

Gender & Communication  
Fall 2001

Comm 35912:18906-002

Monday 6:15 – 8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Rozell Duncan

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Office: MSP D302A

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 1:30 – 3:00 and 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

Mon 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and by Appointment

Required Texts: Due to the nature of this course, two texts and a packet of supplemental readings are **required.**

Pearson, J.C., West, R.L., & Turner, L.H. (1995). Gender & communication. (3rd Ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Ivy, D.K. & Backlund, P. (2000). Exploring genderspeak: Personal effectiveness in gender communication. (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Supplemental Readings: A packet of required supplemental readings are available in the Main Office of the School of Communication Studies, MSP D202. This packet **MUST** be purchased by September 7, 2001. The cost is \$10.00 (CASH ONLY).

Course Description: In this course, you will study gender communication, to help you gain an appreciation for and a better understanding of how the genders process information, how their perceptions are alike and how they differ, how nonverbal communication affects understanding and how context affects communication perceptions and behaviors between the sexes. A study of the perpetuation of gender roles and gender identification will help you improve your understanding of intimate relationships, school settings, organizations, the media and society in general. A study of several societal ills such as sexual discrimination and harassment, spousal abuse, and marital problems will improve your understanding of communication within and between the sexes.

Purpose of the Course: This course is intended to improve understanding of the similarities and differences in communication behaviors between the sexes.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, you should have acquired the knowledge, attitudes and skills to:

- Develop an understanding, informed by contemporary communication theory and research, of the similarities and differences in communication between the sexes;
- Examine the ways in which communication creates and perpetuates gender roles and gender identities in various contexts such as the family, school, organizations, the media, and society in general;
- Explore some of the specific communication issues involved in safe sex, interpersonal violence, male/female bashing, and sexual harassment;
- Identify the major changes in communication about gender and sex over the past several decades and to construct scenarios for the future.

**Course Requirements**

Group Project and Presentation: You will work in a small group and prepare a presentation on a topic related to gender, sex, and communication. Your group may choose, for example, to study the influence of gender and biological sex on verbal aggressiveness in interpersonal communication, or the communication factors involved in male/female mentoring in organizations. Other topics will be discussed in class. Your group's presentation should be designed to be instructional, informing your classmates of an important gender issue. You are encouraged to be creative, using role-plays, audience participation, visual aids, or other ideas to capture interest and get your point across. Further discussion and clarification of this project will be provided. (100 points – 75 pts. written/25 pts. oral)

Concept Papers: You will write five (5) 2 to 3 page papers applying course concepts to your personal experiences. These papers will serve as a learning log for reflection on how specific concepts or topics

from the readings or class discussion are related to your own personal experiences. The paper due dates appear on the course schedule. Your grades will be based on demonstrated understanding of course concepts and the extensiveness of description and analysis. All papers must be typewritten in APA format. Each paper will be worth 20 points. Prepare your papers well enough in advance to avoid technical problems such as computer crashes, printer problems, etc. These are not acceptable excuses for late papers. *No late papers will be accepted without prior arrangement with the instructor.* (100 points)

Quizzes: There will be five (5) 20-point unannounced quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will test your understanding of the reading assignments, and may be objective or short essay. (100 points)

Exams: Two non-comprehensive exams will be given over the lectures, textbooks, readings, and any material discussed in class. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will be comprised of various question types such as multiple choice, T/F, matching, fill-in, and short essay. Make-up exams will be given only due to an approved excused absence and will be essay format. Make-up exams will be given at a time convenient for the instructor. (200 points)

Written Work: All written work must be typewritten and double-spaced using the APA style manual format. Any work that is two or more pages in length are to be stapled together. *Assignments will not be accepted after the deadlines listed in the course schedule unless prior approval is obtained from the instructor.*

Participation: You are expected to read the assigned material before coming to class. Active participation in class discussion and activities is expected.

Preparation: **Be Prepared.** Read your assignments and prepare your written work on time. Late assignments are subject to a penalty.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is the intention “to misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation.” Plagiarism is presenting “as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own ideas or work derived from an existing source without full or proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works.” **These offenses will not be tolerated.** Violators will receive an “F” in the course and will be further subject to University policy.

Attendance Policy: **READ THIS CAREFULLY.** You are expected to be present for every class. One unexcused absence will be permitted without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond one will cost the student the loss of an increment in grade for each absence over the limit up to four absences. Miss five classes and you cannot complete this course. Excused absences are determined by University guidelines and must be documented. Attendance sheets will be circulated at the beginning of class; therefore, it will be wise to arrive on time. Arriving late disrupts the class and is discourteous to other students and the instructor. Any tardiness of more than 20 minutes will be considered as an absence. *It is YOUR responsibility to sign the Attendance Sheet each class. If your signature is not there, you will be considered absent.*

Courtesy: You are expected to be attentive during lectures. Small group or dyadic conversations are disruptive and discourteous to other students and the instructor. Students who need to talk with others will be asked to conduct conversations in the hall.

