

**Loyola University Chicago**  
**Comm 279 – 201: Critical Issues in Journalism: Power and Gender**  
**Mondays 4:15-6:45 p.m.**  
**Corboy Law Center – Room 521**

**Professor Patty Lamberti and Professor Jill Geisler**  
**Office: SOC Room 223**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Mondays 3-4 p.m.**  
**Tuesdays 1-2p.m.**  
**Or by appointment**

**Office Phone: (312) 915-6860**

**Email: [plamberti@luc.edu](mailto:plamberti@luc.edu)**

**Course Overview:**

In this class, we will examine how those who hold power and make decisions based on gender (implicitly or with intent) affect the fields of journalism, advertising, public relations, filmmaking, digital media, social media, advocacy and more. Please note that our discussions and activities won't be solely focused on how men hurt women or other men. We'll talk about "gender" in all of its forms.

While this course isn't just for journalism students, we will also explore the role journalists played in unearthing stories of sexual misconduct.

Throughout the semester, we will:

- Talk to working professionals of all genders and sexual orientations from a variety of industries to speak about power and gender issues within their professional communities
- Engage in role-playing exercises that will help you formulate your responses to gender and power issues you will (and currently do) experience in the workplace such as pay inequity and the glass ceiling
- Look behind-the-scenes of journalism investigations related to power and gender
- Work in groups to plan "dream" workshops on power and gender
- Share questions, personal anecdotes and devil's-advocate musings about gender, sexuality, race and other hard-to-talk-about issues
- Think critically about power and gender issues within Loyola, including Sister Jean's role in the Final Four, the high percentage of female students within the School of Communication and gender/sexuality data for other schools and majors
- Read and reflect on the findings of thought leaders and researchers in the fields of gender and power

**Learning goals:**

- Developing specific plans of action (from the awkward to the infuriating to the illegal) that you will potentially encounter during internships and throughout your careers
- Soliciting interesting anecdotes from working professionals about power and gender in their workplaces
- Examining how journalists investigated and exposed media power players who allegedly sexually harassed and abused others - and why journalists didn't do so sooner
- Examining your own behavior and thoughts – especially unconscious ones – related to power, gender, sexuality and so on
- Thinking critically about power and gender issues within the Loyola community
- Finding the strength, confidence and vocabulary to talk to one another and publicly about sensitive topics like sexual harassment, sexual abuse, mental health, physical abuse, hostile workplace environments and more

### **Course Materials:**

- All readings are free for this class and linked to on the syllabus. If you hit a pay wall for any readings, Google the headline (however, all Loyola students are entitled to a [free New York Times digital subscription](#)). If the hyperlink on Sakai doesn't work, copy and paste the URL.
- You must also subscribe to and read the weekly New York Times Gender newsletter here: <https://www.nytimes.com/series/gender-letter>

### **Course Policies – IMPORTANT! READ THIS!**

#### **Absences and Tardiness:**

In order to achieve success in this class, it will be imperative that you attend class and arrive on time. In return for your promptness and active participation, we will do our best to make each class period engaging by filling our time with guest speakers you can network with, activities that will help you navigate your professional careers and personal life, engaging discussions, recent videos and other content related to our topic.

Because we will miss two classes due to holidays, we only have 13 weeks together. That means each class costs you approximately \$1685 (assuming you are taking between 12 and 21 credit hours per semester). Don't throw that money away just because the weather is nice – or bad – or you feel like watching Netflix.

Missing class will result in lower scores in the areas of attendance and participation, and quizzes.

#### **Deadlines:**

We will be treating you like professionals, which means deadlines **MUST** be met.

Unfortunately, because of numerous problems in the past dealing with the issue of late assignments, this class has a very rigid late policy with harsh penalties. **NO ASSIGNMENTS – INCLUDING THE MATERIALS THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA SAKAI FOR PRESENTATIONS – WILL BE ACCEPTED BEYOND THE DUE DATE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

If you are ill or have another emergency, you must have documented proof (doctor's note, obituary, police report, etc.) that explains the situation. It is up to our discretion to accept this documentation or not.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

Plagiarism of any form, of any kind and of any length will be reported to the Dean of Students. As you know, plagiarism constitutes using another's words or ideas without acknowledgment.

If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail the class.

