SP16 COMM 3662: Communication and Gender
Mondays 10:20 am – 12:25 pm
Wednesdays 10:20 am – 11:15 am
Room 80 Derby Hall

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Rhodes
Email: rhodes.296@osu.edu
Office: Derby Hall 3045A
Office Hours: W 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, and by appointment
Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
We study gender communication from two perspectives: (1) communication about women and men, in terms of language and media depictions of the sexes, and how such language and depiction influence our understanding of biological sex as well as gender as a cultural construction; and (2) communication between men and women, or the more interpersonal/relationship-development aspect of the topic. The latter perspective examines gender communication in a variety of relationships, such as friendships, romantic partnerings, family life, relationships in educational settings, and workplace relationships. We explore some of the more prominent problematic issues that often arise in these relationships, in terms of how sex and gender contribute to the issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students will be able to
1. define and explain key terminology associated with the study of gender communication;
2. identify and explain basic theories, issues, and research trends in gender communication; and
3. illustrate their abilities to analyze and synthesize research findings on a topic in gender communication.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
This course is conducted as a seminar. As such, a critical portion of the learning occurs through the active discussion of the readings in class meetings. Therefore, attendance and participation in class are vitally important.
1. Attendance will be taken periodically and at unannounced intervals during the semester. Because it is acknowledged that occasionally circumstances arise that prevent attendance, 10% of points acquired through attendance will be dropped.
2. To engage students in actively learning and applying course concepts, there will be a variety of in-class activities. These activities may take many forms from reflective writing to group discussions of the material. Because these activities draw directly from the material discussed in class, they cannot be made up in the case of absence. Ten percent of the points accumulated through in-class activities will be dropped. That is, if a total of 55 points were available, only 50 points will count toward the grade.
3. Two exams will be held in class during the semester. Test format will be multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay. Exams will cover all reading material and class presentations/discussions since the prior exam.
4. Students will be assigned to groups based on interests expressed in the first week of class. Groups will become the “resident expert” in a particular area for the semester. Each group will be responsible for leading the class discussion over a set of readings. Dates for these class discussions will be determined in the first week of the semester. More information about the class discussion activity will be posted on Carmen.
5. Groups will also conduct a research project on their topic that will include a literature review of recent research in the area and the development of a research proposal to answer the next question in the stream of research. Each group will make a presentation of their research proposal to the class, and will submit a written research proposal.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:
1. Attendance and Participation: 100 points (10%)
2. Exams (2 @ 100 pts ea): 200 points
3. Leading Discussion: 100 points (20%)
4. Group Project: 100 points total comprised as follows
   Group Project Meeting with Instructor: 10 points
   Group Project Presentation: 40 points
   Written Report: 30 points
   Peer evaluation: 20 points (10 points audience evaluation of presentation, 10 points group ratings of group member contributions)

TOTAL POINTS: 500

GRADING SCALE:
Grades will be assigned using the following point system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥485</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥465</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥450</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥435</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥415</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥400</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥385</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥365</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥350</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥335</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥315</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥300</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;300</td>
<td>F</td>
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COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance is key to being successful in this course. Attendance is expected at all class sessions, and ACTIVE participation in class discussion and exercises is expected.

Course Content: Please complete the reading assignments by the assigned date. To effectively participate in discussions and complete assignments correctly, it is essential that you read the text and assigned readings.

Cell Phone and Laptops: Cell phones and pagers must be turned off. It is your responsibility to remember to turn these devices off before class begins. Laptops are to be turned off and put away during discussions.

Academic Misconduct: “It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term ‘academic misconduct’ includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).”
Disability Services: “Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/.”

Late Assignments: Assignments must be submitted as indicated below (see Written Assignments) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the assigned due date. Assignments may be accepted late via the drop box but will receive a grade penalty based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment submission date</th>
<th>Maximum grade (% of total possible points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day late</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 days late</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more days late</td>
<td>No credit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Written Assignments: In-class assignments may be handwritten, but all other work must be typed and must conform to APA formatting, citing, and referencing guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html).

All written assignments are to be turned in via the Carmen dropbox.

