

Communication Studies 2010:
Interpersonal Communication (Section 1)
Class Days and Times: MWF 9:30-10:20, Coates 228

Instructor: Andrea J. Vickery
Email: avicke4@tigers.lsu.edu
Office: 317 Coates Hall
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:30-2:30pm, and by appointment

Required Textbook and Materials:

Bodie, G.D. (2014). Interpersonal communication (2nd ed). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt. ISBN: 9781465251008. Available at: www.kendallhunt.com/bodie

4 Scantrons, Access to Moodle/LSU Email for announcements

General Course Information

Welcome to CMST 2010: Interpersonal Communication! This class is designed to provide you with the foundation necessary to understand theories and concepts associated with the broad field of interpersonal communication and apply this knowledge for better individual and relationship well-being. The objectives of this course include (1) acquainting you with some of the fundamental processes through which interpersonal communication occurs, (2) increasing your awareness of the role interpersonal communication plays in managing social identities and relationships, (3) helping you improve several of your interpersonal communication skills, and (4) introducing you to scholarly research in the field of interpersonal communication.

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.

General Education Course:

As a general education social sciences course, CMST 2010 will provide an understanding of informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

CMST2010 Interpersonal communication meets the criteria for a *General Education Social Sciences* course by addressing the following:

- *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.

Course Assessment and Grading

Your grade will be calculated out of 1,000 possible points. The following grading scale is used: 90.00%-100.00% = A; 80.00%-89.99% = B; 70.00%-79.99% = C; 60.00%-69.99% = D; Percentages below 60.00% = F. I do not offer extra credit, and I do not round grades. Together we have a joint responsibility to check the accuracy of grades entered into Moodle, so please check all grades. If at any time during the semester you are concerned about your grade, please schedule an appointment or visit my office hours so that we can work together to address your concerns. I strongly recommend taking advantage of my office hours to discuss your individual progress in this course.

Exams

700 points (70%)

There will be four exams representing four units: Exam 1 = 100 points (10%), Exam 2 = 150 points (15%), and Exam 3 = 200 points (20%), Exam 4 = 250 points (25%). Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions about the book and lecture materials. Exams are considered cumulative in that certain terms/vocabulary and theories are discussed at various points throughout the semester. There will be a brief unit summary & review session before each exam.

Journal Entries

120 points (12%)

Throughout the semester, you will be responsible for completing 5 (five) journal entries (maximum 500 words) that relate to the book chapters. The journal entries will provide you with a chance to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the theories and concepts covered in the chapter by answering specific questions. The first journal entry is for practice and feedback and does not count towards your journal entry grades, but can be used as a “free pass” to replace your lowest quiz/activities grade. I will only be offering detailed feedback on the journal entry, so I recommend completing this entry to ensure you have a clear grasp of the assignment structure and process. There will also be a journal workshop day, and I will make additional materials available on Moodle. After the practice journal, you will have 12 possible entries throughout the semester on Moodle. You must complete 4 questions (“entries” are worth 30 points each), **completing one entry for each unit.** Journal entries are due by 11:59 pm on the announced dates on Moodle, these dates correspond with the end of the four units for this class.

In Class Participation: Quizzes/Activities

130 Points (13%)

Quizzes and activities require your attendance: You must be present in class to earn quiz/in-class activity points. Quizzes/Activities are typically unannounced and are planned to correspond with the current readings/topics being discussed in class. Quizzes/Activities will provide you with opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of interpersonal communication while engaging in conversation with your fellow classmates. Quizzes/Activities will be worth 10 points. Should there be more than 13 Quizzes/Activities, your lowest grade(s) will be dropped.

Research Review Assignments**20 Points (2%)**

There will be two (2) research-based assignments which you will complete at two points in the semester. Each assignment is worth 10 points. These assignments will be submitted through Moodle (no hard or late copies accepted). You will work on the first research review assignment on F 8/29, with the final write-up due no later than 11:59 PM on W 9/3. You will work on the second research review assignment on F 11/17, with the final write up due no later than 11:59 PM on W 11/26. Assignment details will be posted to Moodle.

Research Participation Requirement**30 Points (3%)**

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 December 2 at 11:59 PM (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 <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.

General Course Policies

Attendance and Absences:

You are expected to attend and be prepared for every class meeting, having read any readings due that day before class begins. It is your responsibility to arrive in class on time, planning ahead in case of delays (e.g., alarms, parking, traffic, weather problems). Notifications (texts, emails, tweets, other alerts) should be switched to silent to avoid distracting your classmates and your instructor. If you or your technological devices are disruptive to the learning environment, you may be asked to leave the classroom and will forfeit your ability to earn quiz or activity points for that day. You are responsible for signing a daily roll sheet, which is our official record and is used to verify attendance on days where there are in class quizzes/activities. You must attend the section for which you are registered.