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Student Services Center, phone (330) 672-3391.

Course Registration: It is the policy of Kent State University that students are not permitted to attend classes for which they are not officially enrolled. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure proper enrollment in classes. You are advised to review your official class schedule during the first two weeks of

the semester to ensure proper enrollment. Should you find an error in your class schedule, you have until Friday of the second week of classes to correct it. If registration errors are not corrected by that date and you do continue to attend and participate in classes for which you are not officially enrolled, you are advised now that you will not receive a grade at the conclusion of the semester.

## Course Outline

Gender & Communication  
Monday

Dr. Rozell Duncan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u> (P = Pearson; I = Ivy; SR = Supplemental Readings)
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### Frameworks for Understanding Gender and Communication

8/27	Introduction to Course/Syllabus Gender Communication Gender Differences in Information Processing Research Approaches & Questions	P: Ch 1; I: Ch 1 P: Ch 2 SR: Bates
9/3	No Class – Labor Day	
9/10	Gender Identity and Culture The Gender as Power Perspective	P: Ch 3; I: Chs 2 & 3 SR: Mulac & Bradac

### Verbal & Nonverbal Communication of Men and Women

9/10	Communication Styles of Men and Women <b><u>Paper 1 Due:</u></b> Mon Sept 10	P: Ch 4; I: Ch 5
9/17	Assertiveness and Responsiveness Self-Disclosure, Liking, and Intimacy	P: Ch 5 P: Ch 7; I: Ch 6
9/24	Nonverbal Encoding and Decoding <b><u>Paper 2 Due:</u></b> Mon Sept 24	P: Ch 6
10/1	<b><u>Exam 1</u></b> Group Project/Presentation Lecture	

### Contextual Enactments of Gendered Communication

10/8	Personal Relationships Family Communication	P: Ch 8; I: Chs 7 & 8 SR: McMullen
10/15	Instructional Communication <b><u>Paper 3 Due:</u></b> Mon Oct 15	P: Ch 9 (204-209) I: Ch 11; SR: Hawkins
10/22	Organizational Communication	P: Ch 9 (209-222) I: Ch 10
10/29	Contemporary Social Issues: Interpersonal Violence <b><u>Paper 4 Due:</u></b> Mon Oct 29	SR: Rudd, et al; SR: Stamp/Sabourin; I: Ch 9 (362-391)
11/5	Contemporary Issues: Discrimination & Harassment	P: Ch 9 (222-228); I: CH 9 (343-362)
11/12	No Class – Veterans Day	

11/19	Contemporary Issues: Print/Electronic Media; The Internet; Music <b><u>Paper 5 Due:</u></b> Mon Nov 19	P: Ch 10; I: Ch 4
11/26 12/3	Group Projects and Presentations Group Projects and Presentations <b><u>Project Papers Due on the Day Your Group does its Presentation</u></b>	
12/10	<b><u>Final Exam,</u></b> <i>Monday Dec. 10, 2001 5:45 – 8:00 p.m., MSP, Room D301</i>	

*The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus if deemed necessary.*

## Grades

Grades will be based on a total of 500 points.

<u>Assignment</u>		<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Group Project		100	_____
Written	75 _____		
Oral	25 _____		
Concept Papers		100	_____
(Worth 20 points each)			
Paper 1	_____		
Paper 2	_____		
Paper 3	_____		
Paper 4	_____		
Paper 5	_____		
Quizzes		100	_____
(Worth 20 points each)			
Quiz 1	_____		
Quiz 2	_____		
Quiz 3	_____		
Quiz 4	_____		
Quiz 5	_____		
Exam 1		100	_____
Exam 2		<u>100</u>	_____
Total		500	_____

### Final Grading Scale

450 – 500	A
400 – 449	B
350 – 399	C
300 – 349	D
0 – 299	F

Gender & Communication  
Fall 2001, Information and Syllabus Agreement

PLEASE SIGN& RETURN (A copy of this agreement will be provided for your records)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Standing: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_



Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) as a student in Dr. Duncan's Gender & Communication Class (Comm 35912, Section 18906-002) for the Fall 2001 Semester, have read this syllabus. I understand what is expected of me as a student regarding:

Course policies \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

Class requirements \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

Assignments \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

Due Dates \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

Attendance policy \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

Unless I request otherwise, Dr. Duncan has my permission to use portions of my student identification number as a method of distributing test scores and grades \_\_\_\_\_ (initials).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date