Communication Studies (CST) - Courses

Courses

+ next to a course number indicates a general education course

**CST 110 Cr.3**

*Communicating Effectively*

This course introduces students to key communication concepts and skills that will encourage them to become more competent and culturally sensitive communicators. Students will develop speaking, relational and listening skills as they explore interpersonal, group/team and public communication topics. This course will help students become more effective and ethical communicators in a highly diverse society. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

**CST 190 Cr.3**

*Introduction to Communication Studies*

An introduction to the professional study of communication, including detailed exploration of factors involved in the communication process, effects of media on the communication process, and the importance of the communication process in intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, organizational, and intercultural contexts. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Fall, Spring.

**CST 210 Cr.3**

*Presentational Speaking*

This course is designed to enhance students' abilities in developing, delivering, and evaluating oral informative and persuasive presentations. In doing so, the focus of theoretical discussion and practical application will be on the use of audience analysis in adapting to presentational situations, source material in developing oral messages, effective organizational designs, oral rather than written language style, advanced presentational aids including media technology, enhanced vocal and physical presentational skills, and appropriate criteria for evaluation. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Fall.

**CST 211 Cr.3**

*Communication and Civic Engagement*

The world is full of so many problems; how can one person hope to make a positive change? Communication and Civic Engagement will answer this question, both in theory and in practice. The course surveys basic concepts of rhetoric, or persuasive symbol use, and their intersection with civic life. Students will engage with principles of deliberative public discourse and dialogue to explore the meanings and responsibilities of engaged, civil, public citizenship. Focus is placed on recognizing, analyzing, and constructing arguments and dialogues in the public sphere. Course principles will be enacted through a semester-long civic engagement project in which students will be empowered to make meaningful change in their own communities. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Annually.

**CST 260 Cr.3**

*Professional Communication*

This course focuses on developing communication skills and learning communication principles important to an organizational setting. Students will improve essential verbal and nonverbal communicative skills that are needed to succeed in their careers. While studying organizational processes, students will enhance their abilities to plan and deliver professional information and persuasive messages, while incorporating presentational technology. Students will also learn how to conduct effective training sessions. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Annually.

**CST 270 Cr.3**

*Broadcast Announcing*

An examination of broadcast communication principles and effective announcing techniques. Laboratory and broadcast experiences designed to cultivate announcing skills and to lead to the development of an effective on-air personality. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

**CST 271 Cr.3**

*Media and Society*

This course explores media and their economic, social, political, and cultural implications in individual and social life. Students will have the opportunity to engage with concepts and theories relating to media industries and production, media audiences, media effects on social and cultural change, social and cultural issues created or sustained by media, critical analysis of media messages, and issues relating to evolving media technologies. Offered Fall, Spring.

**CST 274 Cr.3**

*Television Production*

Theory and practice of television including basic program types, equipment and staff organization, studio procedures, and production problems. Lect. 2, Studio 2. Offered Fall, Spring.

**CST 275 Cr.1-3**

*Applied Television*

Practical experience in developing skills in television programming as staff members of WMCM-TV. Repeatable for elective credit - maximum three. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring.

**CST 280 Cr.3**

*Introduction to Communication and Leadership*

This course is an introduction to the study, skill and practice of leadership from a communication perspective. Students will take a variety of surveys and instruments in order to understand their unique leadership style and characteristics. Planning and practicing leadership will involve developing leadership skills, creating a vision, setting organizational tone, listening to organizational members, and overcoming obstacles to effective leadership. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Annually.

**CST 299 Cr.1**

*Public Speaking Center Tutor Practicum*

The course will include an overview of research and theory on communication centers, a review of public speaking best practices, and examination of strategies for facilitating consultations with various client populations. Based on readings, classroom application exercises, reflections, and discussions, peer consultants will develop skills in facilitating one-on-one consultations, providing constructive criticism, and guiding student-speakers through meaningful revision. Students should take this course during their first semester of work in the Public Speaking Center. Students who repeat the course will engage more deeply with the content and be expected to take on leadership roles. Repeatable for credit - maximum three. Prerequisite: CST 110. Consent of instructor. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Annually.
CST 301 Cr.3
Theories of Communication
A survey of theories used in the field of communication studies. Consideration is given to theories that explain communication behavior in interpersonal, group, public, media, intercultural, and gendered contexts. The role of theory in research is examined through the development of a theory driven review and synthesis of communication literature. Prerequisite: CST 190; junior standing. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 310 Cr.3
Debate
An introductory course covering the concepts, formats and strategies of debating. Emphasis is on the development of personal skills of argumentation. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Occasionally.

