**Syllabus Language (CMST 1061, 2010, 1150, and 2060)**

***Copy and Paste As Is:***

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 communication behavior. All students taking CMST 1061, 1150, 2010, 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 requirements 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. Surveys and experimental studies are conducted throughout the semester. These studies are held on campus 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, meeting 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.

1. **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 2% of your total grade**; you will receive your 2% if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. ***All research learning credits must be completed and allocated by the Tuesday of Dead Week at 11:59 PM*** (the Tuesday prior to the start of the concentrated study period). Credit will NOT appear in Moodle prior to this date.

**ALL available options to earn credit are posted on an electronic bulletin board** located at <http://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/>. At this website, you can request an account or use an account from previous semesters. 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: Several LSU departments use the Sona System but ONLY CMST studies available through the Sona System for Communication Studies and Psychology can be used for credit in CMST classes.***

**Please be sure to CHOOSE this course AND section when you register or log in for this semester**. If you do NOT choose the correct section, your instructor will not see your credits. It is YOUR responsibility to choose the right course and section, so your credits are applied to your class. ***Students taking multiple CMST courses with RPS requirements must earn 2 credit per class.***

**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. You are also encouraged to 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.

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. ***Your instructor CANNOT announce Studies available in class, so it is your responsibility to check availability of studies.***

**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**. When you sign-up for a credit option, it is very important that you attend that option or cancel your sign up. 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.

**Your instructor 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 and you can check earned credits AND allocated to your class anytime. Please note, researchers will not allocate credits to the system until the study time slots are completed.

**Detailed instructions on how to request an account and to navigate the system are posted on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies**, <http://www.lsu.edu/cmst>. Click on RESOURCES and RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SYSTEM. Scroll down to find the document titled “RPS – Instructions for Students.”

If you have questions about this requirement or the online system that keeps track of credits, please email researchadmin@lsu.edu.