All projects you turn in for this class or present to the class must be original. You cannot submit materials used in another class. If you are caught doing so, you will fail the class.

Cheating on any other work associated with this class will receive a similar punishment.

**SSWD Policy:**

Loyola University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD), located in Sullivan Center, Suite 117. Students will provide professors with an accommodation notification from SSWD, preferably within the first two weeks of class.

If attendance will be an issue, you must meet with me to complete a form that outlines how we will handle such absences within the first two weeks of classes.

Students are encouraged to meet with their professor individually in order to discuss their accommodations. All information will remain confidential. For more information or further assistance, please call 773-508-3700.

**Email policy:**

Patty will respond to all emails within 24 hours.

Keep in mind that Patty may not check her email right before an assignment is due. Ask questions early and re-read the assignment sheet. Often, the answer is there.

**Laptop and cell phone policy:**

Although technology is an integral part of communication, it doesn't always help you learn. The more you multitask, the less you learn. Multitasking is also disruptive to

instructors and the students around you.

Studies have shown the following:

1. According to Winona State University researchers, 68% of students who use laptops in the classroom aren't using them just to take notes – they're also surfing the web, checking Facebook and email, etc.
2. Former Stanford researcher Clifford Nass has found that multitaskers perform worse than non-multitaskers in nearly every category, including critical thinking skills and memory tests.
3. Researchers at Princeton and the University of California, Los Angeles had students in a lecture take notes on either laptops or pen and paper. Understanding of the lecture, measured by a standardized test at the end of the class, was worse for those who had taken notes on their laptops.

You are old enough to vote. You are old enough to join the military. You are old enough to be sent to an adult prison. You are old enough to fall in love, adopt a pet and in some cases, drink a beer. So out of respect for your age, we won't treat you like a child and *demand* that you *not* use your laptop or phone during class. Just know this – if you are checking social media, shopping, emailing and so on, you're hurting yourself. Why would you want to hurt yourself? If your tech-behavior starts to distract others, we'll lower the participation portion of your grade.

### **Grading:**

In five years, you won't remember what grade you earned in this class.

At best, grades motivate you to learn as much as you can.

In the worst-case scenario, grades make you feel bad about yourself, question your life goals and hate school.

When thinking about grades, keep a few things in mind.

Grades don't always indicate how much you're getting out of a class, or school overall.

When you were in elementary school and high school, teachers and parents used grades to help keep you on task and unearth your talents.

But you are now an adult. It is your responsibility to learn as much as you can, keep yourself on task and uncover your passions. Grades may help you do this, but grades aren't your only guide on this road.

As an adult, you need to push yourself to learn – without the reward or punishment of a grade.

Getting As on assignments shouldn't be a reason to tell yourself, "I am a master at this. I don't need to try anymore. I'm checking out." You're not a master yet. An A means you're exceptional for a student in college. You can always improve.

Likewise, getting Cs shouldn't be a reason to give up. In fact, a C makes sense. That's an average grade, and you just started doing this.

We take a lot of time to make our grading policy transparent. You will receive a rubric for each assignment.

Your first assignment is worth less than latter ones. After all, as you learn, you should get better.

Quizzes on the readings will occur nearly every week during class. You are expected to read your assignments before class begins.

Please remember that we do not grade based on effort alone. We will not give you an A on one of the assignments simply because you tried your best.

For group assignments, part of your grade will be based on a peer evaluation.

### **Attendance, participation and professionalism:**

We will take attendance, and monitor your participation and professionalism, by having you fill out a "takeaways" form for each class.

This will prove to us if you were here, listening and mentally alert.

Participation means more than just talking a lot. It means contributing the conversationally thoughtfully.

Professionalism includes arriving punctually and behaving appropriately. Talking on cell phones, interrupting, texting, interfering with classmates, e-mailing, arriving late/leaving early, sleeping, closing your eyes and hoping we don't notice will result in a lower score for attendance/participation/professionalism.

### **UPGRADE option paper:**

This is the *only* extra credit available in this class.

Eligible class members may complete the UPGRADE assignment to potentially boost their grade. This assignment will provide up to 50 additional points.