CST 315 Cr.3
Communication Criticism
Communication criticism, a fundamental practice in communication studies, describes, explains and evaluates why messages succeed or fail in achieving their intended purposes. Participants learn to conduct systematic analysis of persuasive messages to describe their key elements: language, organization, content, persuasive communication strategies, visual images, and choice of medium. Analysis is use to explain why particular elements were used in adapting messages to intended audiences and specific cultural contexts of those messages. Participants apply various qualitative methods of communication criticism to significant cultural discourse, such as speeches, commercials, public service announcements, and webpages to evaluate messages for effectiveness, ethical acceptability, cultural impact, and aesthetic value. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Spring.

CST 321 Cr.3
Conflict Management and Negotiation
The course explores conflict and negotiation theories as well as strategies across several communication contexts including interpersonal, group, organizational, public, and cross-cultural. Particular attention is given to how conflict can be resolved communicatively through negotiation strategies. Additionally, students will develop practical conflict and negotiation skills. Prerequisite: CST 190 or junior standing. Offered Occasionally.

CST 322 Cr.3
Communication and Sport
This course will examine sports discourse from a broad communication perspective. The course is designed to unpack sports discourse, messages, the sports industry, and organizations using a variety of communication concepts and theories. Students in this course will learn to evaluate and develop arguments about representations of athletes, organizations, and other sports media figures. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Occasionally.

CST 330 Cr.3
Nonverbal Communication
This course is designed to explore the various dimensions of nonverbal communication in human interaction. Students will learn and practice nonverbal communication skills (e.g., interviewing, deciphering), examine research on the functions of nonverbal communication (e.g., expressing emotions, sending relational messages), and explore how the different nonverbal cues (e.g., touch, eye behavior) affect human communication. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Occasionally.

CST 331 Cr.3
Communicating Social Support
This course focuses on the task, relationship, and identity factors in constructing social support messages in interpersonal relationships. Based on work by communication scholars, this class will focus on theoretical and experiential applications to various kinds of support messages, including physical, emotional, and identity support. Focus on both support seeking and support offering will be examined from multiple communication perspectives. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Occasionally.

CST 332 Cr.3
Intercultural Communication
The primary objective of this course is to provide an overview of the study of cultures and their effects on communication. Cultural, socio-cultural, psychocultural and environmental influences will be explored in terms of how they affect the communication process. Communication behavior (both verbal and nonverbal) will be examined to determine its role in other cultures. Students will learn to communicate more competently with people from other cultures and ethnic groups. Prerequisite: CST 190 or CST 230. Offered Occasionally.

CST 333 Cr.3
Lying and Deception in Human Interaction
An in-depth exploration of the pervasive communicative phenomenon of deception and lying. This course explores the varieties of deceptive communication and their causes and consequences in a wide range of contexts, including romantic relationships, cyberspace, criminal justice, advertising, mass media, and politics. Particular attention will be given to opportunities and pitfalls in identifying potentially deceptive behavior. Prerequisite: CST 190 or permission of instructor. Offered Occasionally.

CST 334 Cr.3
Gender Communication
Explores theory and practice of communication across boundaries of gender, sexuality and sexual identities. Focuses on social construction of gender, and the communicative performance of gender across inter-sectional lines, such as race, ethnicity, social class, and sexual identities. Encourages the critique of communication as it establishes and normalizes certain gender identities and performances over others. Fosters critical thinking of identity and social construction of self. Prerequisite: CST 230 or WGS 100. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 336 Cr.3
Family Communication
Family relationships are formed, maintained, and negotiated through communication, and this course uses communication theories and concepts to deepen our understanding of families. Topics may include diverse family types, power, families as systems, conflict, family stories and rituals. Overall, this course provides a theoretical and conceptual examination of families while broadening our cultural understanding of family relationships. Prerequisite: CST 190 and CST 230. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 337 Cr.3
Communication and Race
Human understanding of ethnicity and race is established, maintained, and changed by communication. Therefore this course uses a communication perspective to examine interpersonal and mediated messages about race. From the perspective of communication studies, ethnicity and race are continuously defined, interpreted, and acted out as we communicate with one another on a daily basis in all contexts. This course introduces students to communication research on ethnicity, race and other aspects of identity such as gender and class. This course also provides exposure to related research in other disciplines. Prerequisite: completion of at least nine credits in communication studies, excluding CST 110. Offered Occasionally.
CST 338 Cr.3
Sex, Love, and Romance in the Media
This course examines the role of print and electronic media in constructing and/or reinforcing unrealistic and stereotypical images and ideals of sex, love, and romance and the impact of these portrayals in relationships. Multidisciplinary research and theory provide the basis for the focus on practical applications. Students will identify mass media myths and unrealistic portrayals of sex, love, and romance. Prerequisite: CST 230 or WGS 100. Offered Occasionally.