Writing Center: All students, especially those who have difficulty writing, are encouraged to visit the OSU Writing Center. Their web address is http://cstw.osu.edu/writingcenter and their phone number is 688-5865. Tutors are available at the Mendenhall Lab and in the Science and Engineering Library (third floor). Walk-in hours and scheduled appointments are available; please see the web page for more information.

Communication: I will post class updates, extra credit opportunities, and/or additional materials as announcements on Carmen and/or to your OSU email. Please check Carmen and read your email regularly (at least 2-3 times per week) because you are responsible for this information, just as you are responsible for information in class.

Please allow 24 hours for an email response from me on weekdays. I reserve the right to NOT check email on weekends, so understand that an email you send on a Friday may not receive a reply until Monday.
**Classroom Civility:** We want to build a classroom climate that is comfortable for everyone. In a communication class, it is especially important that we (1) display respect for all members of the classroom, including the instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students; (2) pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities; (3) avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., having private conversations, reading the newspaper, doing work for other classes, making/receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, etc.); and (4) avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom. This is not an exhaustive list of behaviors; rather, they represent the minimal standards that help make the classroom a productive learning environment for all concerned.

**Encountering Difficulties:** If there are unusual circumstances that are affecting your performance in this class, you should inform me of them as soon as possible. I can adjust time schedules, but I will not adjust my grading policies. If you are experiencing personal difficulties that are affecting your performance in your classes you may find it helpful to contact the Student Advocacy Center, 1120 Lincoln Tower, 614-292-1111, [http://advocacy.osu.edu](http://advocacy.osu.edu)

**Challenging a Grade:** I am always willing to discuss your grades with you, but I will not do so during class time. To challenge a grade, you must meet me during office hours or make an appointment within one week of the assignment being returned to you. When we meet, you must present your concerns in writing and attach the graded assignment. Please note that a challenge may result in grades being raised or lowered.
# Tentative Course Schedule

**NOTE:** Required Readings are listed on Carmen by topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Additional Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Introduction and Historical Context</td>
<td>Prologue</td>
<td>Viewing &quot;Iron Jawed Angels&quot; in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>No class: MLK day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Gendered Communication</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Gender Identity</td>
<td>Chapter 2 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 1: Jan 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Gender and the Media</td>
<td>Chapter 3 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 2: Feb 1, Discussion 3: Feb 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Gendered Language</td>
<td>Chapter 4 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 4: Feb 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Gender and Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 5 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 5: Feb 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22 &amp; 24</td>
<td>Review &amp; Discussion Test 1</td>
<td>Prologue, Ch, 1-5 plus readings</td>
<td>TEST 1: Feb 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 29 &amp; Mar 2</td>
<td>Gender Communication among Friends</td>
<td>Chapter 6 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 6: Feb 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Gender Communication in Romantic Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 7 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 7: Mar 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 14-18</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong> – No Class meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21 &amp; 23</td>
<td>Power abuses in relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Group Meetings with Instructor Mar 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Gender Communication in the Workplace</td>
<td>Chapter 9 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 8: Mar 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Gender Communication in Education Settings</td>
<td>Chapter 10 and posted readings</td>
<td>Discussion 9: Apr 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 11 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Review &amp; Discussion Test 2</td>
<td>Ch, 6-10 plus readings</td>
<td>TEST 2: APR 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 18 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Presentation workshops</td>
<td></td>
<td>Papers due Apr 20, 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Attendance required</td>
<td>Submit presentation to Carmen AND bring hard copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Presentations (Scheduled final exam period)</td>
<td>Attendance required</td>
<td>Submit presentation to Carmen AND bring hard copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
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Reading List

Gender Identity

Gender and the Media
TV

Video games
**Gendered Language**


**Gender and Relationships**


**Gender and Communication among Friends**


Schoonover, K., & McEwan, B. (2014). Are you really just friends? Predicting the audience
doi:10.1111/pere.12040

**Gender and Communication in Romantic Relationships**


**Gender and Communication in the Workplace**


**Gender and Communication in Education Settings**

Disclaimer: The information provided in this syllabus constitutes a list of basic class policies and the schedule as I currently envision it. I reserve the right to modify this information when deemed necessary for any reason. Any changes will be announced in class and posted to Carmen.