

# Communication Studies 3113

## On-Line Conversation Spring 2019

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Teaching Schedule:  
CMST 3113-01, On-line  
CMST 2064-02, MWF 9:30-10:20 AM  
CMST 2064-06, MWF 10:30-11:20 AM  
CMST 4201-01, Wed. 12:30-1:20 PM

Office Hours: Mondays/Fridays 8:30-9:20 AM; 11:30-2:00 PM;  
Wednesdays 8:30-9:20; 11:30-12:20 PM

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

### **Required Course Materials:**

Tracy, K. (2013). *Everyday Talk: Building and reflection identities*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The Guilford Press:  
London.

### **Course Objectives:**

The purpose of CMST 3113 is to examine how identity is constructed through language and conversation in everyday life. In addition to understanding the basic principles of conversational analysis, a method used to study conversation, we also examine several other interesting aspects of everyday conversation. For example, we will explore how individuals use talk to create identity and how identities shape our talk. We will also explore how to recognize important aspects of conversations like requests, compliments, and promises. These are just a few of the interesting aspects of everyday conversation we will explore this semester.

### **Student Requirements:**

As an on-line class, it is obviously imperative you have consistent access to Moodle. Furthermore, I highly suggest you have access to Netflix, as I will recommend segments of shows or require you to watch specific episodes for different assignments. Whenever possible, I will include brief clips in the recorded lecture, but that may not always be possible. Please be prepared to plan time throughout the semester to watch some episodes in the window that lecture is open on Moodle.

### **Class Format:**

It is my goal to simulate as much as possible a traditional lecture style class on-line. For that reason, you will notice on Moodle I have organized the class into "Lecture weeks"—

these begin the week after class start (Tuesday, January 15) and run through Dead Week. In this class, the “lecture week” will consist of a three day period (Tuesday-Thursday) that the week’s lecture/activity will be available. As I considered the organization of the class, I felt this best mirrored a typical week—no class meets more than three days a week, and Tuesday-Thursday leaves is a nice mid-week window that leaves me available on Mondays and Fridays free to grade, respond to questions/forum posts, prep for the upcoming lecture week, etc.

Each lecture or assignment will be posted from Tuesday @ 9 AM and will close at Thursday at 9 PM—this is a big window for you each to listen to the lecture and/or complete the required assignment for the week. Once a lecture or assignment closes, I will not reopen it. I suggest now you look at your schedule and figure out when you schedule your time to listen to the lectures. One key to success in an on-line class is to schedule your time very much like you would a traditional class—dedicate a time to focus only that class and stick to it!

### **Exams**

Two exams will be given during the semester; exam 1 will be given during midterm week and exam 2 will be given during final exam week. Obviously these will be posted on Moodle and will follow a similar schedule as the lectures. The midterm will be available from Tuesday at 9 AM through Thursday at 9 PM of midterm week. The final exam will likely follow the same schedule, although that is subject to change.

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.

### **Plagiarism**

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 handled through the proper University channels.

### **Assignments:**

*Quizzes:* Five 10-point quizzes/participation activities will be given throughout the semester. These quizzes will generally be unannounced (read “pop” quiz) and will typically serve as review quizzes from lectures covered since the previous quiz. Missed quizzes can not be made up. This includes quizzes that are missed because a student comes in late to class after a quiz has been taken up.

*Participation activities:* Up to five participation activities will be given throughout the semester; these are in class activities and can not be made up if a student is absent.

*Conversation Analysis Papers:* This assignment involves completing three short papers (approximately three double-spaced, typed pages) in which you apply the course concepts recently discussed in class. In this paper, you have the option of applying these concepts to examples of talk taken from a movie, television, show, commercial, or private conversation. These mini-analysis papers will be the focus of our Conversation Analysis papers and are intended to prepare you for writing your major paper at the end of the semester. Five Conversation Analysis papers are scheduled, although you have the option of selecting any of three of the five days to hand in your paper. More information will be provided and posted on Moodle closer to the first Conversation Analysis. Because you have five opportunities to turn in three papers, these papers will **NOT** be accepted after the due date for any reason. **This is non-negotiable.**

*Analysis Paper:* This 8-10 page paper will be due at the end of the semester and is used to synthesize the information you have learned throughout the semester. You will be asked to transcribe a seven-minute conversation (real life or mediated) between two individuals. You will use the transcription symbols provided on Table 5.1 in your textbook to transcribe the conversation. You will need to hand in the transcribed conversation with the paper. More information will be given and posted on Moodle closer to the due date of the paper. The final paper is worth 125 points.

*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. 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.

Students cannot make up pop quizzes or other in-class assignments regardless of the reason for the absence, including excused absences. Again, the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

**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:

1. Conversation Analysis Papers: 75 points  
3 @ 25 Points

2. Quizzes	50 Points
3. Assignments	50 Points
6. Mid-term exam:	100 Points
7. Final exam:	100 Points
8. Analysis Paper:	125 Points

**I do NOT round up grades.**

Plus/Minus Grading scale (based on final percentages):

485-500—A+	(97-100%)
465-484—A	(93-96%)
450-464—A-	(90-92%)
435-449—B+	(87-89%)
415-434—B	(83-86%)
400-414—B-	(80-82%)
385-399—C+	(77-79%)
365-384—C	(73-76%)
350-364—C-	(70-72%)
335-349—D+	(67-69%)
315-334—D	(63-66%)
300-314—D-	(60-62%)
Below 299—F	(59% and below)