

CMST 1061 Fundamentals of Communication – D. Mungin  
M-F 8:40 – 9:40  
Allen 129  
Summer 2016  
Louisiana State University

Instructor: Douglas Mungin  
Office: Coates 324  
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Office Hours: T,W,Th,F 10:00 am – 11:00 am, *or by appointment*  
Department Office: Coates 136

Required Text

Required Text: Butcher, Joni. The 5 Pathways of Communication. Kendall Hunt, 2014. Supplemental reading will be posted to Moodle.

Course Goal

This course should help you read, write, think, and communicate critically. The goal is NOT simply to memorize terminology. You should certainly learn and understand the key concepts, but you should also know how to USE the concepts and relate the concepts to other subjects and other areas of life such as your personal life (know how to interpret and understand acts of communication), your social life (use the concepts to help you relate to others), and your professional life (help you communicate more effectively in the workplace).

General Education Requirement

General Education Statement: CMST 1061 is a General Education Humanities Course designed to familiarize the students with the fundamental concepts of communication. As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 1061 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.

In this course, we will explore how we, as human beings, create socially significant messages which help us shape our identity, persuade others to take action, and shed light on the value systems of our culture. We will learn how individuals create and use messages to generate common meaning with others, to facilitate cooperative action, to perform social and cultural roles, and to reinforce or alter prevailing attitudes in our society.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Fundamentals of Communication. During the semester, we will concentrate on five fundamental areas of communication:

*Small Group (Professional) Communication*

Employers consistently expect quality communication skills in employees. In this section we will examine the role communication plays in work-related settings. We will discuss theories and techniques to help excel in working with others in order to achieve a common goal.

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*Public Discourse*

Public discourse is central to the practice of citizenship. In this section we will explore how persuasive messages are constructed, presented to, and received by public audiences. We will examine such areas as political discourse, social issue posters, and persuasive advertisements.

*Communication in Human Relationships*

All human relationships are built through communication. In this section we will examine theories and techniques that help us understand and enable effective relationships with others. We will discuss areas such as managing conversations, apologizing, dealing with conflict, and compliance-gaining.

*Visual and Media Communication*

In our post-literate electronic world, humans increasingly communicate via still and moving images and image technologies. In this section we will explore practical approaches to communication in visual culture, film, and mediated arts.

*Art and Culture*

Humans communicate culture by everyday behaviors. In this section we will discover how we achieve unique identities through everyday behaviors, values, and norms. We will explore such areas as cultural storytelling, parody, and community-building rituals and festivals.

\*\*\*Please Note that these areas are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Some communication concepts can fit into two or more of these categories.

Also, many topics exist under each area. There is simply not enough time to cover every aspect of every area.

Class Expectations

1. You will attend (show up physically) every scheduled class meeting and be on time and present (show up mentally/ emotionally) for every lesson.
2. All of your assignments are expected to be on time.
3. You will try your hardest with every assignment and seek help from your instructor or peers when necessary.
4. Disrespect in the classroom WILL NOT be tolerated. Every member of the classroom can practice respectful behavior by actively speaking up in class, doing all readings and assignments, preparing for and practicing speeches, giving helpful and encouraging feedback to their peers.
5. Technology Policy: The goal of all course policies is to help create a successful course experience for you as the student; this includes your ability to learn course material and to do so in an effective classroom environment. As such, use of technology is prohibited to devices that aid in student learning. As a general rule in normal circumstances, students are also not allowed to record other students in the course without their permission.

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- Laptop computers and similar devices used for note-taking as a learning aid are permitted in class. You should also have paper and a writing utensil on all days for group activities.
- All other technology (smart phones, etc.) are NOT permitted for use during class. The first use during class will result in substantial reduction in overall course participation points (up to 20 points) with an increasing reduction in points for each use thereafter.
- In case of emergencies requiring cell phone access during the class session, you should notify your professor before class begins and attempt to sit near the entrance to the classroom.

### Attendance

Attendance is crucial for a communication studies course. You will be expected to be an active participant in this classroom and be on time for all lessons. There will be daily exercises that will factor into your final grade, these exercises can't be made up at a later date. In order to prevent miscommunication between you and your instructor, make sure I am informed of your whereabouts (should you feel it is necessary) so I can further help to aid and/or accommodate you in an emergency.

