CMST 2010 Section 4 – Fall 2013
Interpersonal Communication
ONLINE ONLY

Instructor
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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday - 12:00am-1:20pm and by appointment
ONLINE ONLY COURSE
This course is a web-based ONLINE ONLY course. There will be NO classroom meetings.
You will need to have access to Moodle AND check it often.

Often students perceive an online course to be *easier* or *not as time consuming* as a traditional classroom. In reality, this is not the case and many online students report they had to work harder than they imagine to succeed in the course. More importantly, these same students say an online course is a rewarding and valuable experience and that they learn a great deal about the material from the online experience.

The amount of work you will do in this online setting will be similar to the amount of work you'd do for a traditional class. In other words, you will not have to work less just because it's an online course. The main difference you'll be working through electronic medium and not in a classroom.

The course format will allow you to work at the times convenient for you; however, there are *deadlines* for all assignments. **These deadlines are strictly enforced!** This is done to discourage you from falling too far behind and trying to cram it all in the last week of the semester and not doing well. It also allows me to update your grade often so you can see what you need to work on, and how to improve your grade in the class. These deadlines are designed to keep you from getting frustrated and overwhelmed so you are able to successfully finish the course.

General Education
CMST 2010 Interpersonal Communication meets the criteria for a *General Education Social Sciences* course by addressing:
- *The nature of the human person.* To be human is to be social and to be social is to communicate interpersonally. This course examines the role of the individual in the communication process.
- *Different levels of association.* The dyad, which is at the heart of interpersonal communication, is the foundational link in all social networks. Acquaintanceship, friendship, family relations, and romantic associations are examined as part of interpersonal communication.
- *The patterns by which societies organize how people relate not only to each other but to the world around them.* 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 identities and relationships.

- *Approaches to social analysis.* Interpersonal Communication provides students with a glimpse at the tenets and mechanics of contemporary social analysis through participation in studies designed to test and extend theories.

Learning Objectives
As a result of this course, students will be able to:
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 Materials
Bodie, G. (2012). *Interpersonal Communication, 2nd Edition*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.
** You MUST use the 2nd edition
Access to Moodle

Grades

Exams	50%
Quizzes	15%
Journal Entries	20%
Forum Participation	12%
Research Participation Requirement	3%
TOTAL	**100%**

Grading Scale

A	=	90-100%
B	=	80-89.99%
C	=	70-79.99%
D	=	60-69.99%
F	=	59.99% & below

All grades will be posted to Moodle using your LSU ID number.

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. **NO final grades will be rounded for ANY reason**.

Due Dates and Late Work
Every quiz, exam, and written assignment has a specific due date listed on the Course Schedule in Moodle. *Deadlines are strictly enforced*! All assignments are available for at least 2 weeks on Moodle before they are due. Assignments must be posted and SUBMITTED to Moodle by 11:55pm on the date due. I will grade assignments after the Due Date and once everyone has the chance to complete them. I suggest you review your graded assignments and read my comments so that you are able to approve as the semester continues.

Make-ups are only allowed in the case of an emergency and will follow LSU PS-31 accepted reasons for absences. You MUST contact me through email PRIOR to missing the assignment. You can use this make-up option **one (1) time** this semester. Please remember, what YOU consider an acceptable reason for a make-up may NOT be what I consider a good reason for a make-up.

Reasons that will NOT be considered for Make-Ups

- I was trying to get it done but ran out of time: Please do NOT wait until the last minute to complete assignments. Some of these assignments will take you longer than you anticipate and since you are given at least a week to work on them, there is no acceptable reason for running out of time.
- My computer wouldn't work: Please use a reliable computer and internet connection. Having computer troubles at 11:50pm on the night the assignment is due is NOT an emergency situation and will not grant you a make-up. If you doubt your computer or internet, LSU has many available around campus.
- I was sick: If you are sick for a day or two, there is plenty of time left for you to finish the assignments. Long-term sickness will be considered on a case-by-case basis with documentation. If you don't wait to the last minute, sickness should not be an issue for completing assignments.
- I had other school work: I expect you to check in with Moodle several times a week. You will have enough time to complete assignments ahead of the due dates. In addition, this class is as important as your other classes so put in the time needed to complete the assignments.

Attendance

Obviously, this is an online class so there is no attendance to count. It is important that you access Moodle at least 3 times per week, to keep up with the assignments and to communicate with me and your classmates.

Assignments

Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam given through Moodle. You will have 50 minutes to complete each exam and Moodle will not allow you to extend the time. Please prepare for this exam as you would an in-class examination. While I cannot control your use of books or notes, 50 minutes will NOT be enough time to look up answers to questions. In order to do well, you must be well prepared for your exams.

Quizzes

You will have a series of online quizzes for each chapter from your textbook. These quizzes will be multiple choice and true/false questions that test your knowledge of the chapter material. You may use your book as you work on these quizzes to help you learn and review the chapter information.

Each quiz has a total of 10 questions from the chapter. You are given **ONLY 1 attempt** at the quiz and **90 minutes** to complete the quiz once it is opened. You CANNOT open the quiz, then close it or come back to it.

Quiz grades will show up in your gradebook once the Due Date has passed.

Journal Entries

Throughout the semester, you will complete a Journal Entry for each book chapter. 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.

Journal questions will be graded based on your knowledge of the theory, your personal experiences and how you connect your personal experiences in everyday life to the communication theory. There is no time limit for working, so you are able to open the Journal assignment, save it and come back to work later. It often works well for students to work on their answer in Word, then copy and paste it to Moodle. However you work on this assignment, please remember to SAVE while working and SUBMIT when it's done. ***For more information on Journal Entries, please read the Grading Scale and Examples found in Moodle.***

Journal Entries must be manually graded, so you will see your grade once the Due Date has passed and I have graded the assignment.

Online Forum

Each week, I will post a question, comment or exercise on the Moodle Forum. You will be expected to comment to this post during the week. I expect your comments to be thoughtful, interesting and related to the week's topic. The comments should work to engage the rest of the class and get us all thinking and questioning what we know about Interpersonal Communication.

Forum posts should be, at the very least, a 2 paragraph entry with 5 lines per paragraph. You should provide some personal examples, as well as explain the Interpersonal Communication theory identified.   Comments that do not follow these parameters will not earn full credit.

Research Participation Requirements

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 *Tuesday, April 30th at 11:59 PM* (the 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. 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 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 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.

My 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. 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 the RPR web site to learn how to set up and use your account.

Weekly Schedule
Each week we will cover a different chapter. You will be expected to read your chapter and complete:

1. An online Quiz on Moodle
2. A Journal Entry on Moodle
3. A post to the Moodle Forum

The scheduling of chapters is available on Moodle, with due dates each Sunday night at 11:55pm.

Online Class Etiquette
Interpersonal communication is intimate and throughout the semester, you will disclose some of your personal experiences. I expect ALL students to treat classmates with RESPECT and to keep confidential ALL personal information discussed in the class. Respect for yourself and for others is MANDATORY and disrespect will NOT be tolerated! It is important that the class atmosphere be a safe, comfortable and supportive environment to share and learn in. Differences of experience, attitude, opinions and values can be discussed in a meaningfully way that we can all learn from. We must all agree to respect the norms of civil discussion. If we can do this, the class will provide a more significant experience for you and your classmates.

The American 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 those accommodations within the first two weeks of class.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, ideas, quotes, etc. without due credit. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or expulsion from LSU. Please see the University's Code of Student Conduct for information regarding this policy.