

Communication Studies 3113

Conversation

Spring 2014

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Teaching Schedule:
CMST 3113-01, TTH 7:40-9:00 AM
CMST 2064-01, TTH 9:10-10:30 AM
CMST 2064-02, TTH 12:10-1:30 PM

Office hours: TTH 10:45-11:45 AM;
Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM;
Wednesdays 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Please let me know if you plan to stop by

Required Course Materials:

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

Course Objectives:

The purpose of CMST 3113 is to examine how facework 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:

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. 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.

Exams: Two exams will be given during the semester, the second exam will be a comprehensive exam. The dates of both are listed on the class 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:

Quizzes: Ten 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.

Conversation Thursday Journals: 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 Thursdays and are intended to prepare you for writing your major paper at the end of the semester. Five Conversation Thursdays 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 Thursday. Because you have five opportunities to turn in three papers, these papers will **NOT** be accepted outside of class, for any reason. **This is non-negotiable.** However, if you know in advance you will be absent on a Conversation Thursday, you may hand in the paper on the previous class period.

Conversation Thursday Journal Presentation: Each student will be required to have one of the three Conversation Thursday journals presented to the class for a 25 point participation grade. The grading rubric for this presentation is posted on Moodle; you will need to bring this rubric on the day of your presentation. **A 25% grade deduction will occur if you do not make your presentation on the original date.**

Analysis Paper: This 7-9 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 100 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. 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.

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.

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. Remember, Conversation Thursday papers are **NOT** accepted late, for any reason.

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 Thursday Journals:	50 points
	2 @ 15 Points
	1 @ 20 Points
2. Presentation:	25 Points
3.. Quizzes/Participation:	75 Points
4. Attendance	25 Points
4. Mid-term exam:	100 Points
5. Final exam:	100 Points
6. Analysis Paper:	125 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.