To be eligible, you must have:

1. Missed no more than one class in the semester.
2. Participated actively in class.

3. Completed all other class assignments.

You may turn your UPGRADE paper in at any time during the semester, but not later than December 3 at 6:45 p.m. If your paper is in by the deadline and you have completed all of the eligibility requirements, I will factor whatever points you receive for this paper in your final grade. I will apply the earned UPGRADE points after I grade finals. The maximum number of points available is still 1,000, which is an A.

**Final grade breakdown:**

*All assignments will be posted under “assignments” on Sakai.*

Attendance, participation and professionalism: 150 points

Quizzes: 50 points

Assignment one: 150 points

Assignment two: 200 points

Assignment three: 200 points

Final: 250 points

*Optional upgrade paper (see above): 50 points*

**Individual Assignment Grade Scale:**

A: 100-94

A-: 93-90

B+: 89-88

B: 87-83

B-: 82-80

C+ 79-78

C: 77-73

C-: 72-70

D+: 69-68

D: 67-63

D-: 62-60

F: 59-0

**Total Semester Grade Point Scale:**

*Grades are absolutely not rounded up at semester's end*

A: 1000-940  
A-: 939-900  
B+: 899-880  
B: 879-830  
B-: 829-800  
C+ 799-780  
C: 779-730  
C-: 729-700  
D+: 699-680  
D: 679-630  
D-: 629-600  
F: 599-0

### **About the instructors:**

**Patty Lamberti** is a Professional-in-Residence and the program director for Multimedia Journalism at Loyola University Chicago. Patty's professional journalism experience includes working in the editorial department at Playboy magazine, whose tagline was once "Entertainment for Men" and is now "Entertainment for All." During her five year tenure there as an editor, Patty was often forced to justify why she worked there to other women, who assumed the company treated female employees unfairly and made the world a worse place for women. However, the company employed more women than men (including the editorial, research and art departments), and the magazine regularly featured pieces written by and for women.

Patty went on to work at Latina Magazine and Lifetime TV. Both editorial departments were composed entirely of women. But Patty still experienced many negative power-and-gender related incidents, which she is looking forward to sharing with you.

**Jill Geisler** is the Bill Plante Chair in Leadership and Media Integrity at Loyola University Chicago and an internationally recognized expert in leadership and management. She's the person news organizations reach out to when their managers need solutions, skills and inspiration. Her influence on media leaders ranges from Boston to Bhutan. Jill's first career was in broadcast journalism, where she began as a reporter, photographer and anchor, then became one of the country's first female TV news directors at WITI-TV in Milwaukee. Her award-winning newsroom was known for its culture of enterprise and ethics. Her management mantra is "Life's too short to work with jerks."

### **Semester Plan**

*(Subject to change; readings are due the start of class under the week they're listed)*

*Week one: Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>*

Topic: Syllabus; Power shift concept; First assignment instructions

*Week two: Monday, September 3*  
**No class – Labor Day**

*Week three: Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>*

Topic: Identity, Intersectionality, Illegal vs. Infuriating

Readings due by the start of the class period:

- Why We Fail to Report Sexual Harassment:

<https://hbr.org/2016/10/why-we-fail-to-report-sexual-harassment>

- Necessary but Not Sufficient

[https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/articles/ideas-work/necessary-not-sufficient?utm\\_source=execed&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=native](https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/articles/ideas-work/necessary-not-sufficient?utm_source=execed&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=native)

- Go Ahead, Speak for Yourself

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/10/opinion/sunday/speak-for-yourself.html>

- How Sexism Follows Women From the Cradle to the Workplace

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/19/business/sexism-women-birthplace-workplace.html>

*Week four: Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>*

**Assignment #1 due: Movie review and discussion**

Topic: Being Male or Transgender in a #metoo world

Readings due by the start of the class period:

- Crossing the Divide: Do Men Really Have It Easier? These Transgender Guys Found the Truth Was More Complex:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2018/07/20/feature/crossing-the-divide-do-men-really-have-it-easier-these-transgender-guys-found-the-truth-was-more-complex/?utm\\_term=.ebfdf353c66a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2018/07/20/feature/crossing-the-divide-do-men-really-have-it-easier-these-transgender-guys-found-the-truth-was-more-complex/?utm_term=.ebfdf353c66a)

- A Man Among Female Leaders: The Risk of “Mansplaining Is Very High”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/02/world/europe/iceland-gender-equality-women-political-leaders.html?smid=tw-nytimes&smtyp=cur>



- Want to be an Ally to Women at Work? Here are 5 Things Men in Tech Have Been Doing.

