



# SYLLABUS

## COMM 3662

Contemporary Perspectives of Communication and Gender

Autumn 2023

3 credit hours

Hybrid (Carmen & Page Hall, Room 060)

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Instructor

- Name: **Dr. Felecia Jones Ross**
- Email address: **ross.256@osu.edu**
- Phone number: **(614) 292-3798, office; (614) 530-1043, mobile**
- Office hours: **Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m.; Wednesdays, noon-2 p.m. via Zoom**
  - Office hours Zoom link: 520 741 1812 Passcode: 440837

#### Course Zoom Link: TBA

Note: My preferred method of communication for questions is email. Class-wide communications will be sent through Announcements in CarmenCanvas. *Please check your notification preferences ([go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications)) to be sure you receive these messages.*

#### 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.

This class will be presented in a hybrid format in which we will meet in-person twice a week yet conduct other activities using Carmen as a platform to review and submit assignments and take examinations. All announcements pertaining to class policies,

changes and any other relevant business will be placed on Carmen. While the structure of this course requires students to work independently, every effort will be made to address the learning needs of each individual student.

Please note that course activities listed in this syllabus are tentative. You will be informed in a timely manner of any changes.

## Course expected learning goals and outcomes

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

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

## Encouraging an optimal learning experience

Previous hybrid courses have provided insights from students on how to improve the learning experience and optimize outcomes. Here are a few tips from previous students to encourage your success in this hybrid course:

- Students kept up with the schedule and assignment due dates.
- Students made sure they had access to a reliable internet connection.
- Students had access to at least one reliable device and a backup plan in case of a technological issue.
- Students have made plans to back up work. OSU provides free access to data storage through [One Drive](#).
- Students reported that completing assigned readings before viewing lectures (or attending lectures) helped them to be prepared to follow along with lectures and participate in discussions.
- Students scheduled time to complete activities at a steady pace during the week. Keeping a schedule prevented a last-minute rush and kept the workload manageable.
- Students approached the material by thinking about the connections between readings, lectures, and assignments.
- Students followed the instructor's preference for camera and microphone settings during online synchronous meetings. These meetings will occur beginning with the **Nov. 21 class**.

## HOW THIS HYBRID COURSE WORKS

### Mode of delivery

This course is hybrid. We will meet in-person twice a week on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:45 to 2:05 p.m. in Page Hall Room 060**. The remainder of your work will take place in Carmen throughout the week. Class sessions will be virtual beginning with the **Nov. 21 class**. There may be virtual sessions prior to Nov. 21. Such sessions will be announced in a timely fashion.

### Credit hours and work expectations

This is a [3] credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State bylaws on instruction](https://go.osu.edu/credithours) (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around [3] hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to [6] hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of [C] average.

### Attendance, participation, and discussion requirements

Attendance, as well as your contributions to class discussions will be factors in determining your participation grade, which will account for twenty percent (20%) of your final grade. There may also be in-class group activities. Attendance will be taken via Top Hat beginning with the **Sept. 5** class.

The introduction assignment asks you to introduce yourself by posting on the discussion board either a video or statement using prompts to guide you. Consider this a fun, low stakes assignment. This assignment is one of many opportunities to build community and create more interactivity. The deadline is **Saturday, Aug. 26, 11:59 p.m. EDT**. This deadline will be flexible to allow for late enrollments.

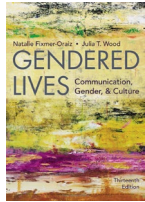
The syllabus quiz is designed for you to know and understand the policies, expectations, and activities of this class. It is in the participation category and is graded. You may take it as often as necessary to achieve the desired score. This quiz must be completed by **Friday, Aug. 25, 11:59 p.m. EDT**.

# COURSE MATERIALS TECHNOLOGIES

## Recommended Text

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

Note: You may use an e-version of the textbook if available. The ISBN is 9780357694572



## Audiovisual tools

All videos will be accessible on Carmen. You might also access them through the OSU Library's Kanopy service. Some videos may be presented during in-person classes.

## Course technology

### Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at [ocio.osu.edu/help/hours](https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours), and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [ocio.osu.edu/help](https://ocio.osu.edu/help)
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

### Technology skills needed for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen ([go.osu.edu/canvasstudent](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent))
- CarmenZoom virtual meetings ([go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings))
- Recording a slide presentation with audio narration ([go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide](https://go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide))
- Recording, editing, and uploading video ([go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide](https://go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide))

### Required equipment

- Computer: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection

- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

## Required software

Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found [at go.osu.edu/office365help](http://go.osu.edu/office365help).

## Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass ([buckeyepass.osu.edu](http://buckeyepass.osu.edu)) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions ([go.osu.edu/add-device](http://go.osu.edu/add-device)).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application ([go.osu.edu/install-duo](http://go.osu.edu/install-duo)) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

Note: If none of these options meet the needs of your situation, you can **contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP)** and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

# GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE

## How your grade is calculated

Following are the point values and/or percentages for each assignment:

Assignments	Points and/or Percentage
Participation and attendance	20
Online assignments	15
Midterm examinations	40
Group project	25

## Description of major assignments

### Participation and attendance (20%)

Attendance, as well as your contributions to class discussions will be factors in determining your participation grade. Your onion assignment and the syllabus quiz are in this category. Because of the small class size there will be many in-class activities to build community and enhance interactivity.

