GS 1181-F24, “Gender Humor Goes Online: From the Bloggess to the Motosexual”
TR 3:30-4:20 p.m., Fall 2018, 1st 8 Weeks
Professor: Dr. Kornasky
Email: Linda.Kornasky@angelo.edu
Office Hours: MW 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m.; and by appointment
Office & telephone: Academic 001a; 486-6149

Class Policies

Required Texts:


Course Description: Funny blogs, memes, and parodies dealing with gender are wildly popular on the Internet—especially in social media. This kind of comedy has perennial appeal in many venues, but the Internet is an ideal incubator for it. This class will delve into the reasons behind hilarious trends in online humor about gender. We will start with Jenny Lawson’s nationally famous and award-winning blog—The Bloggess—and the book it inspired, Let’s Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir, which debuted as the number one New York Times bestseller after it was published in 2012. Besides all the laughs we will share over Lawson’s writing, we will also celebrate that Lawson, a 2014 Distinguished Alumna, graduated from Angelo State University in 1997, after growing up in the San Angelo area. This will start us off happy, and the rest of the course will move on to students’ suggestions of funny online content about gender, which might include the “Feminist Ryan Gosling” meme, The Uncultured Lesbian on Tumblr, Kate McKinnon’s Justin Beiber parody videos, the new “Motosexual” man trend, and so much more. Warning: this course is for a mature audience of people ready to laugh.

Online Resources: Course information will be posted in Blackboard: http://blackboard.angelo.edu

Course Objectives:

• Developing skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing
• Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of GS 1181: Gender Humor Goes Online, student will be able to

• summarize and evaluate information;
• follow an organized process for written and oral communication;

Requirements and Grading: The coursework includes two summaries, a group presentation, a final examination, and classroom participation.

Summary #1-----------------------------------------------20%
Summary #2-----------------------------------------------20%
Group presentation------------------------------------------30%
Final examination------------------------------------------20%
Classroom participation--------------------------------------10%

Attendance: Students are allowed a total of two unexcused absences without penalty. For each additional unexcused absence, 5 points (½ letter-grade) will be deducted from the final course grade. Excused absences will be granted only with appropriate documentation. Seven or more excused or unexcused absences may be grounds for failing the course.

Policies for Assignments: Summaries are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any summary submitted late will be given a grade penalty of 10 points on the due date and 10 additional points per day after the due date. Make-up tests will not be given except in cases of legitimate, documented emergencies.
Class Activities: Credit for the 10% class participation grade is earned by being prepared with all the assigned reading and actively engaging in classroom activities.

Academic Honesty: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, University Center basement, to request them. Students with disabilities are encouraged to make this request early in the semester.

Schedule:

T 8/28  Course Introduction
Group presentation assigned.

R 8/30  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 1-25

T 9/4  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 26-79

R 9/6  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 80-112

T 9/11  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 113-62

R 9/13  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 163-188

T 9/18  Summary #1 due.
Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 189-235

R 9/20  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 236-88

T 9/25  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 289-340

R 9/27  Let’s Pretend This Never Happened, pp. 341-71

T 10/2  Summary #2 due.
Group Presentation
Reading: links on: http://blackboard.angelo.edu

R 10/4  Group Presentation
Reading: links on: http://blackboard.angelo.edu

T 10/9  Group Presentation
Reading: links on: http://blackboard.angelo.edu

R 10/11  Group Presentation
Reading: links on: http://blackboard.angelo.edu

October 11-14: Attend one of the performances of The Flick at ASU’s Modular Theatre. The Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows are at 8:00 p.m., and the Sunday show is at 2:00 p.m. The play will be on the exam.

T 10/16  Group Presentation
Reading: links on: http://blackboard.angelo.edu

R 10/18  Final Examination