

COM 316: Gender and Communication

Spring 2024 Session A

January 8th – February 27th

COM 316 Section #14125

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication

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Please direct all course-related questions and inquiries to the instructor, Dr. Fisher. All communication should be via direct email, not attached as comments within assignments or submission locations.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to COM 316, where we will study the dynamic process of gender, a subject as challenging as it is fascinating. Beyond the fact that most students find the topic of gender and communication inherently interesting, why is this a valuable inquiry? This is a critical field of study because we all lead gendered lives whose various manifestations and implications often remain unexamined. Our goal is to better understand gender to better understand ourselves and others while increasing communication competence in social, educational, and professional settings. Because multiple learning modes are best for achieving that end, classwork requires textbook and lecture review, small-group online discussion, and paper submission.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Create a class forum for discussion and learning informed by mutual respect and critical thinking.
2. Raise self-awareness about our own gendered thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, values, and behaviors.
3. Assess how concepts and theories about gender and sex intersect with our personal identities.
4. Become more savvy and critical consumers of gendered messages that we receive from the media and a variety of institutions.
5. Foster greater sensitivity toward the beliefs and values of others and awareness of the complex social constructs that influence gender, sex, and communication.
6. Develop and improve communication skills in our interactions with people of the same and different genders and sexes.
7. Explore the nature of gender as a process through a multi-disciplinary approach.

Required Textbook:

Title: Gendered Lives: Communication, Gender, & Culture

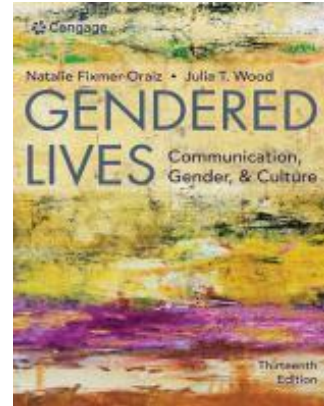
Author: Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz and Julia T. Wood.

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Note: You may purchase this book in 3 different forms: Print (hard copy), digital (e-book), or digital e-book + Mind Tap (which includes study aides such as flashcards and practice quizzes for each chapter). It's up to you what works best for your learning style. The book can be found at the ASU Bookstore or online.

MODULES

Gender and Communication is taught in four modules on the following topics:

1. Central Concepts & Social Movements (Chapters 1, 3, 4)
2. Theoretical Approaches, & Verbal and Nonverbal Communication (Chapters 2, 5, 6)
3. Families, Schools, & Close Relationships (Chapters 7, 8, 9)
4. Organizations, Media, & Power and Violence (Chapters 10, 11, 12)

Disclaimer: This course content features mature themes and language. We also discuss some controversial material and positions that some individuals might consider offensive or find painful due to personal values or experiences. Please review the detailed Table of Contents and read the authors' introduction "Opening the Conversation" to determine if you are comfortable with the textbook's approach prior to committing to this course. Your continued enrollment in the class constitutes your consent to engage objectively with this content.

COMPUTER ACCESS & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Your ASU course can be accessed clicking your course link on your <https://my.asu.edu/page>. More directly, you can reach your Canvas dashboard by going to <https://asu.instructure.com/> or <https://canvas.asu.edu>.

- A desktop or laptop is required. Mobile devices, such as a smartphone or a Chromebook, will not provide full access to ASU's online courses.
- Courses are best viewed with high-speed internet and a reliable internet connection.
- Students should have at least two browsers on their computer, preferably Firefox & Chrome
- Certain software is needed for this class: Adobe Acrobat Reader (free); Microsoft Office (free for ASU students); Respondus LockDown Browser (free: Use link provided in Module 0.)

CANVAS AND TECH SUPPORT

If you have computer, Internet, or Canvas problems, you should first contact the ASU help desk at 1-855-

278-5080 or 480-965-6500, or visit the MyASU Service Center at <https://myasu.force.com> to get support through 24/7 live chat. Our Canvas site also has a Help button on the left navigation bar. Instructors cannot assist in technical matters, but the Help Desk will issue a ticket number to you. **This serves as proof that you are troubleshooting an issue, and you should send this ticket # to your instructor along with your assignment ASAP, if you ever experience problems submitting something through Canvas.**

Information on outages can be found at <http://systemstatus.asu.edu/>.

ASU Tech Studios provide a variety of walk-in support services on all ASU campuses: <https://uto.asu.edu/services/campus-it-resources/techstudio>. To learn the basics of Canvas, refer to the Student Guide at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> and the Canvas Glossary at <http://links.asu.edu/student-canvas-glossary>.