CST 339 Cr.3
Communication and Aging
This course will examine existing and emerging research within communication and aging studies and emphasize an interpersonal life-span approach toward understanding the social interaction that occurs in later life. Issues that affect older people such as work, leisure, retirement, media use, health, death and dying and family and personal relationships will be explored. Barriers such as sight, hearing, cognitive impairments, memory, language and touch will be examined as they affect older adults when communicating with others. This course will offer both a theoretical and applied perspective to aging and communication. Students also will learn how to be an advocate for older adults who are unable to care for themselves. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Occasionally.

CST 350 Cr.3
Organizational Communication
Analysis of traditional and contemporary theories of communication in the context of modern complex organizations. Emphasis is placed on how communication serves to create and recreate formal and informal organizational structures. Particular attention is paid to the theoretical approaches to organizational communication that can be used to describe, analyze, and offer solutions to organizational communication challenges. Prerequisite: CST 190; CST 260. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 351 Cr.3
Interviewing: Principles and Processes
This course is designed to enhance understanding of and participation in a range of interviews that occur in our society. Students will increase their proficiency by participating in interviews, both as interviewers and interviewees. Emphasis is placed on learning effective communication skills and practicing important communication principles inherent in the following forms of interviews: employment (including cover letters, resumes, and portfolios), performance reviews, information gathering and persuasive. Students will also learn how to critically examine interview behaviors. Prerequisite: CST 190 or CST 230 or CST 260; declared communication studies major or minor. Offered Fall.

CST 353 Cr.3
Workplace Relationships
This course is designed to enhance students’ understanding of the multiple workplace relationships employees may experience in their organization. Students are introduced to types and flows of workplace communication, the relationship of employees to their organization, dyadic workplace relationships, as well as functions and dysfunctions of workplace relationships. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding workplace relationships through experiential learning, engaging in case studies and reflections, and reading existing literature. Students leave the course with the ability to explain and navigate the development, maintenance, and dissolution of multiple workplace relationships. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Occasionally.

CST 354 Cr.3
Health Communication
This course provides students with basic knowledge and skills essential for communicating in the health and medical professions. Topics include the role of interpersonal, group, organizational, and intercultural communication in health care, ethical and legal aspects of health communication, and communication strategies for encouraging patient/client compliance and working with special needs patients. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Fall.

CST 355 Cr.3
Diversity and Organizational Communication
This course will explore how issues of diversity such as race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic background, age, religion and veteran status impact communication in modern organizations. As organizational life becomes increasingly complex, it is vital to understand how diversity affects relationships at work with superiors, subordinates, coworkers, and the organization’s customers or clients. Diversity will be treated not only as a potential site for communication challenges and misunderstandings, but also as an opportunity to enrich organizational culture, organizational decision making, and overall employee job satisfaction. Offered Occasionally.

CST 358 Cr.3
New Media and Technologies in Modern Organizations
This course will enhance students’ understanding of new and emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs) being used in modern organizational settings. Students will be introduced to a number of emerging ICTs and will learn to use them effectively, appropriately, and ethically within the context of a workplace environment. Particular emphasis is placed on professional communication as organizational members communicate and collaborate in the workplace. Through hands-on learning, students will develop necessary skills and theoretical perspectives for communicating in our modern organizations. Prerequisite: CST 260. Offered Annually.

CST 360 Cr.3
Public Relations
This course is an introduction to the field of public relations. The course will cover topics that include a history of the practice of public relations, the understanding of various publics and their needs, the importance of the management of public opinion, and the techniques and channels used to communicate messages and manage relationships with relevant publics. Students will actively engage in the practice of public relations through the application of principles essential to the field. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Occasionally.

CST 365 Cr.3
Communication in Teams
In this course, students will study group and team communication theories and processes by observing and participating in teams. As team members, students will apply communication theory to enhance their effectiveness as team members and leaders. Prerequisite: CST 110. Not open for credit to students who have completed or are enrolled in PSY 343. Offered Annually.

CST 370 Cr.3
Broadcast Media Writing
A laboratory course in the preparation and presentation of news and continuity programs for the electronic media. Consideration of and practice in writing interviews, documentaries, newscasts, commercials, public service announcements, and dramatic programs. Planning and preparation of special audio and visual materials. Prerequisite: ENG 110 or ENG 112. Offered Fall.
CST 372 Cr.3  
**Audio Production**  
Specialized work in news, public affairs, special events, programming, production, and operations on student radio station, RAQ Racquet Radio, or WLSU-FM. Students will work in the area of their choice, refining skills in practical daily radio station operation. Offered Occasionally.

