Syllabus - Summer 2016

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Gender and Communication  
Credits: 3  
Format: Online  
Prerequisites: COMM 1000  
Professor: Amanda Denes, PhD

Email: amanda.denes@uconn.edu  
Office Hours/Availability: Via email or by appointment. Please allow 48 hours for a response.

Course Materials

Required course materials should be obtained before the first day of class.

Texts are available through a local or online bookstore. The UConn Co-op carries many materials that can be shipped via its online Textbooks To Go service. For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our Enrolled Students page.

Required Materials:


Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Course Description

Differences in male/female communication, and an examination of cultural assumptions regarding gender in the communication process. Critically analyze the theory, politics and practice of communication and gender.

This upper-level course examines a broad range of theories, concepts, and topics on gender, sex, and communication. Throughout this course, we will discuss research from a variety of fields, including communication, women’s studies, sociology, and psychology. The goal of this course is for students to understand the ways in which gender is learned, the implications of gender on our lives, and possibilities for change insofar as individuals are able to reject gender norms. Ultimately, students in this course should develop a strong understanding of how gender and sex influence their everyday lives and be able to critique the impact of gender construction on larger social structures.
**Course Objectives**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:
1. Explain how social and biological constructs interact with each other in the production of gender.
2. Discuss how gender influences language, relationships, and communication.
3. Assess the influence of certain media in the construction and perpetuation of the meaning of gender and sexuality.
4. Discuss gender diversity as it relates to transsexual, intersex, and gender non-conforming individuals’ experiences.
5. Critique different theories of gender development.

**Course Outline**

*(each Module corresponds with a week of the course)*

Module 1: Communication, Gender, and Culture  
Module 2: Gendered Language Use  
Module 3: Becoming Gendered  
Module 4: Complicating Sex and Gender  
Module 5: Masculinity and Hook-Up Culture

**Course Requirements and Grading**

**Summary of Course Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Components</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussions</td>
<td>5@10 points each = 50 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Journals</td>
<td>5@10 points each = 50 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>5@20 points each=100 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinterest Board Project</td>
<td>1@25 points = 25 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Journal</td>
<td>1@25 points = 25 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>250 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Discussions**

Students are expected to participate in weekly discussion boards. Full credit (10 points) will be awarded to students who provide insightful, thought-provoking comments on the discussion board and respond to at least two other students’ posts (see rubric on HuskyCT for full details). Students who do not provide such comments will receive fewer points. Initial module posts are due by 11:59pm on the Wednesday of each week, and comments to other students’ posts must be submitted by Sunday at 11:59pm. The instructor will only minimally participate in the discussion boards, as they are meant to be a space for students to interact with one another and engage in thoughtful conversations with fellow classmates.

**Weekly Journals**

Journal entries are privately submitted and graded. Each module will contain a journal topic, and students are expected to submit journals by Friday at 11:59pm of each week. Journal entries should include 2-3 paragraphs of insightful comments regarding the journal topic. Grades for the journals will be posted on HuskyCT using grading rubrics. If students wish to receive additional comments or feedback on their journals, they should email the instructor.

**Graded Quizzes**

Graded quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true and false questions. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. Students are given 30 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes are due by 11:59pm on the Sunday of each week.

**Pinterest Board Project**

During Module 4, students will contribute to a Pinterest board and provide comments on at least 2 of their classmates’ pins.
Final Journal

The final journal will ask students to reflect upon their own gendered experiences and the most influential parts of the course in a 800-1000-word essay.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade (Percent)</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>232-250</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>225-231</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>217-224</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>207-216</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>200-206</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>192-199</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>182-191</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>175-181</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>167-174</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>157-166</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>150-156</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>&lt;149</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the course schedule. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.

Late assignments will not be accepted. You must complete all assignments by the deadlines on the course calendar. In case of emergency, please email the instructor immediately.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades within 5 days of the assignment due date. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

If you would like to discuss a grade with me, submit your appeal via email. Please include the following in your email:

1. Offer a cogent and well-supported written argument. This means that you should support your claims from course materials and/or class lectures.
2. This written argument should be submitted via email. You must also set an appointment to have a phone conversation with me so that the process may be completed. No grade appeals will be completed via email; you must speak with me via telephone or Skype before the appeal is completed.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important standards, policies and resources, which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from Blackboard's website)

Software Requirements

The technical requirements for this course include:
- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Reliable internet access
- Pinterest account

Help

Technical and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:
- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.
- Post a pin to a Pinterest board and comment on pins.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information..

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.