

**Communication 3662 Contemporary Perspectives of Communication and Gender**  
TR: 9:35-10:55 a.m. Journalism Room 216

**The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**

Professor: Felecia G. Jones Ross  
Office: 3110 Derby Hall  
Office hours: M, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; R, 1-3 p.m.  
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**Course Description:** This course is an examination of contemporary communication theory, method, and practice relevant to sex and gender issues. This class will go beyond raising awareness. Its objective is to prepare you to use this information to make productive differences as you pursue your professional aspirations and continue your personal lives. The course content will look at how gender and communications contribute to personal and societal issues.

**Course Goals**

By the end of this course, students will do the following:

- Understand the power of gendered communication both personally, professionally and in society as a whole
- Appreciate the ability to critique gendered communication
- Appreciate the ability to make necessary changes with respect to gendered communication to achieve positive outcomes

**Required Text**

Fixmer-Oraiz, N. and Wood, J.T. (2019). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, & culture* (13<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Cengage.

**Class Requirements**

**Participation (20%).** It is the desire of the professor for this class to be as interactive as possible. Your attendance, contributions to class discussions, and participation in in-class and online activities will be factors in determining the grade in this category. Attendance will be taken at the end of each class using Top Hat. We will

begin taking attendance the second week of the semester. In-class activities will be graded. Missed activities can result in a **0 grade**. The first assignment is for you to complete the onion which will be posted online. The deadline for submission is **Jan. 11, 11:59 p.m.**

**Midterm examinations (60%)**. There will be two midterm examinations on material covered in class and on the readings. Class material can include lectures, guest speaker and audiovisual presentations. **Midterm 1 is Feb. 19, Midterm 2 is April 2.**

**Group project (19%). Strategies for improving the media's depiction of gender.** This is a group assignment requiring you to describe, critique and offer suggestions for improving media representations of gender. A separate handout will be provided with more details. Groups will be configured based on responses to the onion assignment. A presentation to the class is part of this assignment.

**Group project proposal (1%).** Complete a worksheet describing the topic for your group project.

#### **EXTRA CREDIT**

There will be opportunities for you to complete work for extra credit. You may earn up to four points of extra credit that will be added to your examination scores. The extra credit can come from C-REP participation and/or from events/activities the professor will announce in advance. For non-C-REP activities, the professor will provide the requirements for earning the points.

#### **Out-of-Class Communication**

The professor welcomes and encourages one-on-one communication with the students. In addition to office hours, students are encouraged to communicate using email. Email and **Carmen** will also be used for class announcements. **Carmen** will be used to supplement class information and activities. The professor will inform you via email of unplanned class cancellations.

#### **Safe & Healthy**

Keeping students healthy and preventing the spread of illness is important to The Ohio State University. Students are encouraged not to attend class if they are sick and must contact Dr. Ross *BEFORE class* to receive any materials and turn in assignments via the drop box or e-mail. If your illness is too severe to make contact *BEFORE class*, then notify Dr. Ross within a reasonable time period (seven days) and provide appropriate documentation.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT)**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all

students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html](http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html))
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity*  
([oaa.osu.edu/coam/ten-suggestions.html](http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/ten-suggestions.html))
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity*  
([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html))

**The grading scale follows the Carmen default:** 93 or higher, A; 90-92, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+; 73-76, C; 70-72, C-; 67-69; 60-66, D; below 60, E.

### **Tentative schedule of class activities**

<b>Week One</b> Jan 8-10	<b>Opening the conversation, introductions and assignments</b> Introduction chapter
<b>Week Two</b> Jan. 15-17	<b>Why Study Gender and Gender Development?</b> Chapters 1-2
<b>Week Three</b> Jan. 22-24	<b>Theoretical Approaches and Rhetorical Shaping of Gender</b> Chapters 2-3
<b>Week Four</b> Jan. 29-31	<b>Rhetorical Shaping of Gender (cont'd.)</b> Chapters 3-4

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<b>Week Five</b> Feb. 5-7	<b>Gendered Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication</b> Chapters 5-6  <i>Video: He Said, She Said: Gender, Language and Communication</i>
<b>Week Six</b> Feb. 12-14	<b>Gendered Communication and Gendered Communication in Practice</b> Chapters 6-7 <b>Review for Midterm 1</b>
<b>Week Seven</b> Feb. 19-21	<b>Gendered Communication in Practice (cont'd.)</b> Chapter 8 <b>Midterm 1 is Feb. 19</b>
<b>Week Eight</b> Feb. 26-28	<b>Gendered Close Relationships and Organizational Communication</b> Chapters 9-10 Explanation of Final Project
<b>Week Nine</b> March 5-7	<b>Gendered Media</b> Chapter 11 Video and Discussion: <i>Generation M: Misogyny in Media and Culture</i>
<b>Week 10</b> March 12-14	<b>SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES</b>
<b>Week 11</b> March 19-21	<b>Gendered Power and Violence</b> Chapter 12  <b>Final project topics are due 11:59 p.m., March 21</b>
<b>Week 12</b> March 26-28	<b>Making a Difference</b> Review for Midterm 2 Readings to be announced Video and Discussion: <i>The Bystander Moment: Transforming Rape Culture</i> <i>At Its Roots</i>
<b>Week 13</b> April 2-4	Work on group project <b>Midterm 2 is April 2</b>
<b>Week 14</b> April 9-11	Work on group project <b>Group Presentations begin April 11</b>

Week 15  
April 16-18

**Continue Group Presentations**

**Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)**

**School of Communication Statement of Inclusion**

**The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.**