

# CMST 1150: Introduction to Communication Studies

Spring 2016

Section 1: MWF 9:30-10:20; Section 2: MWF 12:30-1:20

Instructor: **Mr. Kent Filbel**

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Office Hours: **MWF 1:30-2:20 p.m.,  
3:30-4:20; T/Th 10-Noon; & by special appt.**

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Office Hours:

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

CMST 1150 surveys the history of the Communication Studies discipline and significant areas of communication research. The course introduces students who are majoring or minoring in Communication Studies to the research methods, history, research findings and communication contexts explored within the discipline. Specifically, the course introduces students to the five communication pathway areas that make up LSU's Department of Communication Studies undergraduate program: *Public Discourse, Communication in Human Relationships, Visual and Mediated Communication, Art and Culture, and Professional Communication*. The course incorporates lectures by the instructor, reading assignments, reading quizzes, guest lecturers, and exercises/discussions. Full participation is expected of all students.

## TEXTS

Steve Duck, et al. [Introduction to Communication Studies](#). This is a custom electronic text available only at the LSU Bookstore.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are expected to attend all regularly scheduled class meetings, read all the assigned material from the text and reading packet prior to coming to class, and participate in class discussions and exercises. In addition, you will be responsible for completing short reading quizzes, and two major exams.

*Attendance/Class Participation:* Attendance and participation are required. The course meetings will include a mixture of lectures, class discussions, and a variety of exercises. You are responsible for all the reading as well as the lecture material. I will use a portion of the class time to present information designed to reinforce, clarify, or supplement the ideas introduced in your readings. In addition to in-class exercises, all students are required to complete 30 points worth of *research participation* outside of class. A page on Moodle will explain more.

*To receive credit for in-class exercises, you must be present during the exercise and contribute to the completion of your task or that of a group.*

Your participation grade will be calculated based on the total points of exercises you were present for and participated in. Exercises will not necessarily be announced in advance. Because exercises are designed to facilitate in-class collaboration and discussion among students, let me know if an absence is university-excused. *Because class exercises are not graded, per sé, but receive 100% when done conscientiously, there will be no unexcused make-ups for these exercises.* Excused make-ups will be allowed with no penalty. There are no make-ups for extra-credit work.

**Quizzes:** There will be regular quizzes throughout the semester that will cover the assigned course readings, often one per reading assignment. Although the reading assignments may include complex material, the quizzes will focus more often on important ideas presented in each chapter. The quizzes will be objective (multiple choice, matching and true/false) and relatively brief. They will typically be given prior to a lecture on the assigned reading. **The lowest two quiz scores in the course will be dropped. You will receive a zero for any quiz you miss, and can only be made up late with a properly documented university-approved excuse. You will need to miss 2 quizzes before you will be able to make up any quiz, even if excused.** The quizzes should help you keep up with the reading and serve as practice for the exams.

**Exams:** Five exams will be given during the semester. Each exam may contain a combination of multiple choice, true/false, or matching questions.

**Grading:** For the purposes of calculating your final grades in the course, we will use the following point system. ***IMPORTANT!:* Ignore the percents on Moodle. Ignore them all semester. This course is based on points alone.** The requirements will bear the following weights:

Quizzes (highest 10 of 12 quiz scores)	100 pts.
Exam 1	100 pts.
Exam 2	100 pts.
Exam 3	100 pts.
Exam 4	100 pts.
Exam 5	100 pts.
Class Participation (Exercises, plus a <i>research participation</i> component)	<u>400 pts.</u>
	1000 pts.

### **Grading Scale and Rationale**

The final grade will be determined on a 1000-point scale. ***IMPORTANT!:* Ignore the percents on Moodle. Ignore them all semester. This course is based on points alone.**

Coursework will be assessed within the increment grading scale, as follows:

A+ (Excellent)	[968-1000 pts. for the course]
A (Excellent)	[934-967 pts. for the course]
A- (Excellent)	[900-933 pts. for the course]
B+ (Noteworthy)	[867-899 pts. for the course]
B (Noteworthy)	[833-866 pts. for the course]
B- (Noteworthy)	[800-833 pts. for the course]
C+ (Acceptable)	[767-799 pts. for the course]
C (Acceptable)	[733-766 pts. for the course]
C- (Acceptable)	[700-732 pts. for the course]
D+ (Deficient)	[667-699 pts. for the course]
D (Deficient)	[633-666 pts. for the course]
D- (Deficient)	[600-632 pts. for the course]
F (Unacceptable)	[below 600 pts. in the course]

- A *Excellence* indicates distinguished mastery of course material, exhibited by exceptionally well-prepared completion of assignments, demonstrating superior effort and understanding of principles.
- B *Noteworthiness* indicates good mastery of course material, exhibited by above average preparation of assignments, demonstrating original application of course materials.
- C *Acceptability* indicates acceptable mastery of course material, exhibited by satisfactory completion of assignments, demonstrating basic preparation and correct techniques.
- D *Deficiency* indicates a deficient grasp of course material, exhibited by incomplete preparation of assignments.
- F *Unacceptability* is a failure to complete the assignment during the scheduled time or to meet the academic standards of university-level work.

NOTE: "I" grades (Incomplete) cannot be given without the permission of the student's academic dean.

Any work handed in late without a university-approved excuse will be penalized 10%.

### **Ethical Standards**

I am convinced that only a minority of students cheat. However, the university very jealously protects the academic integrity of the institution. Technically, you do not "earn" a degree, you are awarded a degree. This means that a diploma represents the standards, traditions, values, integrity and honor of the university. Additionally, the diploma represents your acceptance into a fellowship, a guild of academics reaching back a millennium. The university grants this honor, and can take it away at any point—even posthumously—when it discovers you are not worthy of the honor.

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Cheating includes, but is not limited to copying or representing the work of others as your own (i.e., plagiarism), stealing quizzes or exams, and copying the questions or answers of quizzes or exams. Any cheating will be dealt with according to the discretion of the instructor. The minimum punishment will be a failure grade for an assignment. More dire punishment may include a failure grade for the course and expulsion from the university. Please see the university's Code of Student Conduct for information regarding this policy.

Finally, and importantly, I hope you find that honest intellectual achievement is a life-long reward that results in the kind of personal growth for which you may be always proud.

Toward this end, you will be required to print, sign and turn over to your instructor the **LSU Pledge of Honor** before you can have grades recorded.

*The Americans 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 to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.