**CMST 301: Ethics and Human Communication**

**Spring 2013**

**Riverview 105**

***Ethics deals with things to be sought and things to be avoided, with ways of life and with the telos (chief good, the aim, or end) of life.***

Epicurus, quoted by Diogenes Laertes

*In this class we will be exploring ethical tensions in human communication using face-to-face, print, and electronic media.  It is important that you refer to this web site for the most current information about assignments, projects, and schedules.  I will be adding information from time to time.* ***You are responsible for keeping apprised of the information on this site.***

**COURSE RESOURCES**

Paula Tompkins, **Practicing Communication Ethics: Development Discernment and Decision-making.** Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2011.

Other Readings as posted on d2l.

Classroom Experience:

This course is primarily a discussion class, with some lectures and presentations.  To get the most of class, you need to come prepared to ask questions and discuss.  Materials and resources on this website are designed to help you prepare for class discussions.

[**OFFICE HOURS**](http://stcloudstate.edu/~ptompkins)**—8-9 & 11-12 MWF, 2-3:15 MW** **& by appointment.** *Feel free to stop by Riverview 211B during my office hours or make an appointment to discuss communication ethics, your major, internships, or other concerns.  (You can stop by to look at the view of the Mississippi from my window.) E-mail me to set up at appointment at* *pstompkins@stcloudstate.edu* ***My office phone is 308-4982. Please leave a message when you call.***

**COURSE GOALS**

* Develop your ability to recognize and identify ethical issues and tensions in communication situations.
* Explore different approaches to thinking about ethics in human communication.
* Evaluate the ethical tensions found in a variety of communication acts in a reasoned and systematic fashion as part of the process for deciding when, how, and what to communicate.
* Clarify your personal ethical standard for human communication.

**COURSE GROUND RULES**

* **All** late assignments, including exams, are penalized.  Five percent of the points possible for an assignment will be subtracted for each calendar day it is late.  **Eventually assignments have zero (0) point value.**  Contact me in advance if you cannot complete an assignment on time.  Exceptions may be made on an individual basis, e.g. severe illness, death in the family, etc.  You will **not** automatically receive an extension.  You **must** talk to me first.
* I give incompletes **only** when students make arrangements **in advance** of the end of the term.  If you do not complete an assignment before the end of the term and you have not made arrangements for an incomplete, you have not completed the requirements of the course.  You will receive a failing grade, "F."
* All assignments must be your own and original work for this class.  This is an issue of plagiarism.  A paper written for another class **will not be accepted** for completion of course requirements for this class.  If you wish to use the same or similar research from another course for assignments in this course, you must receive an "OK" from me.  This is an issue of scholastic honesty.  See [**Student Handbook: Code of Conduct.**](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/studenthandbook/code/default.asp)
* All written assignments **must** be word processed or typewritten.  All assignments should exhibit good composition, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.  I expect all assignments to be proofread, after you have run a spell-check, and corrections made **before** you hand an assignment in.  Use [**LEO**](http://leo.stcloudstate.edu)**,** an SCSU on-line writing resource, or [**OWL**](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/) (Purdue University’s On-line Writing Lab) to help you with your assignments.

**GRADING POLICY**

A= Achievement that is **outstanding** relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B = Achievement that is **significantly above** the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C = Achievement that **meets the basic course requirements in every respect.**

D = Achievement **worthy of credit** through it does not fully meet the basic course requirements.

**CONTINUED ATTENDANCE IN THE CLASS IS CONSIDERED ACCEPTANCE OF THESE GROUND RULES.**

***I’m looking forward to conversations with you outside and in-class about communication ethics. Feel free to stop by and chat.***