

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for CMST 4

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Effective: Fall 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

CMST 4 — INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES — 3.00 units

Introduction to the breadth of the communication discipline with a focus on the foundations of interpersonal communication, small group communication, and public speaking. Examination and practice of basic human communication principles and theories to develop critical thinking and communication competencies in a variety of contexts.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Communication Studies

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. ENG1A

1. Critically read texts and materials from a variety of academic and cultural contexts, demonstrating in writing and discussion the ability to:
 - a. Summarize a thesis and main points;
 - b. Analyze main ideas;
 - c. Evaluate the validity and logic of the text's reasoning and support;
 - d. Create a coherent position or argument based on reading;
2. Write multiple-paragraph papers that:
 - a. Accurately and appropriately respond to a given assignment;
 - b. Are well-organized and coherently move from coordinating to subordinating points;
 - c. Are well-developed with sufficient and relevant evidence;
 - d. Synthesize facts and ideas originating outside his/her direct experience to develop and support a thesis;
 - e. Use standard American English correctly;
3. Research a specific topic using the Internet, databases, journals, and books demonstrating an ability to:
 - a. Integrate researched material into his/her own writing with appropriate context, explanation, punctuation, and citation;

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Identify similarities and differences between the fields of Interpersonal Communication, Small Group Communication, and Public Speaking;
- B. Demonstrate, at an introductory level, interpersonal concepts of perception, self-concept, nonverbal communication, verbal communication, listening and conflict management;
- C. Participate in small group activities to demonstrate a basic understanding of leadership communication, problem solving, role orientation, and conflict management strategies to achieve group goals;
- D. Research, organize, and deliver an effective public address.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Principles of human communication
- B. Ethics and communication
- C. Listening skills in a variety of contexts
- D. Interpersonal communication in various contexts
 1. Personal

- 2. Professional
- 3. Intercultural
- 4. Computer mediated
- 5. Family interactions
- E. Role of communication in perception of self and personal identity
- F. Small group communication
 - 1. Leadership
 - 2. Decision making
 - 3. Conflict management
- G. Elements of effective public speaking
 - 1. Situational analysis
 - 2. Ethics and diversity
 - 3. Audience
 - 4. Occasion
 - 5. Purpose
 - 6. Topic selection
 - 7. Research
 - 8. Evidence evaluation
 - 9. Organization
 - 10. Presentation skills
 - 11. Evaluation of communication effectiveness

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Student Presentations** -
- B. **Lecture** -
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- D. **Discussion** -
- E. **Projects** -
- F. **Classroom Activity** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Paper:
 - 1. Record a verbal conversation or take screen shots of a text message dialogue you've had with a friend or family member and analyze it according to human communication principles. Write a 2 - 3 page analysis.
- B. Oral Presentation:
 - 1. Find a video clip of an interpersonal conflict from a film and give a report showing verbal and nonverbal elements and the possible different outcomes if conflict had been managed according to effective conflict management strategies.
- C. Group presentation:
 - 1. Decide on a service project for your group and record tasks, leadership, and implementation of your project. Make a two minute video public service announcement of your project to present to the class.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests
 - one midterm and final exam
- B. Oral Presentation
 - minimum of two in front of a live audience
- C. Group Projects
 - minimum of one
- D. Class Participation
 - weekly class activities
- E. Home Work
 - weekly

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Duck, S., & McMahan, D.T. (2018). *Communication in Everyday Life: The Basic Course Edition with Public Speaking* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2. Wood, J.T. (2017). *Communication Mosaics: An Introduction to the Field of Communication* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.
- 3. Beebe, S.A., Beebe, S.J., & Ivy, D.K. (2015). *Communication: Principles for a Lifetime* (6th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson.
- 4. Adler, R.B., Rodman, G., & du Pre, A. (2016). *Understanding Human Communication* (13th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: