

Syllabus

CMST 2064: Small Group Communication

Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University

Spring 2019, Section 14 and 15. Online

Instructor: Michael Navarro

Office: Coates 324

Email: mnav12@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Online Chat, T Th, 12-1:00 (Available via email)

Class Meetings: M-F Online

Textbook: Engleberg, Isa N. and Dianna R. Wynn. Working in Groups, 7th Ed. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon, 2013.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Note: This is the ~~first~~ second time an online version of CMST 2064 is being offered. As such, you will be helping me to develop this course as it progresses throughout the semester. I will be asking for the class's opinion on a number of different issues so that we can make it the best it can be. This is to say that aside from the graded items, nothing is completely set in stone. We can and will make adjustments as we go. Just something to keep in mind ☺

In this course, we will study how to work well in groups by focusing on its communication components: creating workable goals, the stages of group development, task and social maintenance roles, membership diversity, leadership, motivation, listening, conflict resolution, problem solving, critical thinking and argumentation, planning and conducting meetings, and issues of ethical behavior.

COURSE GOALS

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Identify and apply basic group communication concepts
 - Demonstrate effective group interaction skills
 - Identify and apply group communication strategies and skills that facilitate the achievement of group goals
 - Identify and demonstrate essential group discussion strategies and skills
 - Explain and apply the principles and practices of ethical communication
 - Apply a variety of creative problem solving and critical thinking skills
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COURSE EVALUATION: *Note: These percentages may change slightly over the course of the semester*

Participation – 10%

Participation will be graded through weekly discussion board topics. You are responsible for posting at least one topic for discussion and responding to two others per week.

Midterm – 20%

Final – 20%

Midterm and final will both consist of multiple choice questions from the book, discussions, and lectures.

Group Project – 50%

The group project will make up the other half of your grade (it is a class in small group communications after all). Throughout the course of the semester, you will engage in various group exercises that will make up a group participation grade (10%). You will also work together to complete a group project consisting of a research paper in two parts (20%) and a presentation to the class on your work (20%). More details about this project will be given during the semester.

GRADING SCALE

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ ... 98-100 points
A ... 93-97 points
A - ... 90-92 points
B + ... 87-89 points
B ... 83-86 points
B - ... 80-82 points
C + ... 77-79 points
C ... 73-76 points
C - ... 70-72 points
D + ... 67-69 points
D ... 63-66 points

D - ... 60-62 points
F ... 0-59 points

Technology Policy:

This class will be conducted 100% online. That means that you are required to have reliable access to a computer so that you can keep up with assignments on Moodle. In addition, we will be using a program called Discord for group work. I'll explain more about this program in week one, but the program itself is extremely user friendly, and can be accessed via computer, phone, or tablet. I will be interacting with the class mostly through Discord, while assignments will be submitted through Moodle (at least, that's how I envision this working).

TITLE IX & Sexual Misconduct Policy:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance.

In accordance with Title IX and other applicable law, Louisiana State University ("LSU") is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual misconduct which includes sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and retaliation. LSU prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct. This policy applies to all persons without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

Sex discrimination and sexual misconduct violate an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. LSU considers sex discrimination and sexual misconduct in all of its forms to be serious offenses. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for individuals whose rights have been violated. This policy establishes a mechanism for determining when rights have been violated in employment, student life, campus support services, LSU programs and/or an academic environment.

[LSU Commitment to Community](#) - LSU is an interactive community in which students, faculty, and staff together strive to pursue truth, advance learning, and uphold the highest standards of performance in an academic and social environment.

If you have concerns, you can contact:

University Contacts:

Jennie Stewart (Campus Title IX Coordinator), jstewart@lsu.edu, LSU Office of Human Resource Management, 110 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, 225-578-8200

Maria Fuentes-Martin (Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students), mari@lsu.edu, LSU Dean of Students, 333 Student Union Baton Rouge, LA 70803, 225-578-9442

Departmental Contacts:

Dr. Loretta Pecchioni, lpecch1@lsu.edu, Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Studies

Dr. Ken Filbel, kfilli@lsu.edu, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Communication Studies

Michael Navarro, mnav12@lsu.edu, CMST 2064 Instructor of Record

HAVE YOU DECLARED YOUR MAJOR OR MINOR?

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.

The Department of Communication Studies offers 6 Pathways of Study as guidance for students interested in taking CMST courses. These pathways include lists of courses that can be taken for students interested in the following areas within Communication Studies:

- *Public Discourse*
- *Art and Culture*
- *Professional Communication*

- *Communication in Human Relationships*
- *Visual and Mediated Communication*
- *Create your Own Pathway*

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.

Organization for Communication Studies (OCS)

The Organization for Communication Studies (OCS) is for any undergraduate LSU student interested in Communication Studies. Whether you are a CMST major, minor, or any student interested in Communication Studies, our goal is to create a network of students and faculty united by a shared interest in communication, a desire to better one’s self through interpersonal interactions, and a sense of duty to the CMST Department and local LSU Community.

Members of OCS will have opportunities to meet with representatives from various businesses and institutions to receive career search tips and learn about areas such as hospitality, customer service, recreation and tourism, sales and marketing, and various entry level trainee programs.

OCS members will also participate in department events such as hosting the OCS Fall Kickoff, the Public Speaking Competition, and the annual department Awards Banquet.

If you are interested in joining OCS, please email your request to:

Dr. Joni M. Butcher, Faculty Advisor, jbutche@lsu.edu

Schedule:

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Make sure you check-in to the course Moodle at least twice a week to be sure that you are up to date on upcoming assignments.

Week	Day	Topic	Assignment
1		Syllabus	For the first week, just be sure to read the syllabus and get the text book.
2		Chapter 1 – Introduction Chapter 2 – Group Development	Discussion Board

3		Chapter 3 – Group Membership	Discussion Board (Assign Groups)
4		Chapter 4 – Diversity in Groups	Discussion Board Group Ruleset (Group) Group Meetup Paper (Individual)
5		Chapter 5 – Group Leadership Movie Night in Discord	Discussion Board Leadership in Movies Assignment
6		Chapter 6 – Verbal and Nonverbal	Discussion Board
7		Work on Group Paper 1	Group Paper 1 Due
8		Midterm Review	Midterm
9		Chapter 7 – Listening in Groups	Discussion Board
10		Chapter 8 – Conflict and Cohesion	Discussion Board
11		Chapter 9 – Problem Solving	Discussion Board Group Presentation Assigned
12		Chapter 10 – Critical Thinking	Discussion Board
13		Group Presentation / Paper Work Week	
14		Thanksgiving	
15		Group Presentation / Paper Work Week Final Exam Review	Group Presentation Due Final Group Papers Due
16			Final Exam Week

