

# Communication Studies 3115

## Gender Communication

### Fall 2014

Instructor: Amy Daulton Fannin  
Office: 113B Prescott Hall  
Phone: (225) 578-6075  
Email: [afannin@lsu.edu](mailto:afannin@lsu.edu)

Teaching Schedule:  
CMST 3115-01, TTH 7:30-8:50 AM  
CMST 2064-01, TTH 9:00-10:20 AM  
CMST 2064-02, TTH 12:00-1:20 PM  
CMST 2064-03, TTH 1:30-2:50 PM  
CMST 4200-03 As needed

Office hours: TTH 11:00 AM-Noon;  
Wednesdays 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

\*\*\*Please let me know if you plan to stop by.\*\*\*

#### **Required Course Materials:**

Ivy, D.K., (2012). *GenderSpeak: Personal effectiveness in gender communication 5<sup>th</sup> edition*

Additional readings posted on Moodle

#### **Course Objectives:**

CMST 3115 is an introductory course in the the study of communication and gender. The objective of the course is the exploration, observation, discussion, and understanding of gender and /in communication, starting from an understanding of gender as being based in cultural construction (gender) and biology/physiology (sex). The course will focus on gender identity and also gender in relationships. We will discuss topics such as gender and friendships, gender and romantic relationships, gender in the workplace, and a variety of other topics.

#### **Student Requirements:**

***Yes, you need to purchase the textbook.***

***Laptop policy:*** To help students avoid the temptation of checking Facebook, email, surfing the web, and all the many other distractions the web provides, students will not be allowed to take notes on laptops (with the exception of those students working as a note taker for a classmate with a letter from ODS). Except for specific days, laptops in class will not be necessary.

***Class discussion policy:*** Several of these topics may arouse strong emotions and opinions. It is imperative that while we may disagree with each, we do so in a respectful manner. I encourage debate; it is fine to disagree with me, the

textbook, or each other. It is not fine to do so in a disrespectful way. If you feel so strongly about something that you find it difficult to disagree in a respectful manner, it's best to simply stay silent.

*Additionally:*

- *Refrain from* talking on the cell phone, checking email, text message, or other similar behaviors; if you do so, you will be asked to leave class for the day.
- *Refrain from* sleeping in class; if you do so, you will be asked to leave class for the day.
- *Refrain from* doing crossword, reading the newspaper, or other similar activities; if you do so, you will be asked to leave class for the day.
- *Do* observe general norms of common courtesy, including (but not limited to) listening to fellow students, respectfully discussing issues of disagreement, and refraining from talking when others are talking. Failure to conduct yourself in a respectful manner will result in your being asked to leave class for the day.

*Notes:* Lectures will frequently include material that is not in the textbook. You will be expected to know this material for the exams and assignments. This is another reason you need to attend class on a regular basis; again, your grade will suffer if you miss these notes and do not have the information for the exams and assignments.

*Moodle lectures:* During the week of September 15-19, I will be out of town. The lecture for Tuesday, September 16, and Thursday, September 18, will be posted on Moodle. The first lecture will open at 7:30 A.M. and close at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday; the second lecture will open at 7:30 A.M. and close at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday. These are the times you would typically be in class. The lectures will be unavailable after they close. You will be quizzed over the material the following week during our regular class time.

*Exams:* Two exams will be given during the semester, a mid-term exam and a comprehensive final exam. The date of both the mid-term exam and the final exam date is listed on the semester schedule.

You **must** take your exam on time unless you are traveling with a university-sanctioned organization or have a major health or family emergency. Major emergencies include severe illness, hospitalization, or death in the family. Medical conditions such as a cold or a headache are not sufficient reasons to postpone an exam. The common excuses of having airline reservations prior to or work scheduled during an exam time are *not* acceptable grounds for taking an exam early. Please make appropriate arrangements now, while you still have months to plan.

If you need to reschedule an exam due to illness, you must receive my approval **prior to** the time of the exam (unless, of course, you are medically incapacitated). Furthermore, for any rescheduled exam, you must provide written documentation of the authenticity of your excuse.

