Communication Studies (CST) - Courses

+ next to a course number indicates a general education course

Courses

+CST 110 Cr.3
Communicating Effectively
This course introduces students to major topic areas in communication while encouraging them to become more competent and culturally sensitive communicators. Students will develop speaking, relational and listening skills as they are exposed to the communication areas of interpersonal, group/teams and public contexts. This course will help students become more effective and ethical communicators in a highly diverse society. Offered Fall, Spring.

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 Annually.

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 215 Cr.3
Influence, Advocacy and Social Responsibility
We use communication to influence one another: advocacy is persuasive communication. Persuasive communication is an essential agent of change in human culture, especially in democratic, capitalistic societies. This course reviews essential strategies of persuasive messages and engages participants in service learning opportunities to advocate for change using those strategies. It establishes basic principles of ethical persuasive communication and investigates the responsibilities of both senders and receivers to evaluate persuasive messages for effectiveness, adherence to ethical principles of persuasion, and aesthetic quality. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Fall.

CST 230 Cr.3
Interpersonal Communication
A study of communication in relatively unstructured situations, such as in conversation, on the job, in peer groups, in relationships, and in the family. Students participate in activities designed to enhance communicative awareness and skills in interpersonal contexts. Factors such as gender, culture, and ethnic origin are considered. Prerequisite: CST 110. Offered Annually.

CST 260 Cr.3
Professional Communication
This course is an introduction to professional communication. The 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 informative and persuasive messages. Students will also learn how to conduct effective training sessions and how to use current presentational software and technology. 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
Contemporary Media in Everyday Life
This course offers an opportunity to explore contemporary media and their economic, social, political, and cultural implications in everyday life. This course will increase awareness of the motivations of media coverage, media effects on social and cultural change as well as on audience attitudes, the importance of social and cultural issues created or sustained by the media, and the necessity of a critical attitude while consuming media messages. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 273 Cr.1-3
Applied Audio
Practical experiences in developing audio presentation and production skills as staff members of the student radio station, RAQ Racquet Radio, or WLSU-FM radio. Repeatable for credit - maximum three. This will be an arranged class. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Annually.

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 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 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 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 deceptiveness. This course explores the variety 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 the theory and practice of communication among gender identities. Focuses on understanding the similarities and differences of communicative behaviors (verbal, nonverbal, power, conflict and listening) among gender identities in various contexts such as intimate relationships, friendships, educational settings, the workplace and media. Prerequisite: CST 230 or WGS 100. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 336 Cr.3

Family Communication
Provides an investigation of how communication relates to all aspects of family life, including such areas as marriage types, power and intimacy in the marital relationship, changes in the marital roles, myths and metaphors of the family, and the transformation of the "typical" American family. 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 courses excluding CST 110. Offered Occasionally.

CST 338 Cr.3

Sexuality and Romance in Media
This course examines the role of print and electronic media in constructing and/or reinforcing unrealistic mythic and stereotypic images and ideals of sex, love, and romance and the impact of these portrayals on men, women, and children. Multidisciplinary research and theory provide the basis for the focus on practical applications. Students will attempt to identify mass media myths and unrealistic portrayals. Prerequisite: CST 230 or WGS 100. 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 problems. 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 portfolio presentation), performance review, information gathering, persuasive, and probing. 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 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. Prerequisite: CST 190. Offered Occasionally.

CST 360 Cr.3
Public Relations
An introductory study of the field of public relations, dealing with the effect of public opinion on an organization and its actions, the various publics of an organization, and the channels of communication used in current public relations practices. 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 or SOC 334. 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 371 Cr.3
Audience Research
An introduction to the subject of making decisions about media. The selection and use of media to fulfill marketing objectives and strategy as well as audience studies to describe appeals of the various media to the public; readership and listenership. A discussion of studies to predict audience behavior. Offered Occasionally.

CST 372 Cr.3
Audio Workshop
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 interviews 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. Lec. 1-3, Studio 2-6. 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. Prerequisite: CST 190. 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 399 Cr.1-3

Public Speaking Center Practicum
This course is designed to offer training and supervision for Public Speaking Center peer consultants. 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, and discussions, peer consultants will develop skills in facilitating one-on-one consultations, providing constructive criticism, and guiding student-speakers through meaningful revision. Students who repeat the course will engage more deeply with the content and be expected to take on leadership roles. To enroll, students must submit an application and complete an interview. Selection is competitive. See FAQs on the Public Speaking Center website. Prerequisite: CST 110. Consent of department. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 410 Cr.3

Advocacy and Argumentation
Examines elements and strategies of argumentation. Focuses on evidence, reasoning, refutation, fallacies, strategies, and methods of argument analysis. Practice in individual and group argumentation, including parliamentary procedure. Prerequisite: junior standing. Offered Annually.

CST 412 Cr.3

Advocacy and Persuasion
Contemporary theory and research in persuasion. Includes focus on persuasive strategies, appeals, audience adaptation, and ethics across different communication contexts. Prerequisite: CST 190; junior standing. Offered Fall.

CST 413 Cr.3

Advocacy and Persuasive Campaigns
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 Advocacy and Communication Criticism
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, and at least one of the following 300 level courses: CST 330, CST 332, CST 333, CST 334, CST 336 or CST 338; junior standing. Offered Fall, Spring.

CST 450 Cr.1-6

Internship in Communication Studies
An academically relevant work experience focusing on career development through professional contexts. Students pursue practical applications of course work in government, public or social service, public relations, business, industry, or related areas. A written report assessing the internship course work in relation to the student’s academic preparation is required. Credit depends on the demands and complexity and the duration of the work that the student performs. Each student must work with an appropriate faculty supervisor in his/her selected emphasis area. Evaluation is a joint effort of the cooperating firm or group, the faculty supervisor, and the cooperative education internship liaison. Prior consent of an appropriate faculty supervisor, and prior departmental approval of the internship. Students and faculty supervisors are responsible for submitting internship proposals for departmental approval prior to registration. Contact the department for information about the approval and registration process. Repeatable for credit - maximum six. Prerequisite: senior communication studies major; 24 completed credits in communication studies. Consent of department. Pass/Fail grading. Offered Annually.

CST 452 Cr.3

Contemporary Approaches to Organizational Communication
This course is an investigation of state-of-the art 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 460 Cr.3

Plan/Implementing/Evaluation Public Relations Campaign
This course examines the nature, role and processes of public relations. Research, planning, and evaluation will be used to implement a public relations campaign. Teams of students will plan and implement a complete public relations campaign for an organization or company. Prerequisite: CST 360. Offered Occasionally.
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 474 Cr.3
**Advanced Video Production**
The advanced theories and practices in video communications are studied. Students carry out advanced creative problems in video production and direction. The preparation, production, and evaluation of various program styles are examined. Lect. 2; Studio 2. Prerequisite: CST 274 or CST 374. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

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**
Either an individual investigation of a specific research question resulting in a formal written research report and its oral presentation to the faculty, or an individual applied production project accompanied by a formal written record of the production process and its oral presentation to the faculty. In addition to the course instructor each student must work with an appropriate faculty mentor in his/her selected emphasis area. Prerequisite: grade of "C" or better in CST 498; senior standing; admission to the communication studies major. Offered Fall, Spring.