CST 374 Cr.1-3  
**Television Workshop**  
Specialized work in television, emphasizing experience for students in the roles of producer, writer, and executive producer for WMCM-TV. Students gain experience in producing, writing, and reporting news stories, newscasts and news features. They produce and write scripts for sports features, promotions, as well as interview and talk programs that are broadcast on WMCM-TV. In the laboratory environment, assignments are directed toward providing students with the abilities needed in producing/writing for programs in a typical broadcast facility. Ethical considerations are emphasized in the editorial decision-making process. Lect. 1-3, Studio 2-6. Repeatable for credit - maximum six. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 376 Cr.3  
**Remote Video Operations**  
This course is an introduction to remote video production. It is designed to give the student a theoretical and practical background in on-location productions and basic computer editing techniques. Remote productions may consist of news packages, sports highlights, a mini-documentary, and on-location interviews. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.

CST 378 Cr.3  
**Computer Mediated Communication**  
This course is an overview of computer-mediated communication (CMC) and new media technologies, exploring the characteristics of CMC and its technology together with its effects on the process and dynamics of human communication and society. The dynamics of CMC will be explored including its relationships to a variety of communication contexts, including interpersonal, organizational, small group, broadcasting, and public discourse. Students will engage in introductory hands-on Web production and CMC exercises and read critical essays about Internet culture and theories of CMC. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Annually.

CST 380 Cr.3  
**Communicating Leadership**  
An in-depth exploration of the communicative phenomenon of leadership. Theories and research methods used by noted communication and leadership scholars will be discussed and critiqued. Topics covered may include notions of leadership and organizations as places of leadership. Additional topics will focus on leaders as communicators, creators and sustainers of organizational culture, decision makers, change agents, and facilitators. Offered Annually.

CST 391 Cr.1-3  
**Practical Applications in Communication Studies**  
Provides opportunity for individual applied activities and projects that entail intensive use of developed communication skills and/or specialized knowledge based on communication coursework. Must be supervised by a CST faculty member. Registration requires approval from a CST faculty member willing to be the instructor of record. Students must complete paperwork with the faculty member and ensure academic application to the experience. Repeatable for credit - maximum three. Prerequisite: communication studies major or minor; completion of at least nine credits of communication studies courses above CST 110. Consent of instructor. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Annually.

CST 392 Cr.1-3  
**Practical Applications in Public Speaking Center Tutoring**  
This course is designed to offer supervision and course credit for Public Speaking Center peer consultants. Students will work regular hours in the Public Speaking Center and complete a project related to work in the Public Speaking Center. Projects include organizing and hosting a workshop, regular administrative work in the Public Speaking Center (such as web/social media work, hiring and recruiting, scheduling), or other positions within the Murphy Learning Center. Failure to complete a project within the course of the semester will result in a failing grade. Repeatable for credit - maximum six. Prerequisite: CST 110. Consent of instructor. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 399 Cr.1-3  
**Independent Study in Communication Studies**  
Directed individual communication studies project under the supervision of a communication studies faculty member. May be a performance-oriented project or a research-based project to bring about a focused scholarly outcome. Project must include a final report as determined through consultation with supervising faculty. Project must be approved and supervised by a department faculty member and have prior consent of the executive committee of the department. Repeatable for credit - maximum three. Prerequisite: communication studies major or minor; completion of at least 12 credits of communication studies courses above CST 110; junior standing. Consent of department. Offered Annually.

CST 410 Cr.3  
**Argumentation**  
This course examines elements and strategies of argumentation. It focuses on evidence, reasoning, refutation, fallacies, strategies, and methods of argument analysis. Students practice individual and group argumentation, including parliamentary procedure. Prerequisite: junior standing. Offered Spring.

CST 412 Cr.3  
**Persuasion**  
This course presents contemporary theory and research in persuasion. It includes a focus on persuasive strategies, appeals, audience adaptation, and ethics across different communication contexts. Prerequisite: CST 190; junior standing. Offered Fall.

CST 413 Cr.3  
**Persuasive Campaigns**  
This course presents contemporary theory and research in persuasion with a special focus on campaigns. Students will apply course material while organizing and implementing a persuasive campaign. This course examines the nature, role, and processes of communication campaigns and movements. Prerequisite: CST 190; junior standing. Offered Occasionally.

