

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Fall 9-1-2020

### COMX 380.R01: Gender and Communication

Sara E. Hayden

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [sara.hayden@umontana.edu](mailto:sara.hayden@umontana.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Hayden, Sara E., "COMX 380.R01: Gender and Communication" (2020). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 11369.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/11369>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

Communication Studies 380  
Gender and Communication  
Fall 2020  
MWF 12:00 – 12:50  
Remote Delivery

Professor: Sara Hayden, Ph.D.  
Email: [sara.hayden@mso.umt.edu](mailto:sara.hayden@mso.umt.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom or telephone

**Course Description:**

This course explores issues of gender and communication. We begin by examining the meaning of gender in our culture. Questions we will consider include: What is gender? How do people become gendered? What are some of the social, cultural, and political implications of our current gender systems? This will be followed with an investigation into how gender is displayed and perpetuated through our verbal and nonverbal interactions. Questions to be explored include: To what extent does gender affect patterns of interpersonal communication? What causes gendered patterns of communication to develop? What are some of the implications of gendered patterns of communication? The last portion of the course will be devoted to a discussion of gender and the media. Questions to be explored include: What are the effects of media on our experiences of gender? How have feminisms, men's movements, and gay rights movements affected representations of women, men and sexualities in television and other media outlets?

**Readings:**

- Wood, J. T. and Fixmer-Oraiz, N. (2019). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture* (13<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Wadsworth

This book is available to rent electronically through the Bookstore.

- Articles available via Moodle

**Streaming:**

In addition to videos posted on Moodle, you will be required to stream several television programs through commercial services. These include:

- *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*
  - Season 1, episode 1 – “Pilot”
  - Season 4, episode 13 – “I Gave at the Office”
- *30 Rock*, season 1
  - Season 5, episode 1 – “Pilot”
  - Season 5, episode 16 – “Why Does TGS Hate Women?”

- *Parks and Recreation*
  - Season 4, Episode 16 – “Sweet Sixteen”
  - Season 7, Episode 9 – “Pie Mary”
- *Two and a Half Men*
  - Season 1, episode 1, “Pilot”
  - Season 3, episode 3, “Carpet Burns and a Bite Mark”
- *Queer Eye*
  - Season 2, episode 1, “God Bless Gay”

*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *30 Rock*, and *Parks and Recreation* are available to stream on **Hulu**. Hulu offers a free one-month trial subscription. We will be discussing these programs the month of October. Episodes of *Two and a Half Men* are available to purchase through **Amazon Prime**. *Queer Eye* is available on **Netflix**. Netflix offers free one-month trial subscriptions. We will be discussing this program in November.

**Please note:** This course is registered with the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. Students taking this course may count it toward a Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major or toward a Minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in conjunction with any major. If you enjoy learning about women, gender, and/or sexuality and would like to know more about the Women’s Studies Program, please visit our website [www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog](http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog), call us at 243-2584, or stop by our office, LA 138A.

**Academic Misconduct:**

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarizing, and deliberately interfering with the work of others. Plagiarizing means representing the work of someone else, such as another student or an author of a book or an article, as your own. If you use the ideas or words of someone else, you must cite the source of the original information. Following university regulations, cheating and plagiarism will be penalized with a failing grade in the course.

**Grades:**

Grades will be based on evaluation of student performance on the following assignments:

Exam One	100 points
Exam Two	100 points
Quizzes	200 points
Participation	50points
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 points</b>

Grades will be assigned on the following scale: A=92% and up; A- = 91-90%; B+ = 88-89%; B = 82-87%; B- = 80 - 81%; C+ = 78 -79 %; C = 72 - 77 %; C- = 70 - 71%; D+ = 68 - 69%; D = 62 - 67%; D- = 60 - 61%; F 59% and below.

### Exams:

You will take two exams. The final exam will not be cumulative. Study guides will be provided approximately one week prior to exam dates and one full class period will be devoted to discussing the exams prior to their occurrence. Exam dates are September 28 and November 23.

### Quizzes:

Over the course of the semester you will complete 15 quizzes. Each quiz is worth twenty points. I will drop your five lowest quiz scores; in other words, your ten best quizzes will be counted toward your final grade. You have ten minutes to complete each quiz; they must be completed by the time we meet to discuss the unit on which the quiz is based. Dates are specified below and on Moodle. Quizzes are based on assigned readings (not lecture notes).

The exception is Quiz 1. For this quiz, I am asking you to complete Moodle 101. Please upload your certificate by August 24.

### Participation:

On days when we meet via Zoom, you will be expected to participate in both large and small group discussions.

## Schedule

### Key:

Aquamarine indicates required reading from your textbook.

Yellow indicates a lecture posted on Moodle.

Red indicates a required reading on Moodle.

