



Fundamentals of  
Communication

at LSU



CMST 1061 Syllabus

# Syllabus

## *CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication*

### ***Instructor***

Stephanie Houston Grey, Ph.D.

Office: 224 Coates Hall

Office Hours: Wednesday: 1 pm – 3 pm: we can meet on campus, via Skype, on the phone, at the library – just let me know what works for you!

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### ***Course Description***

This course provides a brief introduction to the fundamentals of human communication primarily for majors or minors in Communication Studies. The course showcases the broad and inclusive nature of the discipline. We begin with the question “What is Communication?” and continue to study it throughout the course, by examining a series of pathways for communication, including Communication in Human Relationships, Workplace Communication, Visual and Mediated Communication, Art and Culture and Advocacy and Social Justice. Students with diverse interests and talents will find an academic experience here that prepares them for further study in communication, as well for the wider world, as they “demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.” (Butcher 2017).

### ***General Education Dimension***

This flexible, broad and introductory nature of the course warrants its placement in the university’s General Education program. CMST 1061 is a General Education Humanities course.

### ***Learning Objectives***

During this course, you will:

- Engage the nature of communication, as it relates to your life and the various dimensions of human life in the world
- Explore the academic field of Communication Studies along several key pathways for the study of communication
- Hone your communication skills through writing of various levels of formality.
- Participate in approved research or performative work in communication studies

By the end of the course, you should be “hyper-aware” of the communication dimensions of your life at the university and elsewhere!



## CMST 1061 Syllabus

### ***A Web-Based Course***

As this is a web-based course on the Moodle platform. You are responsible for completing the readings, participating in discussions and other activities electronically, and completing assignments by the due dates set. We will use discussion boards to take the place of traditional classroom discussion, so it is up to all of us to keep the discussions both lively and respectful. Let's make our course a model of civil discourse!

***You must have access to the web every day.*** You should be able to access the course materials, the LSU Library and your LSU e-mail. Even if you are traveling, stay in touch.

***This course takes place on Moodle.*** Course discussions, class announcements, exams, assignments and class activities all take place in this electronic space.

***If you have technical difficulties,*** please contact student IT services for assistance. Contact information is provided in the course site.

***We have due dates!*** Web-based courses provide a degree of freedom as to when to complete your work, and that is wonderful; however, note that the assignments for the course have due dates that must be met. This is a key part of your responsibility as a student.

***Back up your work.*** Things can get lost in cyberspace, and you need to be able to recover your work. Keep your work organized on your hard drive and consider a cloud service or another means to make a fuller backup of all your files, in case your trusty laptop fails.

***Use the proper format.*** When you submit, you must submit it in the proper format. Your professor receives many files and wants to recognize each assignment right away. Assignment file names should be like this: cmst1061\_assignmentname\_yourlastname.

### ***Policies***

***Plagiarism:*** Do not inappropriately represent the work of others as your own. See the LSU Student Handbook. <https://grok.lsu.edu/article.aspx?articleid=17072>

***Disability Access:*** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act of 1973: If you have a disability that may impact your work in this course, and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office for Disability Affairs so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letter or notice, please advise the instructor of the provisions of those accommodations.

<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/orientation/students-with-disabilities/>



### ***Commitment to Your Success***

I am committed to making your experience at LSU enriching. It is my hope that this class will be enjoyable, and that you will take the insights that you accumulate and apply them in your future endeavors. Do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail or cell phone to arrange for a personal meeting via phone, Skype or on campus. We all want you to be successful in this course! – Dr. Grey

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### ***Course Text***

Butcher, Joni. *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt, 2017.

E-text version available: \$30 <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/5-pathways-communication>

Print version available at \$60

You MUST have a copy of the text as your work in the course is based on it.

### ***Assignments***

Your work in this course falls into five categories:

1. **Introductory Video**. You will produce an introductory video on your as a communicator to get started in the course.
2. **Research participation**. You will take part in an approved-research oriented project.
3. **Discussion**. You will participate in one discussion per Module.
4. **Module Papers**. Your work in each Module will culminate with a written paper.
5. **A Final Exam**. Your final exam will allow you to reflectively engage your learning in the course.

