Instructor: Dr. Ariel Gratch
Office: 229 Coates Hall
Mailbox: 136 Coates Hall
Phone: 225.578.6838
Email: samgratch@gmail.com
Office Hours: M, W 10:30-11:30, 12:30-1:30 and/or by appointment

As a form of poetics, as a creative venture, as a generative process, performance is fundamentally about possibilities, inquiry and hope.
- Dell Pollock

The mark of a free man is that ever-gawling inner uncertainty as to whether or not he is right.
- Saul Alinsky

Statement of Purpose:
Public Speaking is taught in the Communication Studies department because of its intrinsic value to your civic life as a member of a democracy. You have a voice, and it should be heard, but communicating that message effectively and clearly is not something that comes naturally to everyone. Thus, while it may perhaps be surprising to some, this means that 2060 is, first and foremost, a class in practical political involvement. While I try to avoid foisting my own political positions onto students, please be aware that I do expect you to have more than some sense of major and minor political issues and to have the ability to form your speeches taking those issues into consideration. You don’t need to agree with me to do well in this class, but you do need to have an opinion and you need to communicate that opinion to a group of your peers using the skills and criteria that I’ll ask of you in this class. I will do my best to make the grading criteria as clear and easy to follow as possible. In return, I ask for your willingness to play with the unfamiliar. In my experience, the courage that this requires is seldom exercised in vain. You will likely find that the more time and energy you invest in preparing your speeches, the more you will get out of them.

Course Description/Goals:
CMST 2060 is a General Education Humanities Course designed to familiarize students with the study of public speaking. The act of public speaking is the culmination (and often the beginning) of a long process of critical dialogue between oneself, language, and the imagined responses of the audience. In other words, it takes being confident in who you are, what you want to say, how you are going to say it, who you want to say it to, and why you should say anything at all. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of rhetorical public speaking.

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.
discard what doesn't, and refine your speech to maximize your goals for each assignment. Working on your speech over time will result in a stronger performance than work done at the last minute. Alloting plenty of time to rehearse is a great way to ensure a strong and memorable speech.

Working with fellow CMST 2060 students throughout the semester both in and out of class will also enhance your rehearsal process. You will serve as each other’s audiences and collaborators as you discover your individual performances. During these meetings, engage with the assignment, discuss the subject, brainstorm the performance, rehearse for each other, and critique each other’s work. Note your partner’s strengths as well as where s/he could explore further to improve their work. Take the opportunity to challenge each other to do your respective best work. When possible, schedule time to rehearse in the classroom.

**Performance Etiquette:**
On Speech days, please make an extra effort to arrive on time. If you arrive during someone’s speech, do not enter the class until their presentation is complete. Also, please refrain from making any unnecessary noise during speeches. Try to limit any chewing/sipping/shuffling of papers to the breaks between performances. If you need to be excused, please leave and return between speeches.

Also, please engage with and respond to the speeches. Please feel free to laugh, cry, gasp, or experience other responses as appropriate. Please respond courteously, and try to avoid creating a distraction or an interruption, but do feel free to react. Performance thrives on the energetic exchange between performer and audience, so please bring your attention and your energy to share with others whether you are speaking or watching.

**Missed Speeches:**
If you miss a speech, you will not be automatically granted a makeup date. If an emergency arises, you may petition to reschedule your performance. You must submit your request at least 24 hours before your scheduled speech (unless circumstances render this physically impossible), and provide documentation verifying the date and reason for your absence. Following these guidelines DOES NOT guarantee that you will be granted a makeup date.

**Grading:**
The breakdown of assignments is listed below. Specifics about the criteria for each assignment will be available on moodle and discussed in class. Fully understanding the assignment and asking any necessary questions is your responsibility so clarify any uncertainties before the assignment is due. Please consider the following guidelines when reviewing your grades:

**A = Excellent** (exceeds expectations in multiple ways, i.e., creative, intelligent, committed and prepared). General rule: If you want an A, shoot to make the speech or assignment your own. An A speech is committed, full of energy, and it leaves the audience seeing the world just a little bit differently than they did before they encountered your speech. An A paper is thoughtful, well organized, and considers counter arguments: it builds an idea that leaves the reader seeing the world just a bit differently than she or he did before reading the paper. The reader doesn't have to fill in any blanks for the writer to infer what she/he means because the writer has made her or his idea alive on the page.

**B = Very Good (demonstrates work beyond the expected level of competence and preparation).** General rule: If you want a B shoot to cover everything the assignment asks you to do as competently as possible. Dot your i's, cross your t's. Make sure that you hit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS POSSIBLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speeches</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Speech</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceremonial Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and Participation</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Quizzes</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluations</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Glossary</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Paper</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>1030</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester Grades will be calculated on the following 1000* point scale:

- 900 and above = A
- 800 and above = B
- 700 and above = C
- 600 and above = D
- Below 600 = F

All speeches and some other material will be graded on Media Share. During the first week of class you will be given detailed instructions on how to enroll.

Please join Media Share as soon as possible. **Failure to do so by the due date of the first Video Quiz will result in a score of 0 for that quiz. Failure to do so by the due date of the Introductory Speech will result in a score of 0 for that speech. And so forth.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**
All assignments and supplemental materials will be posted on moodle.

**Texts:**

Required:


2. Assignments, and supplementary information will be made available on moodle as noted in class and on the syllabus.

You will also be required to bring your own notecards for each speech.

*While your final grade will be calculated out of 1000 points, there are 30 extra points available. In other words, there are 30 extra credit points built into the class. No other extra credit opportunities will be available.*
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

**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 (kfilbi@lsu.edu), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.