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From my online Introduction to Women's Studies 250: Women, Art, and Culture course

A few thoughts on online communication

- You cannot overparticipate in the online discussions or the twitter discussions, so don't worry about saying too much.
- You'll notice that in my lectures I try to use a more conversational style while still paying attention to clarity, grammar, and the like. Please do this (which everyone is) on the discussion boards.
- On Twitter, anything goes.
- Formal papers should follow formal writing conventions.
- It's hard to know tone online. Be generous with everyone and always assume the best intentions.
- This is particularly true when you see my comments on the discussion board. I will try and limit my comments there to keep the conversation to be one for you all as class members to have. At the same time, as you will see today, I will make posts to suggest additional information. Please don't take these as suggesting that you are missing something or as me making corrections. Rather, I'm just trying to give more information, spark new ideas, and move the conversation forward.
- If you feel hurt or confused by something on the discussion boards, ask for clarification. This is important because we can't see and hear one another.
- You can also email class members and me through ELMS.*
- Again, always assume good intentions – and write your comments with good intentions.
- Check in to ELMS regularly.
- I will be monitoring the participation logs on ELMS that are available to instructors. While on one hand, I feel like this is freaky and a little like too much surveillance, but on the other hand, I want to know that you are all present and engaging, even if it is just more reading than commenting. It's a strategy of knowing who is "in the room."
- If I see you haven't been participating, I will email you and check in to see what is going on.
- If you are having problems, something makes you uncomfortable, you don't know what to say, etc., tell me! We can talk on the telephone, chat, or SKYPE. I'm also happy to meet at school with folks who are local.
- Again, participate and communicate, even if it feels like overparticipation and overcommunication initially. This helps online courses to flourish!

*ELMS is the online course management system at the University of Maryland