### On-Time Assignments

All assignments must be turned in on the date specified in your syllabus (unless otherwise arranged in class by your instructor). Late assignments WILL NOT be accepted as you are expected to come to every class prepared. Again, feel free to keep in contact with your instructor via e-mail, telephone, or an arranged meeting to accommodate personal needs- you will be more than welcome to turn in a written assignment early if need be. Unfortunately, under no circumstances (aside from an emergency in which you must contact me ASAP) will you be allowed to miss a day you are scheduled to speak. You will receive ZERO points. If you miss a day when a quiz is given you will not be permitted to make up that quiz without a university approved absence.

### LSU CODE of STUDENT CONDUCT

To demonstrate my pride in LSU, as a member of its community, I will:

- accept responsibility for my actions;
- hold myself and others to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity;
- practice justice, equality, and compassion in human relations;
- respect the dignity of all persons and accept individual differences;
- respect the environment and the rights and property of others and the University;
- contribute positively to the life of the campus and surrounding community; and
- use my LSU experience to be an active citizen in an international and interdependent world.

The continued success of LSU depends on the faithful commitment by each community member to these, our basic principles. (Adopted May 1995)

Plagiarism: You are to assume that all assignments in this course are individual assignments unless explicit instructions are provided for a group project. Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) in part or in whole will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. See the LSU policies on plagiarism here:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html> .**Your paper would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:**

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submit a paper in which you “cut and paste” or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

Extra Credit: No extra credit assignments will be allowed.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitations Act of 1973 states: “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 Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged.” After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

Grades: Final grades will be determined based on scores earned in the following assignments. All work must be done during the semester.

Grading Breakdown:

Reading Quizzes – 70 points (7 quizzes at 10 points each)

Midterm Exam – 150 points

Final Exam – 150 points

Participation – 175 points

Learning Portfolios – 150 points (6 entries worth 25 points each)

Communication Challenge Assignments – 125 points (5 at 25 points each)

Capstone Project - 100

Capstone Project Paper – 50

Capstone Presentation – 30

Your final grade assignment will be based on your total score at the end of the semester.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ ... 970-1000 points
A ... 930-969 points
A - ... 900-929 points
B + ... 870-899 points
B ... 830-869 points
B - ... 800-829 points
C + ... 770-799 points
C ... 730-769 points
C - ... 700-729 points
D + ... 670-699 points
D ... 630-669 points
D - ... 600-629 points
F ... 0-599 points

#### 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.

#### 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](http://www.lsu.edu/cmst) or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel ([kfilli@lsu.edu](mailto:kfilli@lsu.edu)), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.

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Anticipated Course Topics Schedule:

Week 1	M - Syllabus T – Class Activity W – What is Communication? Chapter 1 Th – What is Communication? cont. F – Small Group (Professional) Communication – Reading
Week 2	M – Small Group cont. T - Small Group cont. W – Communication Challenge Th – Public Discourse - Reading F – Public Discourse cont.
Weeks 3	M – Public Discourse cont. T - Communication Challenge W – Communication in Human Relations - Reading Th – Communication in Human Relations cont. F – Communication in Human Relations cont.
Week 4	M - Communication Challenge T – Cushion Day W – Midterm Review – Learning Portfolios 1 – 3 due Th 7/2 – Midterm Exam
Week 5	M 7/4 No Class – University Holiday T – Visual and Media Culture – Reading W – Visual and Media Culture cont. Th - Communication Challenge F - Art and Communication – Reading
Week 6	M – Art and Communication Cont. T – Art and Communication Cont. W – Communication Challenge Th – Capstone Project Assigned - Learning Portfolio 4 - 5 due F – Workshop
Week 7	M – Workshop T - Workshop W – Capstone Project Presentation – Professional Communication in Small Groups & Public Discourse Th – Capstone Project Presentation – Human Relationships & Visual & Media F - Capstone Project Presentation – Art and Communication – Learning Portfolio 6 due
Week 8	M - Capstone Project Paper due T – Study Day W - Finals Th - Finals

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