I follow LSU PS-22 regarding absences: *“Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The course instructor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons. [...] The student is responsible for providing reasonable advance notification and appropriate documentation of the reason for the absence.”* Valid reasons for absences include: illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips), court-imposed legal obligations (subpoenas, jury duty), military obligations, serious weather conditions, religious observances, participation in varsity athletic competitions or university musical events.

If you miss class, please keep in mind that I do not provide copies of my lecture notes. I recommend asking a fellow classmate what you missed. If you remain confused about the material we covered after you have met with a classmate and read the readings, then I encourage you to schedule an appointment or attend my office hours.

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 of Disability Services (115 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letter, please meet with me so that we can discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

Email Correspondence and Grade Discussion:

I will do my best to reply to all emails within 24 hours. Emails sent after 11PM or emails sent during class time will not be immediately seen or read. When requesting an appointment outside my scheduled office hours, please give me time to confirm a time that works for both of us (I typically cannot accommodate same-day requests).

I strongly recommend taking the time to meet with me about your graded work. However, I do have a 24-hour “cooling off” period for graded work. This means that for exams, journal entries, and written assignments, once you receive your grade, 24 hours must pass before we can discuss your grade. This 24-hour period is there to encourage thoughtful, sensitive, and well-reasoned discussions versus purely emotional discussions about grades. When you are waiting to discuss a grade, I recommend reviewing syllabus/course policies, original assignment guidelines, and any written feedback or comments. All grade discussions must be handled in person, during my office hours or a scheduled appointment.

Plagiarism and Citing Your Sources:

There is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism in your work. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students. The LSU Student Code of Conduct Section 8.1.6 defines plagiarism as follows: *“6. Plagiarism is defined as the lack of citation or the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's words, structure, ideas, or data. When a Student submits work as his/her own that includes the words, structure, ideas, or data of others, the source of this information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references, and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks as well. Failure to identify any source (including interviews, surveys, etc.), published in any medium (including on the internet) or unpublished, from which words, structure, ideas, or data have been taken, constitutes plagiarism.”*

Please use APA (6th Edition) or MLA when citing sources. There are many writing reference guides available online and at the library. If you still remain confused about citing your sources, please visit me during my office hours with questions.

Consider Majoring/Minoring in Communication Studies

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.

General Course Outline

This outline is subject to change and represents the general progression of the course. Please check Moodle and attend class for announcements & revisions, including additional readings and special topics related to the assigned chapters.

Week	Description, Readings, and Major Assignments
Week 1: 8/26	<i>Introduction to Course, Instructor, and Classmates.</i> No class Friday 8/29 (Research Review Assignment #1 work day)
Week 2: 9/1	<i>Chapters 1&2: Introduction and Foundation</i> No class Monday 9/1. Research Review Assignment #1 Due 9/3. (Chapter 2 is the first chapter eligible for a journal entry)
Week 3: 9/8	<i>Chapters 2&3 Self Concept and Self Disclosure</i> Journal Workshop Day this week
Week 4: 9/15	<i>Finish Unit (Chs 1-3), Start on Chapter 4: Meaning</i> Exam #1 (Unit #1) is expected to occur on/around 9/18 or 9/20.
Week 5: 9/22	<i>Chapter 4: Meaning/ Chapter 5: Audible Acts of Meaning</i>
Week 6: 9/29	<i>Chapter 6: Visual Acts of Meaning</i> No class Friday 10/3.
Week 7: 10/6	<i>Chapter 7: Listening</i>
Week 8: 10/13	<i>Finish Unit 2 (Chapters 4-7)</i> Exam #2 (Unit #2) is expected to occur on 10/15 or 10/17 (Midterms).
Week 9: 10/20	<i>Chapter 8: Initial Interactions to Intimacy</i>
Week 10: 10/27	<i>Chapter 9: Dark Side of Relationships</i>
Week 11: 11/3	<i>Chapter 10: Terminating Relationships</i>
Week 12: 11/10	<i>Finish Unit 3 (Chapters 8-10), Start Chapter 11: Family Communication,</i> Exam #3 (Unit #3) is expected to occur on/ around 11/15
Week 13: 11/17	<i>Chapter 12: Organization Communication</i> No class Friday 11/21 (Research Review Assignment #2 Work Day)
Week 14: 11/24	<i>Chapter 13: Technology</i> (Chapter 13 is the last opportunity to complete journal entries) No Class Friday 11/28.
Week 15: 12/1	<i>Finish Unit 4 (Chapters 11-13)</i> Complete your research learning requirement by 12/2 (Due 12/3). Complete your final journal entry by 12/2.
Week 16 12/8	<i>Final Exam Week</i> Finals Office Hours TBA. Exam #4 (Unit 4) will occur during scheduled final exam period.