

COMS 3334: Gender & Communication
Spring 2019
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Textbook and Required Materials

Fixmer-Oraiz, N., & Wood, J. T. (2019). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender and culture* (13th. ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Press. ISBN-10: 1337555883
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COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Description: Gender and communication focuses on the interactive relationships between gender and communication in contemporary society. During the course, we explore the multiple ways communication in our society creates and perpetuates gender roles; we consider how individuals enact socially created gender differences in public and private settings and how this affects success, satisfaction, and self-esteem; and we connect gender theory and research to our professional and personal experiences. Throughout the course, we discuss not only what is in terms of gender roles, but also what might be and how we might act to improve our individual and collective lives.

Course Objectives:

- a) To develop your curiosity about the ways men and women communicate
- b) To introduce you to a variety of theories that attempt to explain the influence and impact of gender and communication in an array of settings including education, the media, personal relationships, and the workplace

- c) To give you the opportunity to test theory, and apply key principles to your own life
- d) To help you make connections among communication, gender, and culture
- e) To examine the wealth of research conducted on the relationship between gender and communication

National Communication Association Learning Outcomes in Communication (LOCs):

LOC #8: Utilize communication to embrace difference

- Articulate the connection between communication and culture
- Recognize individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Appreciate individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Respect diverse perspectives and the ways they influence communication
- Articulate one's own cultural standpoint and how it affects communication and world view
- Demonstrate the ability to be culturally self-aware
- Adapt one's communication in diverse cultural contexts

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Six Gender Research Reports & Presentations (30%).** For 11 weeks, you will need to come to class prepared to discuss a gender research report that relates to the week's course content. We will discuss the research reports during class and I will collect them after every class. You are to submit written reports on 6 of the studies you used for a grade. You will need to select scholarly/popular articles on each topic. Choices may be found using library resources, the bibliography, or sources cited at the end of each chapter in your text.
- 2. Group Research Project & Presentation (30%).** Conduct a research replication study. The project must be conducted in assigned groups and will consist of all phases of conducting a research replication. A replication study is a study that repeats in essential details the methods and/or hypotheses of a previous investigation but may include some modifications of additions to the questions, sample, and methods employed. The project will result in data collection and interpretation, a formal research paper, and a presentation of your study. All assignments must be typed. Final paper must conform to the current edition of APA (American Psychological Association) 5th. Edition style manual. Errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar will affect the grade on all assignments. Presentation dates will be assigned randomly.
- 3. Midterm Group Project (15%).** In addition to the readings in class, you will be expected to read a book related to gender studies and examine how the content of that book relates to discussions and content within the class.

4. Research activities (15%).

- a) Annotated Bibliography—4 research articles pertaining to your research topic (1-2 single spaced pages).
- b) Project Proposal—a 1-2 single spaced proposal for your project. Proposals must contain: a) general problem/issue; b) your interest in this issue; c) replication article identification and findings; d) critique of article methods and your method/extension plans; e) implications/application of article findings and your findings. You must turn in a copy of your chosen article and obtain formal approval from your instructor for your project.
- c) Human Subjects Review Form- <http://www.ors.ttu.edu/hsreq.htm> Group project critique-one page critique of research assigned by the instructor .
- d) Class Activities/Assignments.

5. Class Participation (10%). For ten specific class sessions, you are expected to bring in current articles, pictures, cartoons, clippings, or any other material relevant to our class. We will spend class time discussing what has been brought in. I will collect these items after class. This should encourage you to notice issues of gender and communication in a way you never noticed before. (Items brought to class for class participation credit is referred to as “gender item” in your course schedule). We will spend time each class discussing the materials that you brought, the reports, and the chapters. Participation is based on the value of your statements toward class content. In addition, participation is also based on your courtesy to listen effectively and pay attention to other peers in class.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week 1:

Class Introductions, Chapter 1

Week 2:

Chapter 1: The study of communication, gender, and culture
Chapter 2: Culture

Week 3:

Chapter 2: Theoretical Approaches to Gender
Development Chapter 3: The Rhetorical Sharing of Gender:
Women

Week 4:

Chapter 3: The Rhetorical Sharing of Gender: Women, Review
UNIT EXAM # 1 (Chapters 1-3)

Week 5:

Chapter 4: The Rhetorical Sharing of Gender: Men
Chapter 4: The Rhetorical Sharing of Gender: Men

Week 6:

Chapter 5: Gendered Verbal Communication
Chapter 5: Gendered Verbal Communication

Week 7:

Chapter 6: Gendered Nonverbal
Communication Chapter 6: Gendered
Nonverbal Communication

Week 8:

Chapter 6: Gendered Nonverbal Communication, Review
UNIT EXAM #2 (Chapters 4-6)

Week 9:

Chapter 7: Becoming Gendered
Chapter 7: Becoming Gendered

Week 10:

Chapter 8: Gendered
Education Chapter 8:
Gendered Education

Week 11:

Chapter 9: Gendered Close Relationships
Chapter 9: Gendered Close Relationships

Week 12:

UNIT EXAM #3 (Chapters 7-9)
Chapter 10: Gendered Organizational
Communication

Week 13:

Chapter 10: Gendered Organizational
Communication Chapter 11: Gendered Media

Week 14:

Chapter 12: Gendered Power and Violence

Group Presentations

Week 15:

Group

Presentations

Group

Presentations

Week 16:

Group Presentations

Week 17 (FINALS WEEK):

FINAL EXAM (COMPREHENSIVE & REQUIRED!)