Instructor: Dianne Mills McKay                                                Phone: 609-261-0255
Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 6-8:40 pm                                      Fax: 609-267-1888
Course Number: 37:575:491:80/81
Email: dmckaynj@aol.com

Course Description:
This course examines ways that one’s gender can influence communication patterns and behaviors. Students will develop an awareness of the patterns created by gender socialization and gender stereotyping in American culture. Emphasis will be placed on communication in the workplace, but will also touch on friendships and romantic relationships.

Course Texts:
Ivy, Diana K.   Gender Speak: Personal Effectiveness in Gender Communication: 5th Ed. (2012: Pearson)
Babcock, Linda and Sara Laschever. Women Don’t Ask (2007: Bantam)

Course Objectives:
Increase the student’s communication repertoire towards the goal of achieving unconscious competence in various gender communications situations
Enhance the student’s ability to analyze communications choices
Explore the role of gender role socialization and the role of popular culture in influencing gender communications
Enable students to make reasoned and reasonable choices regarding their own gender communication

Attendance and Assignments:
Regular attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course. Group exercises cannot be duplicated if they are missed. Assignments are due on the dates scheduled or assigned by the instructor. If you cannot complete an assignment on time please see the instructor prior to the scheduled due date for any special consideration.
All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off prior to class. Please make every effort to arrive on time to class and stay until the class is dismissed.

Evaluation:

Popular Culture project: in-class oral report on gender communication in popular culture: select print advertisements, songs, music videos, television shows, television commercials, or film for gender communication analysis

20%

Paper on the film North County exploring the stereotypical gender communication and the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace.

4-6 pages 20%

Paper on personal negotiation strategies based on Women Don’t Ask and the Conflict Strategies Game. Details will be discussed in class at the time of the assignment.

4-6 pages 20%

Group report: critique and analysis of the Dateline program on John Grey. Groups will analyze the work/life balance issues that are exposed in the film.

20%

Final Exam 20%

I hope that you will find the study of gender and communication to be fascinating, informative and helpful in your personal and professional lives. I look forward to exploring this fascinating subject with you.

Dianne Mills McKay
Course Schedule

Jan. 17 – Introduction to Gender and Communication                                                  Chapter 1
Jan.19   “There’s No Such Thing as Women’s Work”                                               Chapter 2 for
          Handout: “A Fabulous Child’s Story”                                                     1/24 or 1/26

Jan. 24 – Nature vs. Nurture                                                                     Read pp. 397-
Jan.26   Discuss a “Fabulous Child’s Story”                                                    418 for 1/31 or
          Gender Roles –“How do we learn to be a boy or girl?”                                  2/2

Gender Identity theory

Jan. 31 - Communication and Gender in Education                                                Chapter 3 for
Feb.2    Gender Bias in Education-Dateline tapes                                               2/7 or 2/9
          STEM careers and education Practices
          “Purdue University” tape

Feb. 07- Influence of Popular Culture
Feb.09   Popular Culture Images of Women
          View “Killing Us Softly” and “Dreamworlds”                                               How may these images relate to women in the workplace?
          Madonna or Whore-The Good Girl or the Bad Girl

Feb. 14- Influence of Popular Culture                                                             Chapter 4 for
Feb.15   Popular culture images of men                                                              2/21 or 2/23
          “Gender Guise”
          Rap
          The Real Man
          How may these images relate to men in the workplace?
          Paper and discussion of gender communication in pop culture due 2/28 or 3/1

Feb. 21– Gendered Language                                                                       Chapter 8 &
Feb.23   Women, Men and the Relational versus Content Approach                                    pp.380-88,
          to Communication                                                                            419-429 for
          Arbitrariness on Language exercise                                                            3/6 or 3/8
          Sex Talk Quiz
          Gender Bias in Language

Feb. 28 –Presentation of Popular Culture papers
Mar. 01
Mar. 06    Sexual Harassment in Education
Mar. 08     View Hostile Hallways
            Sexual harassment in the workplace
            View Anita Hill testimony

Mar. 13-15 Spring Break

Mar. 20  Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (contd.)   Read Women
Mar. 21          Don’t Ask for
            View North Country
            Assign paper due 3/27.

Mar. 27 Workplace vs. Home Communication problems
Mar. 29         Maintaining a healthy work-life balance
            Dateline analysis of John Grey’s Men are From Mars/Women are from Venus

Apr. 03 In class graded group report on John Grey
Apr. 05

Apr. 10  Discussion of Women Don’t Ask  Read Chapters
Apr. 11 Assign negotiation paper due 4/24 or 4/26  6-8 for
        4/17 or 1/19

Apr. 17   Gender and Communication in Relationships
Apr. 18 Helen Fisher’s Why Him, Why Her?
          How do you find that perfect partner and how do you sustain a loving
          Relationship?

Apr. 24  Power Abuses
Apr. 26 When relationships go wrong
          Domestic Violence
          View Edward James Olmos’ “It Ain’t Love”
          Review for Exam
          “Councils”