Course Description:
This course will explore the differences and similarities in communication styles by gender. Students will analyze communication situations and the effect that culture and socialization play on the development of communication styles, behaviors and attitudes. Emphasis will be placed on communication in the workplace, but will also touch on friendships and romantic relationships.

Course Texts:


Learning Outcomes:
At course completion the student will be able to:

Interpret stereotypical patterns of gender communication

Appraise examples of stereotypical and non-stereotypical patterns of gender communication in American culture

Distinguish gender communications patterns to avoid stereotypes in personal gender communications

Employ appropriate gender communication at work, home school and in social and professional forums

Course Objectives:
Through a variety of course meetings and assignments, the student will be able to:

Use communication repertoire toward achieving intuitive competence in various gender communication situations
Analyze communications choices

Evaluate gender role socialization and the role of popular culture in influencing 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.

If you have any special learning needs, please speak to the instructor before the end of the first class

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.

Academic integrity is expected and all the work submitted for class assignments must be your own. References and resources must be properly cited. Please familiarize yourself with university policies on academic integrity and plagiarism.

Changes to the syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor.

Evaluation:

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 messages that may affect our workplace interactions

25%

Gender Communication analysis of the Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill at his Supreme Court confirmation hearings before the United States Senate.

3-5 pages

20%

Critique and analysis of Self-Made Man. You will be provided with a handout to use as a guideline for the paper content.

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 documentary.

15%

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
   “Her” and “His” Stories
   What is Gender Communication?

Jan. 24 – Nature vs. Nurture
   Gender Identity Development
   Biological, Social and Cultural Influences
   Gender Roles- How do we learn to be a boy or a girl?
   Gender Identity Theory

Jan. 31- Choosing and Using Gendered Language
   Nonverbal Communication and Gender

Feb 07 – Gender Communication in Educational Settings
   Children’s Literature
   Gender Bias in Education
   STEM careers and education practices

Feb. 14- Sexual Harassment in Schools

Feb. 21- Influence of Popular Culture
   Popular Culture Images of Women
   “What are they selling?”
   Madonna or Whore-The Good Girl or the Bad Girl
   How may these images relate to women in the workplace?

Feb. 28- Influence of Popular Culture
   Popular culture images of men
   “Gender Guise”
   Rap
The Real Man
How may these images relate to men in the workplace?

Mar 07 – Presentation of Popular Culture Reports

Mar 14 Spring Break

Mar 21 Sexual Harassment in Education

Mar. 21 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Sexual harassment in the workplace
View Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas testimony

Mar. 28 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace/contd.

Mar. 28 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace/contd. Chapter 9

Discussion of the Anita Hill Clarence Thomas hearings

Gender Communication in the Workplace

Apr 04 Workplace vs. Home Maintaining a healthy work-life balance

Apr. 04 Workplace vs. Home Maintaining a healthy work-life balance

Dateline analysis of John Grey’s Men are From Mars/Women are from Venus

Apr. 11 Discussion of Self-Made Man

Apr. 18 Gender and Communication in Relationships Chapter 6

Helen Fisher’s Why Him, Why Her?

How do you find that perfect partner and how do you sustain a loving relationship?
Apr. 25  Power Abuses
When relationships go wrong
Domestic Violence
View Edward James Olmos’ “It Ain’t Love”
Review for Exam
“Councils”