*Student honesty:* Plagiarism is a completely unethical and unacceptable practice that will not be tolerated on any level. It is an egregious offense to the owner of the material that has been plagiarized, as well as a dishonest form of communication to the

audience of a plagiarized piece of work. The University's Code of Student Conduct defines "academic misconduct" as including, but not limited to "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student" (LSU's Code of Student Conduct, section 5.1, found on Judicial Affairs webpage August 17, 2004).

The penalty for plagiarism or cheating may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or expulsion from the University. All acts of suspected plagiarism will be investigated and will be handled through the proper University channels.

### **Assignments:**

*Gender in the news:* At the beginning of each class period, we will have an opportunity to discuss recent news stories that cover issues we have discussed in class or are simply relevant to our class. At least once during the semester, each student is required to bring a news article (printed out) or show a news story (to the class) about a relevant story. While you have the entire semester to do this, until the cut-off date listed on your course schedule, in order to receive credit for the assignment, you will need to answer the questions posted on Moodle and lead a brief discussion with the class about the story (simply tell us why you choose it and why you think it's interesting). Grading information is posted on Moodle; this assignment is worth 15 points.

*Quizzes:* Ten 10-point quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These quizzes will generally be unannounced (read "pop" quiz) and will cover the assigned reading material for the day, in order to encourage reading for class each day. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. This includes quizzes that are missed because a student comes in late to class after a quiz has been taken up. Students who miss a quiz due to a university excusable absence must present proper documentation by the end of the next attended class in order to "make up" the quiz.

*Reflection papers:* This assignment involves completing two short papers (approximately three double-spaced, typed pages) in which you apply the course concepts recently discussed in class. In these papers, you will have the opportunity to analyze your choice of the most recent class readings. You will have three opportunities to turn in only two papers. Each paper is worth 20 points and the assignment details will be posted on Moodle.

*Group discussion:* Each group will be required to lead a discussion over one of the chapters covered in class. The presentation is worth 50 points and the assignment details will be posted on Moodle.

*Movie analysis presentation:* Each group will be required to select a movie centers around gender issues. The group will present selections from the movie and analyze the selections based on appropriate class concepts. The presentation is worth 50 points and the assignment details will be posted on Moodle.

*Make up and late policy:* I understand that emergencies occur on days when assignments are due and in these situations you should contact me immediately. Either call my office or email me and include your phone number so I can contact you and we can discuss the situation. Be sure to do this immediately so we can make new arrangements for turning an assignment at a later time (presentation and final paper only). Additionally, you should be able to present valid documentation (doctor's note,

etc.) the next time you are in class. If you are able to present a valid university excuse, your grade will not suffer. However, you will not be able to turn in an assignment late without a valid university excuse. Missed quizzes not associated with a valid university excuse will be counted as a zero and cannot be made up for any reason.

Late work not associated with an *excused* absence will only be accepted until the end of the next class period after the original assignment due date; additionally, the student's grade on the assignment **will be penalized 25% for tardiness**. Assignments will not be accepted after the next class period following the original due date; the student will receive a "zero" for the assignment grade. Emailed assignments are discouraged and are only accepted in extreme situations and at the instructor's discretion.

### **Extra Credit:**

*"Get to know you" visit*—I like to get to know my students and wish students just dropped in to visit and chat. Unfortunately, students don't do this very often and this makes me sad. Getting to know you enables me to know better how to help you. For this reason, I am offering each student five bonus points to stop by once during the semester for a little "get to know you" visit. You have until the cut-off date listed on the schedule to visit and it is worth 5 points. This will be your only opportunity for "bonus" points during the semester.

### **Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitations Act of 1973: If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive the accommodations letters, **please meet with me as soon as possible to discuss the provisions of these accommodations.**

### **Grading:**

A total of 500 points are available in this class. The following will explain the breakdown of the final grade:

Gender in the news		15 points
Quizzes	7 @ 10 points each	70 points
Reflection papers	2 @ 20 each	40 points
Group discussion		50 points
Group movie analysis		100 points
	Presentation	75 points
	Group Eval	25 points
Midterm exam		100 points
Final exam		100 points
Attendance		25 points

**I round the final grades up at .5%. For example, if you have an 89.5%, I will round your final grade up to a 90%, depending on your class participation. However, if you have an 89.4%, you will receive an 89%. Furthermore, except for assignments posted on Moodle, I do not post grades on Moodle. You are adults and should be responsible enough to keep track of your own grades.**