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/better\\_life\\_lab/2018/01/08/want\\_to\\_be\\_an\\_ally\\_to\\_women\\_at\\_work\\_five\\_things\\_men\\_in\\_tech\\_have\\_been\\_doing.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/better_life_lab/2018/01/08/want_to_be_an_ally_to_women_at_work_five_things_men_in_tech_have_been_doing.html)

*Week five: Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>*

Topic: Critical Thinking; The role of journalists in the #metoo movement

Readings due by the start of class:

- The man behind the investigations:

<https://money.cnn.com/2018/07/29/media/ronan-farrow-profile/index.html>

- How Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey Broke the Harvey Weinstein Story

<https://variety.com/2017/biz/features/new-york-times-harvey-weinstein-report-megan-twohey-jodi-kantor-1202637948/>

*Week six: Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>*

Guest speaker: Mary Donahue from the Women's Law Society

Topic: Titles

Readings due by the start of the class period:

- What It Takes to Be a Trial Lawyer if You Are Not a Man

[https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/09/female-lawyers-sexism-courtroom/565778/?utm\\_source=twb](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/09/female-lawyers-sexism-courtroom/565778/?utm_source=twb)

- Mr. and Mrs.: A Courtesy to be Respected

<https://www.npr.org/2012/07/07/156384121/a-little-mr-and-mrs-can-go-a-long-way>

- The Power of a First Name

<https://hbr.org/2011/11/the-power-of-a-first-name.html>

*Week seven: Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>*

**No class – Fall Break**

*Week eight: Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>*

Guest speakers: Loyola's Women's Basketball Team

Topic: Harassment

Readings due by the start of class:

- I'm a WNBA player. Men won't stop challenging me to play one-on-one  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/im-a-wnba-player-men-wont-stop-challenging-me-to-play-one-on-one/2018/08/02/2deabeb2-8f6b-11e8-bcd5-9d911c784c38\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.5d206f312954](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/im-a-wnba-player-men-wont-stop-challenging-me-to-play-one-on-one/2018/08/02/2deabeb2-8f6b-11e8-bcd5-9d911c784c38_story.html?utm_term=.5d206f312954)
- Study: male political reporters retweet other dudes 3 times more than their female colleagues  
<https://www.vox.com/2018/6/22/17489516/male-politics-reporters-only-tweet-other-men-nikki-usher>
- Study Shows Female Journalists Face Rampant Online Harassment  
[https://journalistsresource.org/studies/society/news-media/female-journalists-harassment-online-research?utm\\_source=JR-email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=JR-email%20%20target=%20self%20](https://journalistsresource.org/studies/society/news-media/female-journalists-harassment-online-research?utm_source=JR-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JR-email%20%20target=%20self%20)
- Expert Advice on How to Deal with Online Harassment:  
[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/bjp8ma/expert-advice-on-how-to-deal-with-online-harassment](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/bjp8ma/expert-advice-on-how-to-deal-with-online-harassment)

*Week nine: Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>*

## **Assignment #2 due: Interview with a leader in gender and power**

Topic: The Pay Gap

Readings due by the start of class:

- How a Common Question Fuels The Pay Gap: And How to Stop It:  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/01/upshot/how-a-common-interview-question-fuels-the-gender-pay-gap-and-how-to-stop-it.html?emc=edit\\_ne\\_20180501&nl=evening-briefing&nlid=3804657120180501&te=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/01/upshot/how-a-common-interview-question-fuels-the-gender-pay-gap-and-how-to-stop-it.html?emc=edit_ne_20180501&nl=evening-briefing&nlid=3804657120180501&te=1)
- The Simple Truth Behind the Gender Pay Gap:  
<https://www.aauw.org/research/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/>
- Five Ways Women Can Negotiate More Effectively:  
<https://insight.kellogg.northwestern.edu/article/five-ways-women-can-negotiate-more-effectively>

*Week 10: Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>*

Guest speaker: Erin Wade

Topic: Courageous Conversations

Readings due by the start of class:

