

Spring 2-1-2018

COMX 380.01M: Gender and Communication

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Communication Studies 380
Gender and Communication
Spring 2018
T, Th 11:00-12:20
LA 106

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Phone: (406) 243-4333
Office Hours: 1:00-1:50 Tuesdays and Thursdays 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? 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. (2016). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture* (12th ed.). Boston: Wadsworth – **available via MindTap. Course Key:**MTPNGTQPHSDQ; see Moodle for instructions.

Articles available via 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 **Studies Program**, **please drop by our office (LA 138A), visit our website www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog or give us a call (243-4100).**

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/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. Exam dates are March 6 and May 10.

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 will be given anytime during the class period. Students who arrive to class after or who leave before the quiz/question has been administered 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

- T 1-23 Introduction to the Course
- Th 1-25 The Study of Communication, Gender, and Culture
Read: Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter One
- T 1-30 Theories of Gender
Read Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter Two, pp. 35-41
Read Begley (Moodle) Can We Blame Our Bad Behavior on Stone-Age Genes?
Read Brooks (Moodle) Human Nature Today
- Th 2-1 Theories of Gender
Read Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter Two, pp. 41-46
Read Assari, (Moodle) If Men Are Favored in Our Society, Why Do they Die Younger Than Women?
- T 2-6 Becoming Gendered
Read Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter Seven
- Th 2-8 Becoming Gendered
Read Padawer (Moodle) What's So Bad about a Boy Who Wants to Wear a Dress?
Read Hartocollis (Moodle) The New Girl in School: Transgender Surgery at 18
Read Davis (Moodle) My Daughter is not Transgender. She's a Tomboy.
- T 2-13 Becoming Gendered
Read Orenstein (Moodle) Should the World of Toys Be Gender Free?
Read (Moodle) Men Do More at Home, but Not as Much as They Think
- Th 2-15 Becoming Gendered
- T 2-20 Gendered Interaction – Verbal Communication
Read Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter Five
Read Chira (Moodle) The Universal Phenomenon of Men Interrupting Women
- Th 2-22 Gendered Interaction
Read Belkin (Moodle) The Feminine Critique
Read Sandberg and Grant (Moodle) Speaking While Female

- T 2-27 Gendered Interaction—Nonverbal Communication
Read Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter Six
Read (Moodle) Hess, “Those Lips! Those Eyes! That Stubble! The Transformative Power of Men in Makeup
- Th 3-1 Gendered Interaction—Nonverbal Communication
- T 3-6 Study Day
- Th 3-8 **Exam One**
- T 3-13 Gendered Media
Read Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz (text) Chapter Eleven
Read Shanahan and Morgan (Moodle) How TV Cultivates Authoritarianism—and Helped Elect Trump
- Th 3-15 Gendered Media – Television Criticism
Read Dow (Moodle) Introduction: The Rhetoric of Television, Criticism, and Theory
- T 3-20 Gendered Media – Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism
Read Friedan (Moodle) The Problem with No Name
- Th 3-22 Gendered Media –Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism
Read Dow (Moodle) 1970s Lifestyle Feminism, the Single Woman, and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*
- T 3-27 Spring Break!
- Th 3-29 Spring Break!
- F 3-24 Spring Break!
- T 4-3 Gendered Media—Men’s Movements
Read Faludi (Moodle) The Son, the Moon, and the Stars: The Promise of Postwar Manhood
- Th 4-5 Gendered Media—Men’s Movements
Read Connell (Moodle) Hegemonic Masculinity and Emphasized Femininity
Read Hanke (Moodle) The Mock-Macho Situation Comedy: Hegemonic Masculinity and its Reiteration

- T 4-10 Men's Movements and the Media
- Th 4-12 Representations of Homosexuality in the Media
Read Dow (Moodle) *Ellen*, Television, and the Politics of Gay Visibility
- T 4-17 Representations of Homosexuality in the Media
Read Battles and Hilton-Morrow (Moodle) Gay Characters in
Conventional Spaces: *Will and Grace* and the Situation Comedy Genre
- Th 4-19 What You're Watching
- T 4-24 What You're Watching
- Th 4-26 What You're Watching
- T 5-1 What You're Watching
- Th 5-3 Study Day

Final Exam: Thursday, May 10, 8:00 – 10:00 am

Final Notes:

The last day to drop classes or change your grading option without petitioning is March 27, 2016. After this date, per 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>>.