### Midterm examinations (40%)

The midterm examinations will be based on reading materials and in-class and online content that can include audiovisual presentations, guest speakers, lectures, and class discussions. There will be two midterm examinations each of equal weight. The first midterm is tentatively scheduled for **Oct. 5** and the second midterm is tentatively scheduled for **Nov. 16**. Both examinations will be taken online using Proctorio. As in an in-person format, you will be given 80 minutes to complete it. Because you will be taking it at different locations that may have various technological issues, the exam will open at 12:01 a.m. and close at 11:59 p.m. Class will not meet on examination days.

### Online assignments (15%)

These assignments will be located in Carmen modules corresponding to the topics located in the syllabus as well as presented in class. These assignments will largely be questions and/or discussions on the readings and the audiovisual presentations. These assignments also include graded discussion posts seeking your thoughtful comments on topics (including current events) relevant to the class. These posts usually require you to respond to another classmate's post. Rubrics will be provided. The discussion posts are due on Saturdays.

### Making a Difference Group Project (25%)

This is a group assignment requiring you to describe, critique and offer suggestions for improving media representations of gender. More details will be provided later in the semester. Groups will be configured based on responses to the onion assignment. A presentation to the class is part of this assignment.

### Late assignments

No assignments will be accepted late. This means a grade of zero for the missed assignment. Considerations will be given in instances when there are technical issues and illnesses. You must inform the professor within seven days if such problems kept you from completing assignments on time. The deadlines for the introductions and expectation assignments will be more flexible to allow for later enrollees.

## Grading scale

93–100: A; 90–92.9: A- ;87–89.9: B+;83–86.9: B;80–82.9: B-; 77–79.9: C+; 73–76.9: C; 70 –72.9: C-; 67 –69.9: D+; 60 –66.9: D; Below 60: E

Note: CarmenCanvas, Ohio State's learning management system, does not round

fractions up. I do round fractions up in cases where students show significant participation and improvement over the semester. Please take that into account in computing grades.

## Extra credit

There will be opportunities for you to complete work for extra credit. You may earn up to 4 points of extra credit that will be added to your examination scores. The extra credit can come from events/activities the professor will announce in advance. You are also encouraged to suggest ideas for extra credit. These ideas will be considered based on their relevancy to course goals and their accessibility to the whole class.

## Instructor feedback and response times

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

### Grading and feedback

For large weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **7-10 days**.

### E-mail

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days**.

### Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **24 hours on school days**.

## OTHER COURSE POLICIES

### Academic integrity policy

#### Policies for this course

- Written assignments: Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow American Psychological Association style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- Reusing past work: In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- Falsifying research or results: All research you will conduct in this course is

intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.

## **University-wide academic misconduct policy**

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://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>

Note: Because this class will have some collaboration and require reference to information sources such as readings and videos, each assignment will clearly describe the extent to which you can collaborate and make such references.

## **Student Academic Services**

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services’ website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>

## **Student Services**

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition and fee payments. Please see their site at: <http://ssc.osu.edu>

## **Copyright Disclaimer**

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

## **Diversity, Equity, and 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.



## Title IX

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 Interim Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Molly Peirano, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)

## Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614--292--5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766.

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24-hour emergency help is also available through the Suicide Prevention Hotline (Columbus: 614-221-5445)

## Illness Policy

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. 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. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, please let me know immediately. Those testing positive for COVID-19 should refer to the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site](#) for resources. Beyond five days of the required COVID-19 isolation period, I may rely on Student Life Disability Services to establish further reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; or [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu).

## Instructor illness or absence

If the *instructor* is too ill to teach the course for a period of time, the designated backup for this course will step in. You will be notified via email from the School of Communication.

### Recording of class sessions

Class lectures will not be recorded or posted. Students are responsible for getting information by taking notes during class sessions. Please inform the professor if you have any special needs concerning your ability to access the information provided in class.

## Other related resources

- Food Security: (<https://www.buckeyefoodalliance.org/>, 614-688-2508). The Ohio State University is committed to ensuring that all students have access to adequate and healthy food. Any undergraduate or graduate student with a BuckID may confidentially use the Buckeye Food Alliance food pantries. No proof of need is required. The pantry is located in Lincoln Tower, Suite 150 (1800 Cannon Dr., Columbus, OH 43210). Check the website or call for current hours.
- COVID-19 emergency financial assistance: (<https://sfa.osu.edu/contact-us/consumer-disclosure/COVID-19-aid>) Ohio State has emergency grants available to aid students who are facing unexpected financial challenges related to the pandemic. Students may use the funds toward any component of the cost of attendance, or for emergency costs that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic such as food, housing, tuition, health care (including mental health care) or child care. Please visit the website for more information.

## Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

### Requesting accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related

accommodations may do so through the university's [request process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services. 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.

To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. 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; [slds.osu.edu](https://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Week and Class Dates	Week Overview	Assignments
<b>1</b>  <b>8/22-8/26</b>	<b>Opening the Conversation</b>  Course overview, introductions Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapter, Introduction	Syllabus quiz (due Friday, 8/25, 11:59 p.m. EDT)  Discussion Post unpeeling the onion (due Saturday, 8/26, 11:59 p.m. EDT)  Note that the deadlines for the assignments this week are flexible.
<b>2</b>  <b>8/29-9/2</b>	<b>Why Study Gender and Gender Development?</b>  Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapters 1-2	Online Assignment: Theories of Gender (due Friday, Sept.1, 11:59 p.m. EDT)  Discussion Post: Listen to podcast, "Can Barbie Be Rebranded as a Feminist Icon?" (due, Saturday, 9/2)
<b>3</b>  <b>9/5-9/9</b>	<b>Theoretical Approaches and Rhetorical Shaping of Gender (Women)</b>  Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapters 2-3 Begin taking attendance using Top Hat	Online Assignment: Read and answer questions on article, "Boy Problems" (due, Friday, Sept. 8, 11:59 p.m. EDT)  Discussion Post: Misogyny and Free Speech (due Saturday, Sept. 9, 11:59 p.m. EDT)
<b>4</b>  <b>9/12-9/16</b>	<b>Rhetorical Shaping of Gender (Men)</b> Fixmer-Oraiz, and Wood, Chapters 3-4	Online Assignment: View <i>He Said, She Said: Gender, Language and Communication</i> and answer questions (due, Friday, 9/15)  Discussion Post on video (due, Saturday, 9/16)

<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>9/19-9/23</b></p>	<p><b>Gendered Verbal and Non Verbal Communication</b></p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapters 5-6</p>	<p>Online assignment: Read and answer questions "Seeing the Unseen: Attention to daily encounters with sexism as way to reduce sexist beliefs (due, Friday, Sept. 22, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p> <p>Discussion Post on article (due, Saturday, Sept. 23, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>9/26-9/30</b></p>	<p><b>Gendered Non-Verbal Communication and Becoming Gendered</b></p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapters 6-7</p> <p><b>NO CLASS THURSDAY, SEPT. 28</b></p>	<p>Discussion Post: #StillABoy (due Saturday, Sept. 30, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p> <p>Prepare for Midterm 1</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>10/3-10/7</b></p>	<p>Becoming Gendered (cont'd).</p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapter 7</p> <p>Midterm 1 Review</p> <p>Midterm 1 is Thursday, Oct. 5</p>	<p>Online Assignment: Name that (Wo)man. Follow the directions (due Friday, Oct. 6, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p> <p>Discussion Post: Based on online assignments (due, Saturday, Oct. 7, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p>

<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>10/10-10/14</b></p>	<p><b>Gendered Education</b></p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapter 8</p> <p><b>Autumn Break, Oct. 12-13; no class</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, Oct. 12</b></p>	<p>Discussion Post: Solo Weddings (due, Saturday, Oct. 14, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>10/17-10/21</b></p>	<p><b>Close Relationships and Organizational Communication</b></p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapters 9-10</p>	<p>Online Assignment: View <i>Generation M: Misogyny in Media and Culture</i> and answer questions (due, Friday, Oct. 20, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p> <p>Discussion Post on Video (due, Saturday, Oct. 21, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>10/24--10/28</b></p>	<p><b>Gendered Media</b></p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapter 11</p> <p>Explanation of Group Project</p>	<p>Online Assignment: View <i>The Bystander Moment: Transforming Rape Culture At Its Roots</i> and answer questions (due Friday, Oct. 27, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p> <p>Discussion Post on Video (due, Saturday, Oct. 28, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>10/31-11/4</b></p>	<p>Gender Power and Violence</p> <p>Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapter 12</p> <p>Work on Group Project</p>	<p>Online Assignment: Based on Right To Be (due Friday, Nov. 3, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p> <p>Discussion Post: Based on Right To Be (due Saturday, Nov. 4, 11:59 p.m. EDT)</p>

<b>12</b> <b>11/7-11/11</b>	Gender Power and Violence (cont'd) Fixmer-Oraiz and Wood, Chapter 12	Prepare for Midterm 2 Work on Project
<b>13</b> <b>11/14-11/18</b>	Making a Difference Review for Midterm 2 Work on Group Project Midterm 2 is Thursday, Nov. 16 Work on Group Project	Submit Progress Report on Project
<b>14</b> <b>11/21-11/25</b> <b>Virtual Instruction</b>	Finalize presentation preparations Thanksgiving Holiday Thursday, no class	Continue preparing for presentations
<b>15</b> <b>11/28-12/2</b>	Begin Group Presentations	Continue preparing for presentations
<b>16</b> <b>12/5-9</b>	Complete Group Presentations	Submit Reflection Paper (due, Wednesday, 12/6, 11:59 p.m. EST)