Light grey indicates a video. Most videos are on Moodle; some you will need to stream through Netflix, Hulu, or Amazon Prime. *Some of the videos run longer than 50 minutes; you will need to set extra time aside to view these. Videos that run longer than 50 minutes are italicized.*

Bright green indicates a **Zoom Discussion**.

Dark grey indicates when quizzes are due.

Olive green indicates exams.

Magenta indicates optional readings posted on Moodle.

W 8-19      Introduction to the Course  
**Zoom Discussion**

F 8-21      Introduction, continued  
**Zoom Discussion**

M 8-24      Introduction, continued  
**Zoom Discussion**  
Quiz 1 – upload Moodle 101 certificate by this date

**W 8-26      The Study of Communication, Gender, and Culture**

Read: (Text) Introduction and Chapter One

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 1-Communication, Gender, and Culture

View: (Moodle) Interthoughts: Interview with Eden Atwood

**Quiz 2 must be completed by the beginning of our class period.**

**F 8-28      Theories of Gender**

Read (Text) Chapter Two, pp. 35-41

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 2 – Biological Theories of Gender

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Can We Blame Our Bad Behavior on Stone-Age Genes?

Optional Reading: (Moodle) The Myth of Testosterone

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Are We Ready for the Breastfeeding Father?

**M 8-31      Theories of Gender**

Read: (Text) Chapter Two, pp. 41-46

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 3 – Interpersonal, Cultural, and Critical Theories of Gender

View: (Moodle) A Queer Man's Jaw-Dropping Performance

View: (Moodle) The Story of David Reimer

Optional Reading: (Moodle) If Men Are Favored in Our Society, Why Do They Die Younger Than Women?

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Where Boys Outperform Girls in Math: Rich, White, and Suburban District

**W 9-2      Theories of Gender**

**Zoom – We will discuss the case of David Reimer, addressing how theories of gender can help us understand what took place.**

**Quizzes 3 and 4 must be completed by the beginning of our class period.**

**F 9-4      Becoming Gendered**

Read: (Text) Chapter Seven

View: (Moodle) *You Don't Know Dick*

**M 9-7      Labor Day – No Class**

**W 9-9      Becoming Gendered**

View: (Moodle) Becoming Johanna

View: I'm Just Anneke

Optional Reading: (Moodle) The New Girl in School: Transgender Surgery at 18

Optional Reading: (Moodle) My Daughter is not Transgender. She's a Tomboy

Optional Reading: (Moodle) The Struggle of Rejecting the Gender Binary

**F 9-11      Becoming Gendered**

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Americans Value Equality at Work More than Equality at Home

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Women Did Everything Right. Then Work Got “Greedy”

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Men Say They Want Paid Leave but Then Don’t Use All of It

**Zoom – In small groups, you will consider how your family of origin affected your gender development; as a large group, we will discuss the videos assigned for this unit.**

Quiz 5 must be completed by the beginning of our class period.

**M 9-14      Gendered Interaction – Verbal Communication**

Read: (Text) Chapter Five

Read: Lecture 4 – Implications of Language Use

**W 9-16      Gendered Interaction – Verbal Communication**

Read: Lecture 5 – Gendered Interaction

Read: Lecture 6 – Implications of the Two Cultures Model

Optional Reading: (Moodle) The Universal Phenomenon of Men Interrupting Women

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Speaking While Female

Optional Reading: (Moodle) How Women Can Escape the Likability Trap

**F 9-18      Gendered Interaction – Nonverbal Communication**

Read: (Text) Chapter Six

Read: Lecture 7 – Gendered Nonverbal Communication

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Those Lips! Those Eyes! That Stubble! The Transformative Power of Men in Makeup

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Young Women, Give Up the Vocal Fry and Reclaim Your Strong Female Voice

Optional Reading: (Moodle) Naomi Wolf Misses the Point About Vocal Fry

**M 9-21      Gendered Interaction – Nonverbal Communication**

View: (Moodle) Talking from 9 to 5

**W 9-23      Gendered Interaction**

**Zoom – We will discuss the lectures and the film.**

Quizzes 6 and 7 must be completed by the beginning of our class period

**F 9-25      Study Day**

**Zoom – I will answer your questions about the first exam.**

**M 9-28 Exam One**

*Must be completed by 1:00 pm unless you have made other arrangements with Professor Hayden.*

**W 9-30 Gendered Media – Television Criticism**

Read: (Moodle) How TV Cultivates Authoritarianism—and Helped Elect Trump

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 8 – Introduction to Gendered Media

Read: (Moodle) The Rhetoric of Television, Criticism, and Theory

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 9 – Television Criticism and Comedy

**F 10-2 Gendered Media – Television Criticism**

Read Friedan (Moodle) The Problem with No Name

Read (Moodle) Lecture 10 – Second Wave Feminisms

**M 10-5 Gendered Media – Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism**

Read Dow (Moodle) 1970s Lifestyle Feminism, the Single Woman, and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*

