CMST 5000: Listening

Instructor

Bobbi Petersen
Email: bobbi.petersen@usu.edu
Office Hours: Email me and we'll set up a zoom or in-person appointment.
Meeting Times: Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:15 in Old Main 201.

Course Description

Listening is not as common of a course in communication studies as topics like public speaking and argumentation. It is often thought of as a passive and easy skill when it is actually very difficult and takes work to develop. We will explore ways we can listen to ourselves more, how we can listen to others in a way that can be transformational and how we can help facilitate conversations where better listening can happen between groups of people. I'm so excited you signed up for this journey and I can't wait to learn more together about this important and often overlooked aspect of communication!

Teaching Philosophy

An important part of what I believe about teaching is that my students feel safe in class but not comfortable. Let me explain. I want you to feel safe to express what is really going on for you and to be vulnerable and authentic in class. I want you to be safe from judgment and harm. I believe this is critical for true learning and change. I don't want you to feel comfortable though. Change is hard and uncomfortable. I love how things I've learned have changed me and my life for the better even though it has not been an easy path. So, in this class- I am absolutely committed to creating a safe space for everyone and I hope you don't get too comfortable because we will be doing some hard things!
Course Resources

You will not need to buy a textbook for this course. Class readings will be from many different sources, so they will all be provided on canvas.

Course Requirements

**Participation:** (30 pts)
Participation is a crucial part of this course. Showing up is the first part of this, but being engaged, prepared, and willing to speak up and participate in what you are doing in class is absolutely necessary for this class to be the best it can be.

**12 Reading Assignments:** (10 pts each=120 pts)
Each week you will have a reading assignment due on Sunday nights at midnight. These will be 1-1.5 page single-spaced (12 pt. font, TNR) about some of your thoughts about the readings for the week. More direction will be provided in the assignment description. You will read about the topic of the week that is coming so you will be more prepared to engage in class discussion.

**6 Listening Fieldwork:** (25 pts each=total 150 pts)
These assignments are meant to help you have practical experience trying out some of the concepts we learn about in class. They are spaced out throughout the semester and usually open on a Wednesday after class and are due the Friday of the following week. So you will have a little more than a week to complete each one. You will have to plan ahead for these assignments as some of them require preparation or coordination with another person and then a reflection paper afterward.

**Third Thing Presentation:** (10 pts)
You will sign up for a day in the semester where you will share a third thing with the class and what it teaches you about yourself or what it helped you to discover. More explanation about what third things are will be provided. The presentation will be about 3-4 minutes long.
Listening Philosophy: (30 pts)
You will write a philosophy about what some of your beliefs are about listening. This will serve as a way to synthesize what you’ve learned during the semester and what you personally feel about how listening ideally should be done.

Final Autonomous Project: (125 pts)
We will talk a lot more about this project as it gets closer. I want it to be very open to what you would like to work on to culminate your experience in this class. I have some ideas that I’ve thought of that might work well for this assignment, but am also open to you coming up with your own plan. You will need to meet with me during the semester to approve your final project.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted unless there is an extenuating circumstance that you contact me about in advance.

Grade Scheme

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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Course Schedule/Outline

Aug. 30-Sep. 1: Introduction & Listening to Self

Sep. 8: Listening to Self

Sep. 13 & 15: Emotional Intelligence

Sep. 20 & 22: What's not working

Sep. 27 & 29: What's not working

Oct. 4 & 6: Gender/Race

Oct. 11 & 13: Principles of Listening/Listening in a new way

Oct. 18 & 20: Principles of Listening/Listening in a new way

Oct. 25 & 27: Listening beyond words

Nov. 1 & 3: Open/Honest Questions

Nov. 8 & 10: Speaking well/when to speak up

Nov. 15 & 17: Listening in Conflict

Nov. 22 & 24: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1: Dialogue and Facilitation

Dec. 6 & 8: Presentations
Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

You are allowed one absence in this class without penalty. Every absence above one will result in 3% points taken off your final grade. If your absences get excessive - I reserve the right to decide you aren't able to pass the class. If you need to miss class for an emergency - contact me as soon as possible to explain so it won't affect your grade. If you need to miss class for a University approved reason, let me know in advance. If you’re sick - let me know in advance as well so it won’t count against you.