

CMST 1061, Sec. 08 & 09
Spring 2015
Fundamentals of Communication

Instructor: Michael Althouse
Mailbox: 136 Coates Hall
Office: 327 Coates Hall
Office Hours: TTh 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Phone: 225 578-6889
Email: maltho1@lsu.edu
mkalthouse@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CMST 1061, Fundamentals of Communication introduces students to the history and practice of interpersonal and organizational communication, rhetoric, performance studies, and media studies. The course incorporates lectures and reading assignments with practical and applications of communication skills including personal communication, listening, working in small groups, public speaking and interpretation of performance and literature.

Assigned Coursework

As this is a performance course, about half of your grade will be based on your performances (speeches). These speeches along with the other graded items constitute a 1,000 points scale.

Research Learning Requirement	- 30	
Activity participation	- 60	
Reading responses (8 @ 30 pts. ea.)	- 210	(drop the lowest)
Performance group project	- 100	
Persuasive speech	- 100	
Interpersonal project	- 100	
Midterm	- 100	
Final exam (cumulative)	- 150	
Final paper	- 150	

Final grade breakdown:

1,000 - 920	= A
919 - 840	= B
839 - 760	= C
759 - 680	= D
679 - 0	= F

*****NOTE: PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE 8 POINT GRADING SCALE IS USED FOR ALL CMST 1061 CLASSES.**

Required Texts: Butcher, J. (2014). *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. Kendal Hunt
E-Text available from Kendall Hunt: <https://www.kendallhunt.com/store-product.aspx?id=263117>
Also, various supplemental readings will be posted to moodle.

Course Goals:

This course should help you read, write, and think 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 a dramatic performance), your social life (use the concepts to help you relate to others), and your professional life (help you communicate more effectively in the workplace).

General Education Statement:

CMST 1061 may be used to partially fulfill General Education requirements in the humanities area. This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of communication. The areas of rhetoric, performance, and communication theory each provide insights into human interaction. Human beings create messages that enable us to express, criticize, and even negotiate our values – our core ideals about what we consider intrinsically right or wrong that show us how to conduct our lives.

CMST 1061 Fundamentals of Communication. (3) The practice of rhetoric, performance studies, and communication theory; extensive practical and performance applications of communication skills in addition to lectures and readings.

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.

This course will provide us with a variety of lenses through which to view and examine the communication process. At the end of the semester, we should have a richer understanding of the similarities and differences between the areas of communication and have acquired practical knowledge of the communication process itself.

Policies

Attendance & Participation: 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. Your class participation grade will be determined based on in-class discussion participation, assignments/exercises, and analysis of in-class presentations throughout the semester.

If a student has an unexcused absence on a day when he or she is scheduled to a speech, performance or take a test, the grade for a make-up assignment or test will be *significantly* reduced. It is better to deliver even if underprepared than to receive a big deduction (think 20%) for the assignment. Other in-class activities also require your presence to receive credit. Those with valid excused absences will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Valid excuses include:

1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances.
8. Participation in varsity athletic competitions or university musical events

Grades: Final grades are final. All work must be done during the semester and not made up after the fact. If you are concerned about your grade during the class, please contact me for help.

Plagiarism: I have no tolerance for plagiarism. Any student found to have turned in material not his or her 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> Your paper (or speech) would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submit a paper in which you “cut and paste” or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

Extra Credit: No extra credit is planned at this time. Do not count on it.

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.

Cell Phones: You won’t need one in class. Ever. I should not see one or hear one. If you have an urgent matter that you must be available for, let me know **before** class begins and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Computer Use: In this day of *e*-everything, it is unrealistic to expect many students to take notes the old-fashion way, though the merits of actually hand writing notes are well documented. For those students who wish to take notes via laptop, that courtesy will be extended, however, if said laptop is used for anything else during class time without expressed consent from me, that courtesy will be rescinded for the remainder of the semester. Very simply, this means no Facebook, no YouTube, no chat... in fact, just turn your Internet connection off – the immediate outside world is of no concern to us during class.

Research Participation Requirement:

The material you will learn in this course is the product of research. The goal of the research participation requirement for the Department of Communication Studies is to help you 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 participation requirement. For each course in which you are enrolled, you 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. Study descriptions 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 online. All available studies are approved by the Institutional Review Board at LSU.
2. Participating in an organized departmental function such as debate. Only departmental sanctioned events will count toward a student's research participation requirement.
3. Serving as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies. The number of credits and requirements for those credits differ by faculty.

The research participation requirement is worth 3% (30 points) of your total grade. You will receive your 3% (30 points) if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. Please note that all research participation credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday of dead week.

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. Students must request a new account every semester regardless of whether you have requested an account in a previous semester. Once you have secured an account for this semester, you will be able to log in and see the options available to you for your various CMST courses. The Psychology Department also uses this site for its research requirement. You cannot complete Psychology research for your CMST research participation requirement.

Please note that various ways to fulfill your research participation requirement will appear on this site 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.

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://app1003.lsu.edu/artsci/cmstweb.nsf/index>. Then click on RESEARCH and STUDIES. 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 early. If you have questions about this requirement or the online system that keeps track of credits, please email researchadmin@lsu.edu.

Assignments:

Research Learning Requirement: This is a departmental requirement that is totally out of my hands. Everything you need to know about it is posted above.

Reading responses: Two to three double-spaced pages of reflection on the most recent reading(s). Response should: (1) demonstrate an understanding of the reading; (2) include an example to illustrate that understanding; and, (3) give a reasoned opinion as to whether the concepts ring true or not.

Performance group project: In groups of five or six, you will enact a performance for the class. The details will be worked out as a class activity, but this is a *group* project and as such you will need to both work as a group in the creation of your performance as well as in the presentation of it. Most people do not like group work, myself included, but it is part of life, part of the communicative process and, thus, part of this class. Each group member will be graded on his or her participation and the individual write-ups submitted. Details to follow.

Persuasive speech: This can be an individual or collaborative speech in which you will advance an idea, policy, project or product using rhetorical appeals to win adherence. Most people do not like public speaking, but like group work and performance, it is an unavoidable part of communal life. Details to follow.

Interpersonal project: This assignment will have you observing people in some public place. It is not as creepy as it sounds. Your job will be to find a public place (the quad, the union, the bookstore, a park, etc.) with a notepad at the ready to observe and record how people interact with each other on an interpersonal basis. You will be graded on the detail of your “field notes” and the conclusions you draw from your observations.

Final Paper: This paper will be eight to ten double-spaced pages that delve into a particular area or concept or mode of communication discussed in class. This is not a regurgitation of what was presented through class, but rather an analytical paper that uses outside sources to support your thesis. Details for this paper will be posted after the midterm.