- How My Restaurant Successfully Deals with Sexual Harassment  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-my-restaurant-successfully-dealt-with-harassment-from-customers/2018/03/29/3d9d00b8-221a-11e8-badd-7c9f29a55815\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.9b07b2da7a74](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-my-restaurant-successfully-dealt-with-harassment-from-customers/2018/03/29/3d9d00b8-221a-11e8-badd-7c9f29a55815_story.html?utm_term=.9b07b2da7a74)

- A Study Used Sensors to Show Men and Women Are Treated Differently at Work:

[https://hbr.org/2017/10/a-study-used-sensors-to-show-that-men-and-women-are-treated-differently-at-work?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=hbr](https://hbr.org/2017/10/a-study-used-sensors-to-show-that-men-and-women-are-treated-differently-at-work?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=hbr)

- Struggling to Be Heard: How Women Can Overcome Bias:

<https://www.strategy-business.com/blog/Struggling-to-Be-Heard-How-Women-Can-Overcome-Bias>

- Why Women Volunteer for Tasks that Don't Lead to Promotions

<https://hbr.org/2018/07/why-women-volunteer-for-tasks-that-dont-lead-to-promotions>

*Week 11: Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>*

Topic: Toxic work environments

Guest speaker: Sarah Lyons from Hands Off

Readings due by the start of class:

- Watch “Hands Off Campaign looks to curb sexual harassment in Chicago’s hospitality industry”

<https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/343657607-video>

- 9 Bad Bosses and How to Deal with Them

<https://www.thecut.com/article/9-bad-bosses-how-to-work-for-them.html>

- Why Do Women Bully Each Other at Work?

[https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/the-queen-bee-in-the-corner-office/534213/?utm\\_source=feed](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/the-queen-bee-in-the-corner-office/534213/?utm_source=feed)

*Week 12: Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>*

Topic: Culture of Respect and Trust

Readings due by the start of class:

- Advertising is Still a Boys Club  
<http://adage.com/article/news/advertising-a-boy-s-club/309166/>
- Public Relations Agencies are Dominated By Women So why are all their leaders men?  
<https://qz.com/631499/public-relations-agencies-are-dominated-by-women-so-why-are-all-their-leaders-men/>
- Why Men are the New College Minority  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/08/why-men-are-the-new-college-minority/536103/>
- Women Dominate Journalism Schools but Not Newsrooms  
<https://www.poynter.org/news/women-dominate-journalism-schools-newsrooms-are-still-different-story>

*Week 13: Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>*

Optional private and confidential meetings with Patty to discuss anything related to the class or course topic

*Week 14: Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>*

Topic: Power and gender in non-communication fields

**Assignment 3 due: Presentations of workshop related to one of the following issues:**

- Solving pay disparity
- Eliminating sexual misconduct
- Developing men's roles as allies
- Shattering the glass ceiling
- Striving for work/life/harmony for men and women

Readings due:

- A Few Minutes with Megan Brown: Sexism in Agriculture  
<https://www.feedstuffs.com/commentary/few-minutes-megan-brown-sexism-agriculture>
- Why Are There Few Women in Tech? Watch a Recruiting Session:  
[https://www.wired.com/story/why-are-there-few-women-in-tech-watch-a-recruiting-session/?utm\\_source=API+Need+to+Know+newsletter&utm\\_campaign=25e57ab146-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_03\\_06&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e3bf78af04-25e57ab146-31699725](https://www.wired.com/story/why-are-there-few-women-in-tech-watch-a-recruiting-session/?utm_source=API+Need+to+Know+newsletter&utm_campaign=25e57ab146-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e3bf78af04-25e57ab146-31699725)

*Week 15: Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Topic: So now what do we do with everything we learned?

Readings due by the start of class:

- Research Shows Electing Women Makes a Real Difference in Peoples' Lives:  
<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/6/27/17433986/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-beats-joe-crowley-women-elected-policy-research>
- Kids of Working Moms Grow into Happy Adults:  
<https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/kids-of-working-moms-grow-into-happy-adults>
- Ousting Bad Men  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sexual-harassment-ousting-bad-men\\_us\\_5b23f8c3e4b0f9178a9cd6f5](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sexual-harassment-ousting-bad-men_us_5b23f8c3e4b0f9178a9cd6f5)

**Final project due via Sakai on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.**