

Gender & Communication
Spring 2003

COMM 35912:11743-002

Mon, Wed & Fri 2:15 – 3:05 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Rozell Duncan

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Office Hours: MWF. 10:30 – 11:00, 12:00 – 1:00 and 4:15 – 5:30 pm. or by appointment

Course Materials

Required Text: Wood, J.T. (2003). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture*. (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Supplemental Readings: A packet of required supplemental readings are available on Electronic Reserves online at <http://reserves.library.kent.edu>

1. Click on Electronic Reserves
2. Select Duncan as your instructor or Communication Studies as your department
3. Click on Gender & Communication
4. Enter the password (gender23) all lower case letters
5. You will need Adobe Acrobat to view articles

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. Be creative, use 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. (125 points – 100 pts. presentation/25 pts. manual)

Concept Papers: You will write five (5) 3 to 4 page papers applying course concepts to your personal experiences. **Note:** the page count does not include the cover page or the reference page. 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 theoretical aspects of the paper must be supported with citations from various sources, including but not limited to the text. 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 25 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.* (125 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, textbook, 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, matching, fill-in, and short essay. Make-up exams will be given only due to an approved excused absence and will be in a format designated by the instructor. Make-up exams will be given at a time convenient for the instructor. Failure to take either exam will result in a zero for that exam. (200 points)

Written Work: All written work must be typewritten and double-spaced using the APA or MLA 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. Late assignments are subject to a penalty.*

Participation: You are expected to read the assigned material before coming to class. Active participation in class discussion and activities is expected. Be Prepared. Students are responsible for all information, announcements, and changes addressed in class, whether the student is present in class or not.

Cheating/Plagiarism: You are expected to do your own research and paperwork. 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. Three unexcused absences will be permitted without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond three will result in the course grade being lowered by 5% for each absence over the limit up to nine absences. Miss ten 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 10 minutes will be reflected in your grade. *It is YOUR responsibility to sign the Attendance Sheet each class. If your signature is not there, you will be considered absent.*

Late Work: If you miss a deadline as a result of an **excused absence**, it will be made-up the class period that you return. Due to the nature of group work, group presentations **CANNOT** be made up. Group presentations will be given as assigned. Each student will be granted one (1) class period extension on written work. The student **MUST** contact the instructor before the beginning of class in which the assignment is due to receive the extension. If the assignment is not submitted by the start of the class on the following class day, the student will receive a zero for the assignment and no further extensions will be granted. Assignments missed as a result of **unexcused absences** will result in a zero for the assignment.

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,

including talking on the phone, will be asked to conduct conversations in the hall. Please turn off or mute cellular phones and pagers during class.

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, Wednesday, and Friday

Dr. Rozell Duncan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u> (SR =Supplemental Readings; W = Woods)
1/13	Introduction to Course/Syllabus	
1/15	Gender Communication	W: Ch 1
1/17	Gender Communication	W: Ch 1
1/20	No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
1/22	Gender Differences in Information Processing	Handout
1/24	Gender Differences in Information Processing	Handout
1/27	Theoretical Viewpoints	SR: Bates W: Ch 2
1/29	Gender Identity and Culture	Handout
1/31	Gender Identity and Culture <u>Paper 1 Due:</u> Fri Jan. 31	Handout
2/3	Communication Styles of Men and Women	W: Ch 4
2/5	Communication Styles of Men and Women	W: Ch 4
2/7	Communication Styles of Men and Women	SR: Mulac
2/10	Relationship Development	Handout
2/12	Relationship Development	Handout
2/14	Relationship Development	Handout
2/17	Self-Disclosure, Liking, and Intimacy <u>Paper 2 Due:</u> Mon Feb. 2/17	Handout
2/19	Self-Disclosure, Liking, and Intimacy	Handout
2/21	Self-Disclosure, Liking, and Intimacy	Handout
2/24	Personal Relationships: Friendships, Same Sex	W: Ch 7
2/26	Personal Relationships: Friendships, Cross Sex	W: Ch 7
2/28	Personal Relationships: Dating & Courtship	W: Ch 7
3/3	<u>Exam 1</u>	
3/5	Group Project Lecture/Selection of Groups	
3/7	Nonverbal Communication	W: Ch 5
3/10	Family Communication	W: Ch 6
3/12	Family Communication <u>Paper 3 Due:</u> Wed March 12	SR: McMullen
3/14	No Class - Group Project Meetings	
3/17	Instructional Communication	W: Ch 8
3/19	Instructional Communication	W: Ch 8
3/21	Instructional Communication	SR: Hawkins
3/24 – 28	No Class – Spring Break ENJOY	

3/31	Organizational Communication	W: Ch 9
4/2	Organizational Communication	W: Ch 9
	Paper 4 Due: Wed April 2	
4/4	Organizational Communication	W: Ch 9
4/7	Contemporary Social Issues: Interpersonal Violence	SR: Rudd, et al; Stamp/Sabourin
4/9	Contemporary Issues: Discrimination & Harassment	W: Ch 11
4/11	Contemporary Issues: Print/Electronic Media/Internet	W: Ch 10
4/14	Group Project Meetings	
4/16	Group Projects and Presentations	
4/18	Group Projects and Presentations	
4/21	Group Projects and Presentations	
4/23	Group Projects and Presentations	
4/25	No Class – Complete Concept Paper 5	
4/28	Group Projects and Presentations	
	Paper 5 Due: Mon April 28	
4/30	Group Projects and Presentations	
5/2	Group Projects and Presentations	
	<u>Project Manuals Due on the Day Your Group does its Presentation</u>	
5/6	<u>Final Exam</u> <i>Tuesday May 6, 2003 12:45 – 3:00 pm.</i>	

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

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Evaluations will be based on the following criteria: Use the blanks to keep track of your grade)

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Group Project	125	_____
Written 100 _____		
Oral 25 _____		
Concept Papers	125	_____
(Worth 25 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	550	_____

Final Grading Scale

495 – 550	A
440 – 494	B
385 – 439	C
330 – 384	D
0 – 329	F

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Spring 2003, Information and Syllabus Agreement

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

Name: _____

Local Address: _____

Local Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Class Standing: _____

Major: _____



Agreement

I, _____ (print name) as a student in Dr. Duncan's Gender & Communication Class (Comm 35912, Section 11743-002) for the Spring 2003 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