STUDENT SUCCESS

To succeed in an online class, you should expect to spend 18 hours a week on coursework in a 7.5-week session. The following activities are part of that time commitment:

- Read all announcements.
- Read and respond to course email as needed.
- Read all assigned textbook material.
- Review the TED Talk or video clip associated with each chapter.
- Complete the discussion board for each module. Remember that the original post is due three days before the reply. And the first deadline appears only on the comprehensive Course Calendar.
- Complete the Journal Papers and ONE Research Paper by the given deadlines.
- Review ASU Online Student Resources.
- Create a study and assignment schedule to stay on track.

WRITTEN WORK & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Please note, **all written work for this class must be 100% YOUR OWN CREATION**. While it may seem appealing to use Chat GPT or AI to assist in writing papers, the words generated from these programs are **not your own**. (The structure and tone are not yours either – even if you change intermittent words throughout.) They are a compilation of other people’s research (much in the same way a textbook works, but without giving credit to the human researchers who contributed to this information that is available online). **You are expected to create all written work from your own words, efforts, and research. Incorporate your own PERSONAL experience, perspectives, and insights, and enhance your discussion by referring to the specific course material used in this course – the textbooks, case studies, and videos you engage with each week.** See more information under “Academic Integrity” below.

All work is submitted through Turnitin, or a similar plagiarism detection software. A similarity score of 10-14% is rather normal, and is usually due to your reference list and in-text citations. Similarity scores above this range indicates an over-reliance on outside sources or someone else’s work. It’s imperative that you not do any copy/pasting from internet sources or other works. It is expected that you compose and write all assignments on your own, use quotation marks any time you use the exact words of someone else, and of course include in-text citations any time you are quoting OR paraphrasing words/ideas that are not your own. It is never acceptable to use the words of someone else and submit it as your own original work. This will earn a zero on the assignment, and potentially the course.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

(See Course Calendar on our Canvas site for all due dates.)

Course Orientation Quiz: Access to the course material becomes available only after you take this quiz. This covers the material on the syllabus and in Module 0.

Exams: (2 x 100) = 200 points

These are two open-note tests consisting of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. The second exam is NOT a cumulative final, and it may NOT be taken earlier than the dates listed on the Course Calendar.

Discussion Board assignments: (4 DB:A posts @ 10 points each; 4 DB:B posts @ 5 points each) = 60 points

You'll be assigned a small group for the Discussion Board (DB) assignments and will find instructions in each module. Every DB has two parts: A & B. In Module 1, DB: A is a self-introduction; DB: B is a response to ONE of the given questions. In Modules 2 through 4, DB: A is an original post in response to ONE question; DB: B is a reply to another peer's post. The Module 4 DB also offers an extra post (DB: C) worth 5 points—the ONLY opportunity for extra credit in the course. **NOTE: Canvas does not generate reminders and due dates for all assignments in this class. It is YOUR responsibility to take note of the due dates of each assignment on the Course Calendar located on our Canvas site.**

Papers: (1 x 30) + (1 x 70) = 100 points

Paper #1 (30 points): The Journal Paper has two parts worth 15 points each (A & B) with different due dates. This assignment requires observation time, and the first due date arrives quickly! Assignment directions are posted in the Guidelines for Papers and Discussions Module.

Paper #2 (70 points): You'll also sign up for only ONE of three other paper topics. If you submit more than one Research Paper, only the first will count toward your final score. The different options for this research essay takes a different approach to a different topic—with a different due date.

For more information and grading rubrics, **see the Guidelines for Papers and Discussions Module**. You'll want to select a paper that both interests you and fits into your schedule. (See the COURSE CALENDAR for the different due dates.) Indicate your selection via the Paper Sign-Up page located in Module 0. Please submit papers as .doc or .docx, not in alternative formats.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Announcements posted by the instructor are archived on our Canvas site and sent automatically to your ASU email address, the official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. You are expected to read and act upon ASU email in a timely fashion, bearing responsibility for any missed messages. All instructor-initiated correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

Email: All course-related and grade-related questions should be emailed directly to the instructor, not attached as comments to assignments or in submission locations. When emailing the instructor, if you don't receive a response within a two-day timeframe, assume your message was not received and re-send. Be sure to identify COM 316 in the subject line and sign the email with your first and last name as it would appear in the class roster.

Hallway Conversations is a discussion forum for students to pose questions for other students to answer. Please note, if you have questions/concerns of a personal nature, or which require speedy feedback, please contact the instructor directly. If you choose to answer a question of a fellow student, please be sure to refer to the course information to ensure accuracy.

NOTE: Before posting a general question in Hallway Conversations or querying the instructor directly, always check Canvas instructions, the syllabus, the announcements archived on Canvas and sent to your ASU email, and the FAQs page.

COURSE POLICIES

For policies specific to ASU Online courses, visit this site:
<https://asuonline-dev.asu.edu/qm-template/CanvasQM/qm-policies.html>

Participation and Accountability: The content of this course is complex and provocative, and your presence in group discussions and your active engagement with course module materials are necessary for success. All course topics are NOT covered in the readings. Make sure that you also keep up with the lectures and any other module material.

