

Women, Men and Communication 37:575:481:82
Spring 2017
Rutgers University
Mercer County
DRAFT

Instructor: Dianne Mills McKay
Meeting Times: Thursday 6-8:40 pm
Course Number: 37:575:491:80
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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:

Ivy, Diana K. Gender Speak: Personal Effectiveness in Gender Communication: 6th Ed. (2016: Pearson)

Vincent, Norah. Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood and Back Again. (2006: Penguin Group)

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.19 – Introduction to Gender and Communication “Her” and “His” Stories What is Gender Communication?	Prologue Chapter 1
Jan. 26 – 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	Chapter 2
Feb 02- Choosing and Using Gendered Language Nonverbal Communication and Gender	Chapter 3 & 4
Feb 09 – Gender Communication in Educational Settings Children’s Literature Gender Bias in Education STEM careers and education practices	Chapter 10
Feb. 16- Sexual Harassment in Schools Gender Communication and the College Classroom	
Feb.23- 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?	Chapter 8 Assign Pop Culture report Due 3/7
Mar 2- 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 09 –Presentation of Popular Culture Reports

Mar 16 Spring Break

Read Self-Made Man
for paper due 4/15

Mar.23 Sexual Harassment in Education

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

Paper due 3/21

Mar.30 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Chapter 9

Discussion of the Anita Hill Clarence Thomas hearings

Gender Communication in the Workplace

Apr 6 Workplace vs. Home Communication.Maintaining a healthy work-life
balance

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

Apr. 13 In- class graded group report on John Grey

Apr. 20 Discussion of Self-Made Man

Apr. 27 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"

Chapter 7