COMM 4390.001: COMMUNICATION & SEXUALITY
Professor: D. K. Ivy, Ph.D.
Spring, 2020
diana.ivy@tamucc.edu
M 7:00-9:30pm, BH 126
Office: BH 325, 825-5986
Office Hrs: M 5-6pm; TU 3:30-5:30;
W 5-7pm (& by apptment.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This special topics course will focus on communication and sexuality, specifically exploring sex and gender identity development and expression, intersections of race/ethnicity and sex/gender, how communication impacts various types of relationships, the role of communication in sexual activity, and power abuses related to sexual activity, with specific focus on consent and sexual safety.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students should be able to:
1. define key terminology in the study of communication and sexuality;
2. identify and explain basic theories, issues, and research trends in the study of communication and sexuality;
3. illustrate their abilities to analyze and synthesize research findings on a topic related to the study of communication and sexuality;
4. demonstrate their abilities to deliver an effective dyadic oral presentation, along with an instructional handout or mediated teaching aid, over a topic related to communication and sexuality.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: The required primary text for this course is Contemporary Studies of Sexuality & Communication: Theoretical & Applied Perspectives (2016), edited by Jimmie Manning and Carey Noland (noted in the schedule as “JM”). In addition, 5 chapters from my textbook, GenderSpeak: Communicating in a Gendered World (6th ed.), will be required reading (noted in the schedule as “GSpk”). Students should go to http://www.kendallhunt.com to purchase ($10 fee) these readings, since quizzes will come from GSpk chapters. Let me know if you have difficulties with this process. Information about any additional readings will be announced in class.

CITATION STYLE: APA 6th edition style is required for all assignments for this course. Other styles (MLA, Chicago, etc.) will not be acceptable in this course.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS:
(1) Reading: Keep up with the reading. Plan ahead and at least scan the material before coming to class. If you don’t read, we’ll have no substance for discussions and the course will degenerate into a mere exchange of personal stories and opinions.

(2) Discussion/Class Involvement: Attempt to openly discuss the material. I understand some people are shy, but I seek balanced participation. We need everyone’s involvement for the course to be successful. I appreciate all points of view and encourage an open exchange of ideas. In addition, while I appreciate and encourage discussion, I won’t allow someone to dominate or show disrespect for another person’s contribution. I won’t tolerate talking among yourselves when I am presenting information, during classmates’ presentations, or while classmates are offering comments. I expect you to listen to me as well as one another, and not to work on things for other classes or your personal life during my class. No texting, checking emails, or posting on social media during class time.
(3) **Technology Usage:** Personal technology is allowed in the classroom, but please mute your cell phone, laptop, and/or tablet so that only you’ll be aware if you receive a call or text. If use of cell phones, pads, or laptops becomes excessive or disruptive, such that class attention and discussion is hampered, I reserve the right to ban their usage in the classroom. Please use technology as a tool to assist your learning, not as a replacement for the work needed to make classroom time successful.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** As an academic community, TAMUCC requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, behavior that interferes with (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of peace and subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, e.g., classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity, and plagiarism (presentation of someone else’s work as one’s own work). Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university. Any student caught plagiarizing someone else’s paper, presentation, or speaking notes; lifting information from sources without citing those sources; attempting to turn in or present the same work in multiple classes; or cheating on a quiz may be given an automatic F for the course. Do not even think about using material that is not your own—this includes online material. If you’re uncertain about the university’s policy on academic misconduct, refer to the Student Handbook or University catalog. If you’re uncertain as to what actions constitute plagiarism in communication courses, ask me.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu.rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.
DROPPING A COURSE: I hope you never find it necessary to drop this or any other course. However, events sometimes occur that make dropping necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the drop process by filling out a course drop form in the Student Services Center (round building). Just stopping attendance and participation won’t automatically result in your being dropped from the course. For the spring semester of 2020, **Friday, April 10** is the last day to drop a course with an automatic grade of “W.”

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at 361-825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services Office for assistance at 361-825-5816. Once you have contacted Disability Services, please feel free to discuss classroom accommodations with me so that I can provide an optimum learning environment for you.

EQUITY STATEMENT: All persons, regardless of sex/gender, age, class, race, ethnicity, religion, physical/learning ability, sexual orientation, veteran status, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this communication course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with me.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is imperative and will be checked at each class. If you do miss a class, it’s your responsibility to get the info from a classmate. The following policy will be enforced:
1. Your first absence is without penalty. Use this absence for illness and emergencies.
2. Each subsequent absence will lower your final course average by 6 points (equivalent to day class).
3. You must attend at least 2 hours and 15 minutes of each 2 and a half hour class to be counted present.

