Course Summary

Course: COMM210  Title: Communication and Gender
Length of Course: 8
Prerequisites: N/A  Credit Hours: 3

Description

Course Description: This course examines the similarities and differences in male and female communication styles and patterns. The content emphasizes implications of gender as a social construct influencing perceptions, values, stereotyping, language use, nonverbal communication, and power conflict in human relationships.

Course Scope:

Examines the similarities and differences in the state of gender roles and relations; emphasizes implications of gender as social construct influencing perceptions, values, stereotyping, language use, nonverbal communication, and power conflict in human relationships.

Objectives

After completing this course you should be able to:

CO-1: Analyze how written, visual, oral, and nonverbal communication create context for and expectations of gender.

CO-2: Explain what is meant by the term social construction.

CO-3: Explain the communication process and commonly recognized channels of communication.

CO-4: Compare communication development in males and females.

CO-5: Identify elements of behavior and identity that are related primarily to biological sex, socially constructed gender, or both.

CO-6: Use theories of gender to determine possible sources of misunderstanding in field settings.

CO-7: Identify methods used to investigate questions related to communication and gender.

CO-8: Apply recognized definitions of gender to determine one's communicative style.
CO-9: Develop strategies for solving gender components of common communication problems.

CO-10: Compare characterizations of gender in more than one social, ethnic, or national culture.

CO-11: Understand the role of communication channels and media in creating context for and expectations of gender.

CO-12: Assess the means by which creators of media products use or promote particular characterizations of gender for specific purposes.

Outline

Week 1:

Topic(s)
What is gender?
   How do we define it?
   Why and how do we study it?

Course Objective(s)
CO-1

Reading(s)
Payne, Ch. 1

For authors’ point of view, read Introductions to Payne and to Wood.

Assignment(s)
Introductions Forum
Forum 1

Week 2:

Topic(s)
The Communication Process
   How do we describe the communication process?
   What role does gender play in that process?

Course Objective(s)
CO 1, 2, 3, 4

Reading(s)
Wood, Ch. 1

Skim Wood, Ch. 5 & 6
Assignment(s)
Forum 2
Short Assignment 1
Field Observation Journal Entry 1

**Week 3:**

**Topic(s)**
The Origins of Gender

- To what degree is gender biologically determined and socially constructed?
- What do theories of gender look like?

**Course Objective(s)**
CO 4, 5

**Reading(s)**
Wood, Ch. 2

Skim Holmes & Meyerhof, Ch. 1 (note: it's very dense—focus on the variety of theories)

Assignment(s)
Forum 3
Short Assignment 2
Field Observation Journal Entry 2

**Week 4:**

**Topic(s)**
Synthesis

- How does the course material to this point fit together?

**Course Objective(s)**
CO 1-7

**Reading(s)**
Payne, Ch. 7 (read before exam)

Assignment(s)
Forum 4
Field Observation Journal
Week 5:

Topic(s)
Theories and Methods of Gender Research

How do researchers study gender?

What questions do they ask?

What methods do they use?

Course Objective(s)
CO 6, 7

Reading(s)
Holmes & Meyerhof, Epilogue

Assignment(s)
Forum 5
Scholarly Article Analysis

Week 6:

Topic(s)
Gender and Media Messages

How do you interpret the messages we consume that involve gender?

How can you advance or challenge them?

Course Objective(s)
CO 11, 12

Reading(s)
Wood, Ch. 11
Skim Payne, Ch. 11

Assignment(s)
Forum 6
Media Comparative Analysis Essay

Week 7:
Gender and Culture

In what ways are gender and culture related?

How is gender shaped at the societal level?

Course Objective(s)

CO 9, 10

Reading(s)

Wood, Ch. 3 & 4 Skim Payne, Ch. 2

Assignment(s)

Forum 7

Short Assignment 3

Field Observation Journal Entry 4

Week 8:

Applying Your Knowledge

How would you describe your gender?

Knowing your own communication patterns, how would you address problems in your own life that are related to gender?

Course Objective(s)

CO 8, 9

Reading(s)

Wood, Ch. 7

Holmes & Meyerhof, Ch. 9

Assignment(s)

Forum 8

Short Assignment 4

Field Observation Journal Entry 5

Evaluation

Please see the student handbook to reference the University's grading scale and policy on retaking courses.
Details for each forum, assignment, and test can be found by clicking on the "Assignments," "Forums," and "Tests & Quizzes" Tabs within the course.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Assignments</td>
<td>20.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Short Assignment 1</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Short Assignment 2</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: Short Assignment 3</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: Short Assignment 4</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Entries</td>
<td>25.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Field Observation Journal Entry 1</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Field Observation Journal Entry 2</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: Field Observation Journal Entry 3</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: Field Observation Journal Entry 4</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: Field Observation Journal Entry 5</td>
<td>5.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test/Quizzes/Exam</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: Gender and Communication Midterm Exam</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Article Analysis</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5: Scholarly Article Analysis</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Comparative Analysis</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6: Media Comparative Analysis</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>10.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forums</td>
<td>25.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 Forums</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 Forum</td>
<td>3.13 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Materials**

**Book Title:** Different But Equal-E-book available in the APUS Online Library

**Author:** Payne

**Publication Info:** ABC-CLIO

**ISBN:** 9780275965228
Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the citation and reference style for courses in the COMMUNICATION program area.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS (only when accessed through the APUS online library). Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for ‘Tutor’ to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the
course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. **Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.**

**Turn It In**

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course to verify originality and detect potential plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

**Academic Dishonesty**

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

**Submission Guidelines**

- All assignments in COMMUNICATION courses must be submitted in standard formats such as Microsoft Word, attached in the assignment area unless otherwise specified.
- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details.
- It is your responsibility to ensure all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor. Assignments should not be sent to the instructor through “Messages” or E-mail but must be submitted through the Assignments area directly.

**Disclaimer Statement**

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

**Communicating in Forum discussions**

- All initial forum discussion posts are due on Thursdays by 11:55 p.m. ET throughout the course.
- All peer responses are due on Sundays by 11:55 p.m. ET throughout the course.
- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. A message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a follow-up question to a point made, a response to a question, an example or illustration of a key point, an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- You must post a response to the weekly forum prompt and post the required number of replies to other
students during the week due. Please refer to the grading rubric and/or weekly forum instructions for specific expectations on the number of replies and word count requirements.

- Late posts to a forum will be subject to the School late policy and may not be accepted without instructor approval.

**Quizzes and Exams**

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. If included in a course, each quiz/exam is generally accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you may not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate adequate time to complete your quiz and ensure you have a solid internet connection. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by Sunday 11:55 p.m. ET of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams may be accepted and subject to the School late policy. Please contact your instructor to discuss as needed.

**University Policies**

**Student Handbook**

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.