

# CMST 3210

## Computer-Mediated-Communication

### Spring 2015

Instructor: Amy Daulton Fannin  
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Teaching Schedule:  
CMST 3210-01, TTH 7:30-8:50 AM  
CMST 2064-05, TTH 9:00-10:20 AM  
CMST 2064-06, TTH 12:00-1:20 PM  
CMST 2064-07, TTH 1:30-2:50 PM  
CMST 4200-03 As needed

Office hours: TTH 10:45 AM-11:45;  
Wednesdays 10:00 AM-1:00 PM  
\*\*\*Please let me know if you plan to stop by\*\*\*

#### **Required Textbook**

Gardner, H. and Davis, K. (2013). *The App Generation*. Yale University Press

Baym, N.K. (2010). *Personal Connections in the Digital Age*. Polity Press: Cambridge.

#### **Course Objective:**

This course will explore the creation of personal and relational identity across a variety of forms of mediated communication. We will primarily discuss the use of social mediate, like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., but will also discuss email, blogs, and other forms of mediated communication. The many topics we will cover include:

1. Personal identity and CMC
2. Relationship development and CMC
3. Internet and interpersonal relationships
4. Disruptive online behavior
5. And much, much more!

#### **Student Requirements:**

*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.

*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.

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

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.

*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 in an assignment at a later time. Additionally, you **must** present valid documentation (doctor's note, etc.) the first day you return to 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.

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 will not be accepted.**

### **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 five bonus points once during the semester for a little "get to know you" visit. You have a limited time to make your visit and it is worth 5 bonus points. This will be your only opportunity for "bonus" points during the semester. The "cut off" date is posted on the class schedule.

### **Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation 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 Scale**

1. Exam 1	100 points
2. Exam 2	150 points
3. Quizzes	50 points
4. Participation	50 points
5. Response paper #1	25 points
6. Response paper #2	25 points
7. Attendance	25 points
8. Final assignment	75 points*

This may be broken into different pieces. Stay tuned for details. ☺  
**I round the final grades up at .6%. For example, if you have an 89.6%, I will round your final grade up to a 90%, depending on your overall class participation and attendance. However, if you have an 89.5%, you will receive an 89%. Furthermore, I do not post grades on Moodle. You are adults and should be responsible enough to keep track of your own grades.**