COMM 6381: Understanding Humor through Communication Seminar
Summer II 2019

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Office: Library B314
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Office Hours: Tuesday 4-6 pm & Online by Appointment on Wednesday and Thursday (online appointments can be scheduled from 1 pm-6pm)

Readings

Additional readings as assigned.

Course Description
This course will explore the theories of humor origin, humor intent, and humor perception in interpersonal, organizational, and persuasive settings.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students should be able to identify the theories of humor origin.
2. Students should be able to understand the functions of humor in communication.
3. Students should be able to understand the models regarding humor choice.
4. Students should be able to understand how humor functions in organizations, cultures, and relationships.
5. Students should be able to evaluate a social model of humor

Assignments

Students may earn up to 1000 points during the semester. Assignments include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Leader/Presentation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Summaries (6@50pts)</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
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Grading

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:
A= 1000-900; B=899-800; C=799-700; D=699-600; F<600
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading Summaries
Students will be required to submit six (6) reading summaries for each reading that is assigned for ONLINE days. The summaries should follow the format provided by the instructor.

Discussion Leader
Students will be required to formally present 1 chapter or 1 article to the class. This presentation should use powerpoint, which incorporate the design principles learned in the program. Students will then lead a discussion of this material. Chapter/Article presentations should be no longer than 15-20 minutes long with 10-15 minutes of discussion led by the discussion leader.

Final Paper
Students will be required to write a paper using content analysis to code for some type of humor aspect learned in the course. The artifacts studied may not be human subjects. The paper will need to include 1 RQ. For the final paper, students will write the Methodology, Results, and Discussion section of a paper. A handout with more detailed information will be provided in class. (5-7 pages)

Presentation
Students must present a 8-10 minute presentation on the paper they wrote. Presentation should focus on results, but still mention method and discussion aspects of paper. This is a formal presentation that must consist of an introduction (attention getter, purpose, preview of points), transitions, body, and conclusion (summary of points, restating of purpose, and reference to attention getter)

Policies for the Course:
Attendance: Students are expected to attend all in-class sessions. Participation is a critical element in any communication course. Moreover, students who choose not to attend the lectures tend to have a more difficult time completing assignments than do those students who attend regularly. Whenever possible, the instructor should be notified in advance if students must miss class. Attendance includes participation in online discussions and activities as assigned.

Participation: Students are encouraged to participate in all lectures/discussions. When students share their experiences with the class, the course material often becomes more interesting and comprehensible. It is evident when a student has not read even when the student speaks. Do not speak just to speak. Insure that what you offer goes along with course content and that you are giving others a chance to speak as well.

Assignment Descriptions: Students will receive a detailed outline of all assignments at least one week before they are due.

Private Meetings: Students are highly encouraged to interact with the instructor outside of class. A few minutes with the instructor can often eliminate confusion or anxiety concerning an assignment. Students unable to meet with the instructor during office hours are encouraged to make appointments at other times.
Late Work or Missed Assignments: All assignments are due on time. “Make-up” exams or discussion leading will be allowed only if a compelling excuse is offered, i.e., hospitalization or attending the funeral of an immediate family member. If a compelling excuse is not offered, the student will receive a zero for any assignment that was missed, no exceptions.

If you will miss class due to a university function the day an assignment is due, you must hand-in the assignment prior to your departure. You may not hand-in the paper or assignment upon your return. As such, plan accordingly.

Academic Misconduct: ****Cheating on an exam or plagiarism on any assignment will result in an F in the course regardless of a student’s numerical average. ****

Class Etiquette: Please be a courteous student and peer – this includes using cellphones and laptops in class in a mature and professional manner.

Honor Code Policy: Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

****Cheating on an exam or plagiarism on any assignment will result in an F in the course regardless of a student’s numerical average. ****

Disability Statement: The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting

Mrs. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Development 325-942-2047 office or 325-942-2211 Fax dallas.swafford@angelo.edu University Center, Suite 112B

Religious Holiday Observance: “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code 11.20.

A. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

B. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence, however; the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.
Tentative Schedule

Students are responsible for keeping up with any changes in schedule, which will be announced in class.

| July 9  
(MIC) | Chapters 1 (LESLIE) & Discussion of Syllabus, Course, and Schedule |
| July 10  
OLINE | Read Banas et al. article: *A Review of Humor in Educational Settings: Four Decades of Research*  
Submit Reading Summary (Due by 11:59 pm) |
| July 11  
OLINE | Read: Vallade, et al. article: *Taking Back Power: Using Superiority Theory to Predict Humor Use Following a Relational Transgression*  
Submit Reading Summary (Due by 11:59 pm) |
| July 16  
(MIC) | Chapt 2: __________  
3: __________  
4: __________ |
| July 17  
OLINE | Read Meyer: *Humor as a Double-Edged Sword*  
Submit Reading Summary (Due by 11:59 pm) |
| July 18  
OLINE | Read Young et. al: *Does it Make a Difference if they Hurt You in a Funny Way*  
Submit Reading Summary (Due by 11:59 pm) |
| July 23  
(MIC) | Chapt 5: __________  
6: __________  
7: __________ |
| July 24  
OLINE | Read Evans: *Humor Style Clusters: Exploring Managerial Humor*  
Submit Reading Summary (Due by 11:59 pm) |
| July 25  
OLINE | Read Mills: *The Good, the Bad, and the Borderline: Separating Teasing from Bullying*  
Submit Reading Summary (Due by 11:59 pm) |
| July 30  
OLINE | Chap 8: __________________  
Article Presentation: __________________  
Ramsey et al: *Humor, Organizational Identification, and Worker Trust*  
Article Presentation: __________________  
Hall: *Humor in Long-Term Romantic Relationships* |
| July 31  
OLINE | Paper Workshop |
| August 1  
OLINE | Paper Workshop |
| August 6  
(MIC) | Papers Due by 12:00 noon  
Project Presentations: Everyone (Turn in Paper) |
| August 7  
(MIC) | Project Presentations cont. if needed. |

MIC= Meet in Class     ONLINE=Online Meetings