

Sex and Gender Communication Syllabus Spring 2012

COM 5390.01 3 Credit Hours

Professor: Dr. Brandau-Brown

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Required Course Text

Wood, J. T. (2007). Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture. (8th ed.). Boston: Cengage.

Backlund, P. M. & Williams, M. R. (2004). Readings in gender communication. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to explore the socially constructed concept of gender. The goal is to better understand the impact gender has on our family, interpersonal, professional, and political lives. Class discussions are intended to facilitate a richer understanding gender issues so you will be empowered in addressing gender issues in your own life. In addition, you will have an opportunity to examine an issue related to gender in a well developed and carefully researched literature review. This assignment will enable you to tailor content to meet your own personal interests.

Course Policies

1. **Attendance.** This course is designed to enable you to access information and complete assignments at times that are convenient to your schedule. This does not mean you may pop in and out whenever you feel like it. Failure on your part to communicate with me weekly, take on-line tests, respond to group discussions, or submit any assignment or speech by the deadline, will be recorded as absences. If you have trouble reading and following directions, this class is NOT FOR YOU! If you miss more than 2 weeks turning in work, you cannot receive full credit for the course. Please remember, your participation will be noted. I will monitor your progress weekly via assignments and the weekly check-in. Even though this is an on-line course, absenteeism still hinders the learning process and may result in your failing this course. I will post the assignments at the beginning of the semester. You may submit assignments early if you would like--just be sure assignments are in by the deadlines specified.
2. **Late Examinations.** If you miss an examination and have a **legitimate** reason for doing so, you must make it up within a reasonable time (normally 1 week or less). All arrangements for missing an examination must be made **prior** to the time the examination is scheduled. If such arrangements are not made, then no make-up examination will be given and you will receive a zero for that examination.
3. **NO late assignments will be accepted.** No late presentations will be allowed. You are responsible for turning in assignments on time. Keep up with the course activities and due dates to ensure you do not miss a deadline.
4. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work"

(Dictionary.com). All work must be the original composition of each student. Although you must use outside sources, you must cite them appropriately. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Assignments will be checked for plagiarism by **any and all means available**, including electronic checking services (i.e. Turnitin.com). The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

5. Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students at 294-1720.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

6. Religious Holidays. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

7. IDEA System. Students are asked to complete an IDEA evaluation of the course and the instructor at the end of the semester. Participation is voluntary.

8. Classroom conduct. Free discussion, inquiry, and expression are encouraged in this class. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. In an online environment it is important to observe good Net-etiquette. Spell-check all of your work, read it before posting it. You would not speak in class using incomplete sentences or bad grammar, and you should treat this online class the same way.

Students are expected to read and abide by all rules and policies in the SHSU Student Handbook. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines

classroom disturbances.

Assignments and Requirements

Graded Item	Number	Points per Item	Total Points	% of Grade
Presenter of Discussion	2*	25	50	12.5%
Discussion Boards	10*	10	100	25%
Exam	1	100	100	25%
Term Paper	1	150	150	37.5%
			400	100%

*(*The number of points for presentations and discussion boards may vary based on the number of students)*

Instructor's Notes

My office is in the Communication building room 212. If there is something you do not understand or need help with please come see me. I encourage you to make an appointment even if it is during office hours because I may step out of my office for a few minutes. You can also post questions in the virtual office or email me directly. Continuation of enrollment in this course indicates acceptance of the terms and requirements of this syllabus.

Basic Requirements for All Course Submissions

Please be sure that you place your name on ALL emails, posts, assignments, etc. This is very important and is professional. When you are submitting files to the Dropbox they should be names "your last name_the assignment" ex: Smith_Speech 1 outline. All assignments should be submitted through SHSUOnline. Please do not email assignments to the professor.

Important Note about Sources: I realize we are in an Internet world however, that is not the only source of information. Many times the information on the Internet cannot be verified. It is also important that you can find a variety of information. You may use Internet sources in your presentations but they will not count as part of the required sources. The library has many electronic data bases that provide better information and they are easier to use. Students will be randomly selected and required to submit their research material to the instructor. This is to ensure material is properly cited from acceptable outlets. If you cannot provide the research material you will receive a zero for the assignment.

Late presentations are not allowed. You must upload you're your presentation materials by the date assigned.

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