Read (Moodle) Lecture 11 – The Mary Tyler Moore Show

View (Hulu) *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*

- *Season 1, episode 1 – “Pilot”*
- *Season 4, episode 13 – “I Gave at the Office”*

**W 10-7 Gendered Media – Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminisms**

**Zoom Discussion**

Quizzes 8, 9, and 10 must be completed by the beginning of our class period

**F 10-9 Gendered Media – Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism**

Read Swink (Moodle) Lemony Liz and Likable Leslie: Audience Understandings of Feminism, Comedy, and Gender in Women-Led Television Comedies

Read (Moodle) Lecture 12– Television Criticism in a Post-Feminist Environment

**M 10-12 Gendered Media – Television Criticism in a Post-Feminist Environment**

View (Hulu) *30 Rock*, season 1

- *Season 5, episode 1 – “Pilot”*
- *Season 5, episode 16 – “Why Does TGS Hate Women?”*

View (Hulu) *Parks and Recreation*

- *Season 4, Episode 16 – “Sweet Sixteen”*
- *Season 7, Episode 9 – “Pie Mary”*

**W 10-14 Gendered Media – Television Criticism in a Post-Feminist Environment**

**Zoom Discussion**

Quiz 11 must be completed by the beginning of our class period

**F 10-16 Gendered Media – Masculinity and the Media**

Read: Faludi (Moodle) *The Sun, The Moon, and the Stars*

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 13 – Faludi Outline

**M 10-19 Gendered Media—Masculinity and the Media**

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 14 – Men’s Movement – Four Branches

View: (Moodle) Harvey Mansfield: Women, Feminism, Anti-Conservatism (Begin clip at 3 minutes; watch through 5 minutes nine seconds.)

View: (Moodle) Sex and Fruit: The Sweet Life of Bonobos

View: (Moodle) Things You Probably Didn’t Know about Cute Bonobos

View: Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity (Start at beginning; view through 4 minutes and 26 seconds.)

View: Being a Man – Joe Ehrmann

View: Suing Women’s Spaces in the Name of Men’s Rights

View: On Being a Man: Robert Bly and Michael Meade (Start at 56 seconds; watch through 4:25.)

**W 10-21 Gendered Media – Masculinity and the Media**

Read: (Moodle) Cultivating Conceptions of Masculinity: Television Perceptions of Masculine Gender Role Norms.

**F 10-23 Gendered Media – Masculinity and the Media**

Read: (Moodle) *Having it Both Ways: Two and A Half Men, Entourage, and Televising Post-Feminist Masculinity.*

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 15 – Men’s Movements and Post-Feminist Masculinity

**M 10-26 Gendered Media – Masculinity and Media**

View: (Amazon Prime) *Two and a Half Men*

- *Season 1, Episode 1, “Pilot”*
- *Season 3, episode 3, “Carpet Burns and a Bite Mark”*

**W 10-28 Gendered Media – Masculinity and the Media**

**Zoom Discussion**

Quizzes 12, 13, and 14 must be completed by the beginning of our class period

**F 10-30 Representations of the GLBTO community in the Media**

View: (Moodle) *Off the Straight and Narrow*



**M 11-2 Representations of the LGBTQ community in the Media**

*View (Moodle) Further Off the Straight and Narrow*

**W 11-4 Representations of the LGBTQ community in the Media**

Read (Moodle) Seeing “Straight” through *Queer Eye*: Exposing the Strategic Rhetoric of Heteronormativity in a Mediated Ritual of Gay Rebellion

Read: (Moodle) Lecture 16 – Queer Eye and Off the Straight and Narrow Lecture

**F 11-6 Representations of the LGBTQ community in the Media**

*View (Netflix) Queer Eye*

- *Season 2, episode 1 “God Bless Gay”*

**M 11-9 Representations of the LGBTQ community in the Media**

**Zoom Discussion**

**Quiz 15 must be completed by the beginning of our class period.**

**W 11-11 Veteran’s Day – No Class**

**F 11-13 Study Day – No Class**

**M 11-16 Study Day**

**Zoom Discussion**

**W 11-18 NCA Convention – No Class**

**Final Exam: Monday, November 23, 8:00 am**

*The exam must be completed by 10:00 am unless you have made other arrangements with Professor Hayden.*

**Final Notes:**

Incompletes will be given only in emergencies and only with my prior consent. If you foresee having difficulty finishing the course, come speak with me immediately.

The 45<sup>th</sup> instructional day is the last day to drop classes or change your grading option.

After that date, you may drop this class only if you meet the criteria set out by the

University – see your university catalog or come speak with me.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students

(DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult

<<http://www.umt.edu/disability>>