Turning in Assignments: It is your responsibility to keep an eye on the Course Calendar. I recommend printing it out so you can check it every day. Assignments will not be accepted via email. If you have an issue with your computer, there are computers on campus that are available to you, so plan your time accordingly – no late submissions will be accepted.

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, MUST be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email. Again, all assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx) or rtf. You cannot use pdf or Pages formats because they won't show up in Canvas.

If at any time you have a system error on an assignment submission, please contact Canvas Tech Support the moment this happens. Retrieve a Ticket # and copy/paste the error message (and/or screen shots) into an email to me right away. You should also attach your completed assignment to the email, so I see that you indeed had it completed by the deadline. However, it will not officially be considered “submitted” until you submit it in the correct location via Canvas.

Late Work or Missed Assignments: Deadlines for the discussion board are absolute. Late posts are not accepted. Plan on posting early to avoid last-minute issues that might prevent you from receiving these points.

As a general rule, if you do NOT complete an assignment by the scheduled day and time, you will receive a zero for a grade on that assignment/quiz. All due dates are included on the “Course Calendar” page, which is available in Canvas.

If you experience an unforeseen emergency, I might allow submission of a late assignment. Please contact me by email within 24 hours of the missed deadline to explain your situation – always include evidence/documentation whenever possible. If you are permitted to submit a late paper, it may be subject to a 10% deduction per day after the deadline. Papers will not be accepted 72 hours past the due date. Communication is key, so be sure to email me whenever you have concerns about meeting expectations

or deadlines. (This doesn't mean at 11:00pm on the night an assignment is due, but being proactive and looking ahead.)

Please follow the appropriate university policies to request an accommodation for Religious Practices ([ACD 304-04Links to an external site.](#)) or university-sanctioned events/activities ([ACD 304-02Links to an external site.](#)). You must notify the instructor **BEFORE** an assignment is due if either situation arises and you are unable to submit the assignment on time.

Exams: You shouldn't expect to simply retake an exam if you experience computer problems. If you are permitted to make up a missed exam, it will be subject to an automatic deduction of 10%. Make-up exams must be completed within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ASU defines plagiarism as "using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately." Please see University policies regarding plagiarism and other violations at <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy>.

NOTE: In cases of academic dishonesty (see more on what qualifies as cheating and plagiarism below), you will receive a zero on the assignment. If there is more than one case of academic dishonesty, you may receive a zero for the course, and an "X" on your transcript, which indicates academic dishonesty. For further information, please read the Student Academic Integrity Policy and the code of conduct for The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/communication/policies/>.

Be advised that all work for this class must be original to this class. You may not recycle papers or work from other courses you have taken or even from this course if you are re-taking it; this behavior is considered academic dishonesty.

Academic Dishonesty & Cheating:

Cheating will result in an immediate zero on the assignment, and potentially the course. It is considered cheating (or academic dishonesty) any time you:

- Do work for other students
- Pass other's work off as your own original work (i.e. taking information from the internet and not using quotation marks or citing the original source of the information; using AI to write your papers for you, etc.)
- Paraphrase someone else's work without citing the source
- Provide information/ideas that are not your own without citing the source
- Copy/paste any portion of information from another source. (All written work should be directly typed by you. No copying/pasting whatsoever.)
- Borrow someone else's paper and change up the words intermittently
- Do an assignment with a classmate and turn in the same work (unless explicitly instructed by your teacher to work with a partner)
- Provide your completed assignment to another student to help them see how an assignment should be done. (If you've given your assignment to someone to refer to and they end up turning it in as their own work, you both are held responsible for academic dishonesty in this case.)

The best way to ensure that you **do not** take credit for someone else's work is to become deeply familiar with the process of citing your work. In Communication, it is required to use the APA (American Psychological Association) format for citations. You can find this site extremely helpful, in order to make sure you are citing things correctly, giving credit where credit is due:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/08/>.

Use of Language: Word choice affects perception, and gendered language is a particularly relevant concern in this course. Please make gender-inclusive language the rule in all your work.
English Language Instruction: This class, like all others in the Hugh Downs School, is based on a common metric that assumes a college-level understanding of and proficiency in English. If you would like help with writing, please visit <https://tutoring.asu.edu/student-services/online-writing-tutoring>

Accessibility Statement: Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations. Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation to SAILS. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Qualified students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact SAILS by going to <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>, calling (480) 965-1234 or emailing DRC@asu.edu.

NOTE: If an accommodation has been requested, please be sure to follow up with your instructor to confirm this is acceptable, given the parameters of the course.

Title IX: This is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make it clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs/students>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> is available if you wish discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

Grading Scale

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	E
%	99-100%	93-98%	90-92%	87-89%	83-86%	80-82%	77-79%	70-76%	60-69%	0-59%

NOTE: If you remain in the class past the first day, you are agreeing to abide by course policies and the requirements in this syllabus.