

CMST 4899 - Senior Project

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42782,

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

4899. Senior Project. Synthesis of research, writing, and presentation skills through the completion of a communication research project and professional development activity. Repeatable to a maximum of 6 s.h. Prereq.: Senior standing, major in Communication Studies, 24 s.h. of communication studies major complete, including CMST 3700 or CMST 3799. Grading is Traditional/PR. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Comm Showcase	BYU - Idaho	https://commshowcase.com/
Required	Communication Theory	Communication Theory.org	https://www.communicationtheory.org/list-of-theories/
Required	Research Guides Quantitative Research	USC Libraries	https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/quantitative
Required	Research Guides Qualitative Research	USC Libraries	https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/qualitative
Required	APA Style Guidelines	APA Style	https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines

All course materials are found in Blackboard and are free.

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	Review Paper/Project Requirements, project ideas link and communication theory supplemental information in folders.	Introduction to course and syllabus. Determine your path. Brainstorm theories and concepts for your paper/project pitch. Meet in class.	Determine your path (paper vs. project) in class by Aug. 26. Link your path to theories and concepts in class by Aug. 28.
8/31	Paper/Project pitch.	Paper/project pitch. Meet in class.	Deliver your paper/project concept pitches in class on Aug. 31 or Sept. 2. Work on final concept proposal on Sept. 4.
9/7	Review how to find sources and APA formatting in folders.	Conducting research for paper/project sources. Reviewing APA formatting. Meet in class.	Submit your final concept proposal into Blackboard by Sept. 13, 11:59 PM.
9/14	Final paper/project concept presentations.	Deliver final paper/project concept presentations. Meet in class.	Present your final paper/project concept in class on Sept. 14. Work on paper/project from Sept. 16 – 18.
9/21	Work on paper/project.	Work on paper/project.	Work on paper/project from Sept. 21- 25.
9/28	Read LinkedIn Portfolio requirements in folder.	LinkedIn Portfolio requirement. Meet in class. The Writing Center.	Meet with The Writing Center and have them review your first half of your paper/ project from Sept. 28 – Oct 2. Work on paper/project from Sept. 28 – Oct 2. Work on LinkedIn portfolio from Sept. 28 – Oct 2. Upload your Writing Center documentation into Blackboard by Oct. 4, 11:59 PM.
10/5	Individual meetings to review first half of paper/project..	Individual meetings to review first half of paper/project..	Submit your first half paper/project (title page, introduction, literature review, and method sections) into Blackboard by Oct. 11, 11:59 PM.r/project prior to submission.
10/12	Work on paper/project.	Work on paper/project.	Work on paper/project from Oct. 12 – 16.
10/19	Meet with Career services (day to be determined). Work on paper/project.	Career services (day to be determined. Meet in class. Work on paper/project.	Meet with Career services in class (day to be determined). Work on paper/project from Oct. 19 – 23.
10/26	Work on paper/project.	Work on paper/project.	Work on paper/project from Oct. 26 – 30.
11/2	Work on LinkedIn portfolios.	Work on LinkedIn portfolios.	Email your LinkedIn URL to your partner by Nov. 4 (start of class). Submit your LinkedIn Peer Critique into Blackboard by Nov. 8, 11:59 PM. Email Peer Critique to your partner when completed.
11/9	Work on your paper/project. Meet with The Writing Center.	Work on your paper/project. Meet with The Writing Center.	Work on paper/project from Nov. 9 – 13. Meet with The Writing Center and have them review your final, complete paper/project from Nov. 9 - 13. Upload your Writing Center documentation into Blackboard by Nov. 15, 11:59 PM.
11/16	Individual meeting to review final, complete paper/project.	Individual meeting to review final, complete paper/project.	Work on paper/project from Nov. 17 – 20. Submit your final, complete paper/project into Blackboard by Nov. 22, 11:59 PM.
11/23	Review the paper/project presentation requirements in folder.	Discuss the paper/project presentation requirements. Meet in class.	Prepare and practice your paper/project presentation from Nov. 23 - 27.
11/30	Paper/project presentation and outline.	Paper/project presentation and outlines. Meet in class.	Deliver your paper/project presentation and outline in class from Nov. 30 – Dec. 4.
12/7			Submit your final LinkedIn portfolio URL into Blackboard by Dec. 9, 12:30 PM (your scheduled final exam time).

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.