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COMX 380.01: Gender and Communication

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Communication Studies 380
Gender and Communication
Fall 2013
MWF 10:10 – 11:00
FOR 305

Professor: Sara Hayden, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: MWF 1:10 – 2:00 and by appointment

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 and conversely, how does interpersonal communication affect gender? What causes the gendered patterns of communication to develop? What are some of the implications of gendered patterns of communication? How does communication intersect with gendered violence? 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 do media represent gender and sexual orientation? How have feminisms and men's movements affected representations of women and men in television and other media outlets?

Readings:

Wood, J. T. (2013). Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture (10th ed.). Boston: Wadsworth.

Articles available on Moodle

Please Note:

This course is registered with the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Students taking this course may count it toward a Women's Studies Emphasis within the Liberal Studies Major or toward a Minor in Women's and Gender 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 and Gender Studies Program, please drop by our office (LA 138A), visit our website www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog or give us a call (243-4100).

Attendance:

Although there is no specific attendance policy in this course, class discussions play an important role in your learning and take place frequently. Part of your grade is based on participation. If you foresee having difficulty attending class, please come speak with me as soon as possible.

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:

1)	Exam #1	100 points
2)	Exam #2	100 points
3)	Quizzes/Participation Questions	200 points
	Total	400 points

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.

Quizzes/Participation Questions:

Over the course of the semester you will be asked to complete at least 12 quizzes or participation questions. Each quiz/question will be worth twenty points and your ten best quiz/question scores will be counted toward your final grade. Quizzes/questions may be given anytime during the class period. If you are absent the day of a quiz/question or if you arrive to class after or who leave before the quiz/question has been administered, you will not be allowed to make up the quiz/question. The purpose of the quizzes/questions is to test whether you have done your assigned readings and/or whether you are paying attention during the lectures and discussions. They are not meant to be difficult. Quizzes/questions will be spread out evenly over the semester however I will not announce when they are to be given.

Schedule

M 8-26	Introduction to the course.
W 8-28	Introductions Read Wood (Text), Introduction
F 8-30	Introductions
M 9-2	<i>Labor Day Holiday – no class</i>
W 9-4	The Study of Communication, Gender and Culture Read Wood (Text), Chapter 1
F 9-6	Theories of Gender Read Wood (Text), Chapter 2, pp. 39-46 Read Begley (Moodle), “Why Do We Rape, Kill, and Sleep Around?” Read Brooks (Moodle), “Human Nature Today”
M 9-9	Theories of Gender Read Wood (Text), Chapter 2, pp. 47-67
W 9-11	Theories of Gender
F 9-13	Becoming Gendered Read Wood (Text), Chapter 7
M 9-16	Becoming Gendered Read Padawer (Moodle), “What’s So Bad about a Boy Who Wants to Wear a Dress?”
W 9-18	Becoming Gendered Read Orenstein, (Moodle), “Does Stripping Gender from Toys Really Make Sense?”
F 9-20	Becoming Gendered Read Parker-Pope (Moodle), “Now, Dad Feels as Stressed as Mom”
M 9-23	Becoming Gendered Field Trip
W 9-25	Becoming Gendered -- Wrap Up
F 9-27	Gendered Interaction -- Verbal Communication Read Wood (Text), Chapter 5 Read Dowd (Moodle), “Dressed to Distract”

- M 9-30 Gendered Interaction
Read Belkin (Moodle), “The Feminine Critique”
- W 10-2 Gendered Interaction
- F 10-4 Gendered Interaction -- Nonverbal Communication
Read Wood (Text) Chapter 6
- M 10-7 Gendered Interaction -- Nonverbal Communication
- W 10-9 Study Day
- F 10-11 Exam One
- M 10-14 Gendered Media
Read Wood (Text) Chapter 11
- W 10-16 Gendered Media – Television Criticism and (White) Second Wave
Feminism
Read Dow (Moodle), “Introduction: The Rhetoric of Television, Criticism,
and Theory”
- F 10-18 Television Criticism and (White) Second Wave Feminism
Read Friedan (Moodle), “The Problem that Has No Name”
- M 10-21 Television Criticism and (White) Second Wave Feminism
- W 10-23 Television Criticism and (White) Second Wave Feminism
Read Dow (Moodle), “1970s Lifestyle Feminism, the Single Woman, and
The Mary Tyler Moore Show”
- F 10-25 Television Criticism and (White) Second Wave Feminism
- M 10-28 Men’s Movements and the Media
Read Faludi (Moodle), “The Son, the Moon, and the Stars: The Promise of
Postwar Manhood”
- W 10-30 Men’s Movements and the Media
Read Connell (Moodle), “Hegemonic Masculinity and Emphasized
Femininity
Read Hanke (Moodle), “The Mock-Macho Situation Comedy: Hegemonic
Masculinity and its Reiteration”
- F 11-1 Men’s Movements and the Media
- M 11-4 Men’s Movements and the Media

- W 11-6 Gendered Violence and Power
Read Wood (Text) Chapter 12
Read Taylor (Moodle) Sex on Campus: She Can Play That Game, Too
- F 11-8 Gendered Violence and Power
- M 11-11 *Veterans Day – no class*
- W 11-13 Media Representations of Homosexuality
Read Dow (Moodle), “Ellen, Television, and the Politics of Gay Visibility”
- F 11-15 Media Representations of Homosexuality
Read Battles and Hilton-Morrow (Moodle), “Gay Characters in Conventional Spaces: *Will and Grace* and the Situation Comedy Genre”
- M 11-18 Media Representations of Homosexuality
- W 11-20 *National Communication Association convention – no class*
- F 11-22 *National Communication Association convention– no class*
- M 11-25 What You’re Watching
- W 11-27 *Thanksgiving Holiday -- no class*
- F 11-29 *Thanksgiving Holiday -- no class*
- M 12-2 What You’re Watching
- W 12-4 What You’re Watching
- F 12-6 Study Day
- Final Exam: Friday, December 13, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Please Note:

The last day to drop classes or change your grading option without petitioning is October 29, 2013. After this date, following university regulations, you must provide written evidence of illness, family emergency, or change in employment in order to drop the class.

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.

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>>.