

Communication Studies 380
Gender and Communication
Spring 2008
9:40 – 11:00 TR
LA 342

Professor: Sara Hayden, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: 2:10 – 3:00 Tuesday, Thursday, 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 the 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 do media represent gender, sexual orientation, and race? How have feminism's and men's movements affected representations of women and men in television and other media outlets?

Readings:

Wood, J. T. (2007). Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Facpac available at the UC Bookstore

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).

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 one week prior to exam dates. Exam dates are Friday March 9 and Monday, May 7.

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.

Please Note:

The last day to drop classes or change your grading option without petitioning is March 4. After that date, you must provide written evidence of illness, family emergency, or change in employment.

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.

Schedule

- T 1-22 Introduction to the course.
- Th 1-24 Introductions, continued.
Read Wood (Text), Introduction and Chapter 1
- T 1-29 Theories of Gender
Read Wood (Text), Chapter 2
- R 1-31 Theories of Gender, continued
Read Lippa (Packet), Causal Cascades and Causal Thickets
- T 2-5 Becoming Gendered
Read Westerville (Packet), “His Name is Aurora”
- R 2-7 Becoming Gendered
Read Wood (Text), Chapter 7
- M 2-12 Becoming Gendered, continued
- W 2-14 No Class – WSCA conference
- T 2-19 No Class – WSCA conference
- R 2-21 Gendered Interaction – Verbal Communication
Read Wood (Text), Chapters 5
- T 2-26 Gendered Interaction, continued
Read Wood (Packet) “A Critical Essay on John Gray’s Mars and Venus Portrayals of Men and Women”
Read Belkin (Packet) “The Feminine Critique”
- R 2-28 Gendered Interaction – Nonverbal Communication
Read Wood (Text), Chapter 6
- T 3-4 Gendered Interaction – Nonverbal Communication, continued
- R 3-6 Exam 1
- T 3-11 Gender and the Media
Read Wood (Text), Chapter 11
- R 3-13 Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism
Read Dow (Packet), “Introduction: The Rhetoric of Television, Criticism, and Theory”

- T 3-18 Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism
 Read Friedan (Packet), “The Problem that Has No Name”
 Read Dow (Packet), “1970s Lifestyle Feminism, the Single Woman, and
The Mary Tyler Moore Show”
- R 3-20 Television Criticism and Second Wave Feminism
- T 3-25 Spring Break!
- R 3-27 Spring Break!
- T 4-1 Men’s Movements and the Media
 Read Faludi (Packet), “The Son, the Moon, and the Stars: The Promise of
 Postwar Manhood”
- R 4-3 Men’s Movements and the Media, continued
- T 4-8 Men’s Movements and the Media, continued
 Read Connell (Packet), “Hegemonic Masculinity and Emphasized
 Femininity; Hanke (Packet), “The Mock-Macho Situation Comedy:
 Hegemonic Masculinity and its Reiteration”
- R 4-10 Men’s Movements and the Media
- T 4-15 Contemporary Issues: Media Representations of Homosexuality
 Read Dow (Packet), “*Ellen*, Television, and the Politics of Gay Visibility”
- R 4-17 Contemporary Issues: Media Representations of Homosexuality
 Read Battles and Hilton-Morrow (Packet), “Gay Characters in
 Conventional Spaces: *Will and Grace* and the Situation Comedy Genre”
- T 4-22 Contemporary Issues –Contemporary Issues: Attending to Race
 Read Brooks and Hérbert (Packet), “Gender, Race, and Media
 Representation”
- R 4-24 Contemporary Issues: Media Representations of Women
 Read Douglas and Michels (Packet), “The New Momism”
- T 4-29 Contemporary Issues: Media Representations of Men
 Read Malin (Packet) “American Masculinity Under Clinton”
- R 5-1 Contemporary Issues: Wrap Up
- Final Exam: Thursday, May 8, 10:10 am – 12:10 pm