MISSED WORK: Please realize that if you miss class the day you’re expected to make a presentation, turn in an assignment, or take a quiz, you will not be allowed to make up that activity on a subsequent date. **The grade is a ZERO.** There are only two exceptions to this policy: (1) you are admitted to a hospital (not just seen by someone in an ER or clinic) and unable to attend class; and (2) you have experienced a death in your family. In both of these situations you must provide documentation supporting the reason for the missed activity. You or someone you know should get in touch with me by phone or email as soon as the emergency arises. Contacting me before an absence is always preferable to contacting me after the fact. In extreme situations, you may also contact the Office of Student Affairs (361-825-2612) and request that a written memo be sent to all your instructors regarding your situation. **Anyone traveling for a school-related event (including all athletes) must turn in assignments or take quizzes before your travel, not after.**

GRADING SCALE: Here’s my approach to letter grades: a “C” is average; a “D” is below average, and an “F” is way below average (a bomb out). A “B” is above average and an “A” is way above average. A’s and B’s are rewards for above-average performance, not minimal or average work.

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION: Your final grade in this course is based on your performance on
the following assignments and quizzes. All written assignments must be typed and turned in at the beginning of the class session indicated in this syllabus. Point values for each assignment and quiz are shown below. Your final grade is based on a percentage of 375 points, minus any deductions for excessive absences. Roughly 90% of 375 points (approx. 337 points) will earn you an A, roughly 80% (approx. 300 points) a B, and so forth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Reporter</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview &amp; Reflection Essay</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyad Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyad Handout/Media</td>
<td>50</td>
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375 points maximum

COURSE SCHEDULE: The tentative schedule below details assigned readings, information to be covered during each class session, quiz dates, due dates for assignments—roughly everything you need to know to stay on top of this class. I use the word “tentative” because this schedule might change; however, students will be informed well in advance of any changes in schedule. Check the schedule and complete the assigned readings before you come to each class so that you will be prepared.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1
M 1/27
Syllabus Overview & Introductions
Introduction to Communication & Sexuality
**Assignmnt:** Reading List; Reading Reporter (Guidebk pp. 7-13)
Required Reading: Articles 1 & 2 (Guidebk pp. 14-22); GSpk Ch. 1 by M 2/3
Read: Syll. & Reading Reporter Assgmt (Guidebk pp. 1-13) by M 2/3

Week 2
M 2/3
Discuss Readings: Who You Are & What You Do
**Assignment:** Interview & Reflection Essay (DUE M 2/17)
Required Reading: JM #4-5; GSpk Ch. 2 by M 2/10
Read: Quiz 1 Review (Guidebook p. 49) by M 2/10

Week 3
M 2/10
Discuss Readings: Communicating Identity
Review Reflection Assignment
Quiz 1 Review (GSpk Chs. 1 & 2)
Required Reading: JM #7-9; GSpk Ch. 8 by M 2/17

Week 4
**DUE: Comm & Sexuality Reflection Essay**

**Quiz 1**
Discuss Readings: Media, Technology, & Sexuality  
Required Reading: JM #11-12; GSpk Ch. 6 (pp. 165-180 only) by M 2/24  
Read: Dyad Project (Guidebook pp. 53-56) by M 2/24  
Read: Quiz 2 Review (Guidebook p. 50) by M 2/24

**Week 5**
**M 2/24**
Discuss Readings: Comm & Sexuality in Relationships, Part I  
**Assignment: Dyad Project (DUE 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, & 5/4)**  
Quiz 2 Review (GSpk Ch. 8)  
Required Reading: JM #14-15; GSpk Ch. 6 (pp. 180-201 only) by M 3/2

**Week 6**
**M 3/2**
**Quiz 2**
Discuss Readings: Comm & Sexuality in Relationships, Part II  
Review Dyad Project  
Required Reading: JM #17-19 by M 3/16  
Read: Quiz 3 Review (Guidebook p. 51) by M 3/16

**SPRING BREAK**  
**March 9-13**

**Week 7**
**M 3/16**
Discuss Readings: Comm & Sexuality in Relationships, Part III  
Quiz 3 Review (GSpk Ch. 6)  
Required Reading: JM #20-22 by M 3/23

**Week 8**
**M 3/23**
**Quiz 3**
Discuss Readings: Comm & Sexuality in Relationships, Part IV  
Required Reading: JM #23-24 & GSpk Ch. 7 by M 3/30

**EXTRA CREDIT FOR ATTENDING COMM/MEDIA WEEK KEYNOTE SPEECH, TH 3/26, 7PM, LOCATION TBA**

**Week 9**
**M 3/30**
Discuss Readings: Comm, Sexuality, & Power Abuses, Part I  
Review Dyad Project  
Required Reading: JM #26-27 by M 4/6

**Week 10**
**M 4/6**
Discuss Readings: Comm, Sexuality, & Power Abuses, Part II  
Required Reading: JM #28; Articles 29-30 (Guidebk pp. 34-45) by M 4/13  
Review Dyad Project

**F 4/10**  
**UNIVERSITY DEADLINE TO DROP A CLASS**
Week 11
M 4/13
Discuss Readings: Comm, Sexuality, & Power Abuses, Part III
DUE: Dyad Projects 1-3

Week 12
M 4/20
DUE: Dyad Projects 4-8
Read: Quiz 4 Review (Guidebook p. 52) by M 4/27

Week 13
M 4/27
DUE: Dyad Projects 9-13
Quiz 4 Review (GSpk Ch. 7)

Week 14
M 5/4
DUE: Dyad Projects 14-17

Week 15
M 5/11
FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Quiz 4

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