CST 415 Cr.3  
**Advanced Topics in Public Communication and Advocacy**  
Participants apply methods of communication criticism to significant examples of persuasive cultural discourse in order to identify and describe their persuasive strategies, explain why those strategies were used, and evaluate their effects, ethical acceptability, cultural impact and aesthetic value. Methods applied and types of persuasive cultural discourse analyzed vary depending on instructor's and participants' interests. Participants conduct research projects using selected qualitative critical methods and write critical research reports about specific examples of the type of persuasive cultural discourse selected. Prerequisite: CST 190; junior standing. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.
CST 419 Cr.3
Communication, Media and Identity
Mass media frequently represents and perpetuate stereotypes of social groups. When we are isolated from groups different from ourselves, we tend to define these groups by how they are represented in mass media. To some extent, we also define ourselves in relation to mass media representations of groups with which we identify. Communication among individuals and social groups is influenced by mass media’s representations of social groups. This course facilitates critical examination of social stereotypes perpetuated by mass media and investigation of the effects of these stereotypes on communication in various social contexts. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Occasionally.

CST 430 Cr.3
Advanced Topics in Interpersonal Communication
An in-depth exploration of interpersonal communication theories and applications in particular relational contexts such as family, friendships, intimate relationships, and work relationships. Theories and research methods used by noted interpersonal communication scholars will be discussed and critiqued. Topics covered may include attraction, relationship development and dissolution, relationship maintenance, dysfunctional relationships, intimacy, and friendship. Prerequisite: CST 190, CST 230; at least one of the following 300 level courses: CST 330, CST 332, CST 333, CST 334, CST 336, CST 338 or CST 339; junior standing. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 450 Cr.1-6
Internship in Communication Studies
The internship in communication studies is an academically relevant work experience focusing on career development through professional contexts. CST students pursue internships in CST-related fields. The number of credit hours earned depends on the number of hours worked throughout the duration of the internship. Internship credit is earned during the period the work is completed. The student is responsible for: securing an internship, identifying and working with a CST faculty supervisor to create an internship proposal and determine a final project, and completing required CST internship paperwork in order to gain departmental approval prior to registration. See the CST Department website for additional information about the approval and registration process. Repeatable for credit - maximum six. Prerequisite: grade of "C" or better in CST 498; senior standing; admission to the communication studies major; junior standing. Consent of instructor. Offered Annually.

CST 452 Cr.3
Contemporary Approaches to Organizational Communication
This course is an investigation of contemporary theoretical approaches to understanding organizational communication. Particular attention is paid to how changes in our metaphorical understanding of organizations transform the nature of both communicating in organizations and the organizing process. The impact of new technologies on organizational communication is also considered. Students will learn how to use multiple perspectives to enhance their understanding of organizational communication. Prerequisite: CST 350. Offered Annually.

CST 471 Cr.3
Broadcast and Digital Media Management
A study of the operation and management functions of the broadcast media. Special emphasis on the problematic situations confronted by managers of the various departments within the broadcast industry. Prerequisite: CST 190 or CST 275. Offered Spring.

CST 481 Cr.3
Applied Leadership Experience
The applied leadership experience course is a capstone to the leadership development minor and designed to guide students through a leadership immersion experience. As such, students are required to be the designated leader of a group, lead an implementation of a product, process, policy or procedure, or have an important role on a change-oriented/social justice group or team. Students will reflect on their leadership experiences in terms of course content covered in the core and emphasis area classes of the leadership development minor. Students who are eligible for this course will complete an application and description of their leadership immersion experience for approval and permission to enroll. Prerequisite: CST 280, CST 380. Consent of instructor. Offered Annually.

CST 491 Cr.3
Special Topics in Communication Studies
Study in a selected area of communication studies. Varying topics will be offered at intervals, with a specific title assigned to each. For current content and credit assignment, consult the instructor or department chair. Course prerequisites vary by topics. Repeatable for credit - maximum nine. Offered Occasionally.

CST 498 Cr.3
Research Methods in Communication
Examines research methods for answering communication research questions in all communication studies emphases. Investigates qualitative, quantitative, and critical approaches, as well as underlying assumptions of all communication research. Prerequisite: grade of "C" or better in CST 301; admission to the communication studies major; junior standing. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 499 Cr.3
Senior Project in Communication Studies
Students will conduct an individual investigation of a specific research question that results in a formal written research report. Some projects may involve a digital production or applied projects that also address an original question or problem and follow the research process. Required classroom attendance and regular consultation with their research adviser contribute to the success of the project, and final results are presented in a formal poster presentation. Prerequisite: grade of "C" or better in CST 498; senior standing; admission to the communication studies major. Offered Fall, Spring.