Prompts, submission guidelines and rubrics for these assignments are found in the Guidelines document for the course. Details on the research participation assignment are provided below.



## CMST 1061 Syllabus

### **Grading Scale**

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Introductory video	1	30	30
Research Participation	1	30	30
Discussions	6	40	240
Module Papers	6	100	600
Final Exam	1	100	100
Total Course Points:			1000

### **Final Grade Breakdown**

901-1000 = A

801-900 = B

701-800 = C

600-700 = D

000-599 = F





CMST 1061 Syllabus

# **Course Schedule**

**Spring 2019**

Note that we will engage the chapters in a different order than found in the 5 Pathways text. The order for this course is as follows.

## **Module 1: What is Communication? (Jan. 9-28)**

### **MLK Day – Jan. 21**

Create your Research Participation account during week one! See details below.

5 Pathways Chapter One, “What is Communication?”

Assignments: Introductory Video (Jan. 17), Discussion One (Jan. 23), Module Paper One (Jan. 28)

## **Module 2: Communication in Human Relationships (Jan. 29–Feb. 11)**

5 Pathways Chapter Four, “Communication in Human Relationships”

Assignments: Discussion Two (Feb. 7), Module Paper Two (Feb. 11)

## **Module 3: Workplace Communication (Feb. 12-25)**

5 Pathways Chapter Two, “Workplace Communication”

Assignments: Discussion Three (Feb. 20), Module Paper Three (Feb. 25)

## **Module 4: Visual and Mediated Communication Feb. 26-March 15)**

### **Mardi Gras – March 4-5**

5 Pathways Chapter Five, “Visual and Mediated Communication”

Assignments: Discussion Four (March 12), Module Paper Four (March 15)

## **Module 5: Art and Culture (March 16-April 5)**

5 Pathways Chapter Six, “Art and Culture”

Assignments: Discussion Five (March 28), Module Paper Five (April 5)

## **Module 6: Advocacy and Social Justice (April 6-23)**

### **Spring Break – April 15-21**

5 Pathways Chapter Three, “Advocacy and Social Justice”

Complete Research Participation Requirement by April 23!

Assignments: Discussion Six (April 22), Module Paper Six (April 23)

**April 24-28 Concentrated Study Period.**

**Final Examination – DUE May 1**



## ***Research Participation Requirement***

The material you will learn in this course is the product of research. The goal of the research participation requirement for the Department of Communication Studies is to help you 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 participation requirement. For each course in which you are enrolled, you 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. Study descriptions 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 online. All available studies are approved by the Institutional Review Board at LSU.
2. Participating in an organized departmental function such as debate. Only departmental sanctioned events will count toward a student's research participation requirement.
3. Serving as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies. The number of credits and requirements for those credits differ by faculty.

The research participation requirement is worth 3% (30 points) of your total grade. You will receive your 3% (30 points) if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester.

***Please note that all research participation credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday of dead week.***

***Get an account and see what's available.***

ALL available options to earn credit are posted on an electronic bulletin board located at <http://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/>.

When you go to this website, you will first have to request an account. Students must request a new account every semester regardless of whether you have requested an account in a previous semester. Once you have secured an account for this semester, you will be able to log in and see the options available to you for your various CMST courses.

The Psychology Department also uses this site for its research requirement. ***You cannot complete Psychology research for your CMST research participation requirement; you must complete a CMST activity.***



## CMST 1061 Syllabus

Please note that various ways to fulfill your research participation requirement will appear on this site 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.

Detailed instructions on how to request an account and to navigate the system once logged in can be found on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies.

Go to <http://app1003.lsu.edu/artsci/cmstweb.nsf/index>. Then click on RESEARCH and STUDIES. 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 early. If you have questions about this requirement or the online system that keeps track of credits, please email [researchadmin@lsu.edu](mailto:researchadmin@lsu.edu)