

CMST 1545 - Communication Foundations

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 16, CRN 41419,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Dorian Mermer

Email: dlmermer@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Dorian Mermer

Instructor Professional Qualifications: M.A. in Rhetoric and Communication from Kent State University, 1989.

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-2255

Instructor Email: dlmermer@ysu.edu

Student Support Hours:

In Person: Monday, Wednesday – 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM in Bliss 2013.

Online: Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM.

Meetings by Appointment Only: Monday, Wednesday from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM.

Communication and Grading Expectations: I respond to email within 24 hours. If emailed over the weekend, you will receive a response Monday morning after 1:00 PM. I will not be available for student support hours during University observed holidays. Regarding grading assignments, I try to have grades returned within a week of submission.

Course Description

1545. Communication Foundations. Theories, strategies, and skills for competent participation in interpersonal, group, and public communication situations. Application exercises in interpersonal, group, and public communication. Prereq.: ENGL 1549 or ENGL 1550. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Experience Communication	Child, Jeffrey	ISBN 13 : 9781266162701

Experience Communication (Looseleaf) - With Connect, 3rd Ed.

Child, Jeffrey **Publisher :** McGraw Hill **ISBN 13 :** 9781266162701

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus and Ch. 1: Communication, Perception, and Your Life.	Introduction to communication	Partner introduction and site and syllabus quiz.
8/31	Ch. 2: Communicating Verbally. Ch. 3: Communicating Nonverbally.	Verbal and nonverbal communication.	
9/7	Ch. 4: Communicating Through Listening. Ch. 13: Public Presentations to Inform. Review: Informative Speech Folder.	Listening and informative speech basics.	



9/14	Ch. 10: Organizing Your Presentation. Ch. 11: Gathering Information and Supporting Materials.	Organizing and using supportive materials.	Informative Speech Topic Approval Form – 9/18.
9/21	Ch. 12: Communication Apprehension and Delivery.	Delivering your speech.	
9/28			Informative Speeches, Outlines and Audience Analysis.
10/5			Informative Speeches, Outlines and Audience Analysis.
10/12	Ch. 14: Public Presentations to Persuade. Review: Persuasive Speech Folder.	Persuasive speeches.	Persuasive Speech Topic Approval Form – 10/16.
10/19	Ch. 5: Interpersonal Communication. Ch. 8: Organizational and Small-Group Communication.	Interpersonal communication and small-group communication.	Break into groups and Complete Group Topic Approval Form - 10/23.
10/26			Persuasive Speeches, Outlines and Audience Analysis.
11/2			Persuasive Speeches, Outlines and Audience Analysis.
11/9	Ch. 6: Intercultural Communication. Ch. 7: Mediated Communication.		Individual RTM - 11/13.
11/16			Group meeting days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Group RTM – 11/20.
11/23			Group meeting day on Monday. No class on Wednesday and Friday due to Thanksgiving break. All Quizzes by 11:59 PM. This is the last day for quizzes.
11/30			Group Presentations and Outlines.
12/7			Individual Assessment of Group Project – by 12:00 PM (noon). Final Survey – . Must be completed by 11:00 PM. The survey opens on at 8:00 AM.

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.