

CMST 2010 Interpersonal Communication
Spring 2019

Instructor: Ryan Rasner, Ph.D. Candidate
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Email: rrasne1@lsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:30-1:30 or by appointment

Required Texts: McCornack, S. (2016). *Reflect & Relate: An introduction to interpersonal communication (4th Eds)*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Required Materials: Access to Moodle and access to Kahoot!

Course Description/ Goals:

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural and linguistic forces.

CMST 2010 Interpersonal Communication meets the criteria for a *General Education Social Sciences* course by addressing:

- *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 POLICIES

Attendance & Participation: Your attendance at each class meeting is expected. You are allowed three (3) free unexcused absences without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond those three (3) will result in a 20-point deduction from your final grade. You are expected to attend all classes just as you would be expected to go to work every day as if this class was any other job. Your class participation grade will be determined based on in-class discussion participation, assignments/exercises, and analysis of in-class activities throughout the semester.

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 and with the instructors approval.

- Laptop computers and similar devices used for note taking as a learning aid are permitted in class with approval from the instructor. You should also have paper and a writing utensil on all days for group activities.
- All other technology (smart phones, etc.) is **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. Inappropriate technology use while another student is presenting will result in a ZERO for the day and you will be asked to leave class.
- In case of emergencies requiring cell phone access during the class session, you should notify your instructor before class begins and attempt to sit near the entrance to the classroom.

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 his or her 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.

ASSIGNMENTS: Detailed instructions, grading rubric, and checklists will be on Moodle.

Reading Activities/Quizzes (100 points): Reading will be assessed by in class activities and chapter quizzes that are comprised of Multiple Choice, True False, Short Answer, and/or Essay questions that cover assigned readings.

Show & Tell Presentations (60points): You and a partner will present on an interpersonal communication or relational phenomena, article, news story, application, device, movie clip, or artifact to the class. This is your chance to showcase what you know while being creative and engaging with the course materials and your peers. **THIS MUST BE A REAL-WORLD or NON-FICTIONAL EXAMPLE** (you are not allowed to use fictional or reality television examples). You will present for 8-10 minutes at the beginning of class and then answer questions from the audience for a maximum of 5 minutes after your presentation. Your presentation should prompt curiosity in the audience and stimulate questions.

Journals (30points): Throughout the semester, you will complete 6 Journal Entries that relate to the book chapters. You will be asked questions and expected to explain the Communication Theory, as well as discuss your Interpersonal Communication experiences as it relates to this theory. A total of 12 journal entries are offered throughout the semester. You must complete 2 journal entries prior to each exam. The two journal entries for each section must be turned in prior to the exam on Moodle. Further directions and prompts will be available on our course Moodle page.

Exams: (300points): Exams will be taken at three points during the semester, each worth 100 points.

Research Requirement (10points): see the RPS section of this syllabus for instructions and DEADLINE.

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

Course Assignment Point Breakdown: (500 point total)

Reading Activities/Quizzes	100 pts
Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2.....	100 pts
Exam 3	100 pts
Group Presentations	60 pts.
Journals	30 pts.
Research Participation	10 pts

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

****Note:** The instructor reserves the right to amend the course assignments, assignment weights, readings, administrative items, and non-administrative items contained within this syllabus and schedule. Students will be notified in class, through Moodle, and/or in emails of any changes to the course syllabus and schedule.

Missed Presentations and/or Late-Work:

Just as with any other job, you would certainly make every effort to contact your co-workers or boss if extenuating circumstances prevented you from being at work or meeting an important deadline. The same is true for this class. Treat it like a job.

If you miss class due to a university approved absence, you will be responsible to come into my office and provide original (hard copy) documentation to excuse any late work (no digital documentation). Always see me during my office hours to arrange make-up work—make every effort to arrange makeups before the expected absence. If prior is not possible, then assignments missed due to a university approved absence must be completed within 1 week after the original due date.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION:

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. The Institutional Review Board at LSU approves all available studies.
- 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 2% of your total grade; you will receive your 2% if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. Please note that **all research learning credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday, April 23rd at 11:59 PM.**

ALL available options to earn credit are posted on an electronic bulletin board located at <https://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/> . 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 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.”

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.

LSU Commitment to Community:

The LSU Commitment to Community provides a guiding ethos to the University community. Students are encouraged to exemplify the Commitment to Community in their daily lives.

Louisiana State University 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.

It is a community that fosters individual development and the creation of bonds that transcend the time spent within its gates.

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)

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.

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

ReRe Pride-Shaw, rereshaw@lsu.edu
Department of Communication Studies

Ryan Rasner, rrasne1@lsu.edu
CMST 2010, 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.