	Research participation due	
Thu, 04/25	Final journal due	Journal entry 4 due by 11:59pm

SUMMARY OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Use this sheet to keep record of your total points earned for this course:

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE	POSSIBLE POINTS	POINTS EARNED
Exams (450 points/45%)			
Exam 1	__/__/__	150	_____
Exam 2	__/__/__	150	_____
Exam 3	__/__/__	150	_____
Journal entries (260 points/26%)			
Journal entry 1	__/__/__	65	_____
Journal entry 2	__/__/__	65	_____
Journal entry 3	__/__/__	65	_____
Journal entry 4	__/__/__	65	_____
Other assignments (190 points/19%)			
Group presentation	__/__/__	50	_____
Group presentation	__/__/__	50	_____
Research participation	__/__/__	30	_____
Attendance and participation	__/__/__	60	_____
Quizzes (100 points/10% - drop the lowest two grades)			
Quiz 1	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 2	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 3	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 4	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 5	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 6	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 7	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 8	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 9	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 10	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 11	__/__/__	10	_____
Quiz 12	__/__/__	10	_____
Total points		1000	_____

Additional Information and Resources

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken every class. Your attendance at each class meeting is expected. You are expected to attend all classes just as you would be expected to go to work every day if this was any other job.

Plagiarism

There will be no tolerance for plagiarism. You are to assume that all assignments in this course are individual assignments unless explicit instructions are provided for a group project. Any student found to have presented material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. See the LSU policies on plagiarism here:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments may be scheduled and can only be submitted in the allocated time period. No end-of-the-semester, last minute extra credit assignments will be given.

Missed Exams

If you know that you will miss a scheduled exam due to a university-approved absence, please speak to me before the exam date so we can make appropriate arrangements. If you have an excused absence, accompanied by a note describing the date a reason of your absence, you can make up a missed exam within one week of its date. No make-ups will be allowed after this time and zero (0) points will be given for that assignment.

No make-up period will be allowed for exams missed due to an unexcused absence.

Research Participation 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 credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday, April 23, at 11:59 PM.**

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 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.

Hints for RPR:

- Please be sure to CHOOSE this course AND section when you sign up. If you do NOT choose the correct section, I will NOT receive your credits! This is YOUR responsibility and I do not have access into the system so if you don't choose the right course and section, I CANNOT and WILL NOT give you credit after the due date.
- I CANNOT announce Studies available in class. Please complete your Research Participation EARLY! It is more difficult to schedule a study later in the semester and studies will end BEFORE the final credits are due.
- DO NOT MISS a study you signed up for. **IF YOU MISS 2 studies UNEXCUSED, you will be banned from the system. This is a departmental policy and I have no control over it, so if you sign up, SHOW UP!**
- I cannot see what credits you have earned until after the deadline. So your credits will NOT be in Moodle until after the deadline. However, YOU can see your credits anytime. *I suggest you check this to make sure you have earned the credits you expected AND that they are allocated to my class. If your credits are NOT allocated correctly, I CANNOT give you credit!*
- If you have questions about your participation and credits, please email the RPR administrator at researchadmin@lsu.edu. This program is run by the CMST Department and I don't have access to it to help you with problems.

Please read the research participation instruction page located on Moodle to learn how to set up and use your account.

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.

Do you have a major?

Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and analysis. Alan Greenspan, for example, stated, "To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education - literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills." We hope this course contributes to your success.

To learn more about communication, you may want to major or minor in the Department of Communication Studies. The program explores how people sustain and change, experience, and make sense of the world through symbolic action. Students develop conceptual skills to analyze written, oral, and visual messages. Students gain practical experience in such areas such as public speaking, group decision-making, performance, and film. Such skills are elemental to careers in business, government, law, social services, and the arts.

A major in Communication Studies requires 36 hours including 12 hours of core classes and 12 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level. A minor requires 15 hours with one core class and 6 hours at the 3000 level or above.

More information is available at www.lsu.edu/cmst or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel (kfilli@lsu.edu), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.