

# Marshall University

Course Title/Number	Gender and Communication, CMM 421/521, Section 201 (CRN 2784/2797)
Semester/Year	Spring 2016
Days/Time	Wednesday 4:00 – 6:20 pm
Location	Smith Hall Room 261
Instructor	Dr. Cam Brammer
Office	244 Smith Hall
Phone	6-2810 (Smith)
E-Mail	brammer@marshall.edu
Office/Hours	Monday thru Thursday 10 AM -12PM 2 PM – 4 PM Other hours available by appointment.
University Policies	By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy at <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802">http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802</a> Students with Disabilities   Affirmative Action   Computing Services Acceptable Use   Excused Absence (undergraduate)   Academic Dishonesty   Inclement Weather   MU Alert

## Course Description

An exploration of gender as an organizing principle for communication.

## Communication Studies Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand basic concepts associated with the primary theories of communication.
2. Write a clear, concise, and reasoned paper on topics dealing with the concepts of communication.
3. Understand the research literature underlying the discipline of communication.
4. Demonstrate speaking competencies by composing a message, provide ideas and information suitable to the theory and audience.
5. Basic understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry, as applied to human behavior.
6. Familiarity with the four research methods commonly used to study human communication behaviors.
7. Greater skill in analytical thinking and writing.
8. Demonstrate “sense-making,” the ability to apply knowledge to lived experience.

## Relationships among Course, Communication Studies, and Degree Profile Outcomes

Course Outcomes After completing this course, students will:	How Accomplished in this Course	How Evaluated in this Course	Program Outcomes	Degree Profile Outcomes
Be able to name, define, and recognize factors that enhance communication competence with persons of all genders across a variety of interactional settings.	Lecture, reading, in-class discussion and activities, group interactions,	Demonstrated knowledge of concepts and ability to classify, describe, restate concepts about gendered communication processes on exams and written assignments.	2	Specialized Knowledge Applied Learning
Be able to choose, integrate and apply theories of gendered communication in a variety of interactional and relationship contexts, including family,	Lecture, reading, in-class discussion and activities, group interactions,	Demonstrated comprehension and application of theoretical constructs in gendered interaction on exams, written assignments, and in an oral	2, 3	Specialized Knowledge Broad, Integrative Knowledge Applied Learning

romantic, professional and intercultural relationships.		presentation.		
Be able to compare and choose verbal and nonverbal codes to accomplish communicative and relational goals across a variety of interactional settings.	Lecture, reading, in-class discussion and activities, group interactions,	Demonstrated ability to analyze interactional contexts and select appropriate methods of effective communication on exams, written assignments, and in an oral presentation.	2, 3, 4	Specialized Knowledge Broad, Integrative Knowledge Applied Learning
Be able to describe and evaluate the impact of media on perceptions of gender and expectations about gendered communication.	Lecture, reading, in-class discussion and activities, group interactions,	Demonstrated ability to describe, analyze, explain, and apply gendered communication theories on exams, written assignments, and in an oral presentation.	2, 3, 7	Specialized Knowledge Broad, Integrative Knowledge Applied Learning

### Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials

Wood, J. T. (2015). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture (10<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Boston: Wadsworth.

### Course Requirements / Due Dates

<b>Undergraduates</b>		
<i>Exam #1 – Introduction and Chapters 1 – 6</i>	100 Points	February 26
<i>Term Paper</i>	100 Points	Due by April 23
<i>Exam #2 – Chapters 7 and Epilogue</i>	100 Points	May 7 at 4:00 (Scheduled Final Exam Period)
<i>Class Activities</i>	100 Points	
<b>Graduates</b>		
<i>Exam #1 – Introduction and Chapters 1 - 6</i>	100 Points	February 26
<i>Popular Book Review and Critique</i>	100 Points	Any time between April 2 and April 30
<i>Term Paper</i>	200 Points	Due by April 23
<i>Exam #2 – Chapters 7 and Epilogue</i>	100 Points	May 7 at 4:00 pm (Final Exam Period)

### Undergraduate Assignments

There are two written assignments (Journal and Term Paper) for undergraduates and both are designed to provide you with opportunities to reflect on the information you are learning and plan how you will use that information to understand in your interpersonal and professional life.

### Term Paper

This is a 400-level course and so offers an opportunity to further hone the skills you've been building during your Communication Studies career and in this class, you will do that by researching and writing a scholarly paper. Find a topic related to gendered communication that is of interest to you and go learn more about it using theoretical and research based resources to describe, summarize, analyze, and integrate the information you discover. Finally, prepare a brief summary of your paper to share with your peers during our class period this semester.

### Graduate Assignments

**Popular Book Review and Critique** Find a popular book that explains gendered communication and/or relationships (e.g., *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*) and review and critique it. First, explain its premises and then evaluate them based on social science theories, research, and empirical findings.

### **Term Paper**

Develop and demonstrate in-depth expertise in some area of communication research related to gender. Choose a gender-communication topic, model, or issue that is of interest to you and write a scholarly term paper explicating current knowledge about the topic, reviewing relevant literature (using research, scientific, and/or professional publications), and providing a synthesis or integration of what you have learned from this review.

*Expectations for graduate students' work will be higher than for undergraduate students' work. In particular, graduate students are expected to show greater depth of knowledge, greater clarity of insight, and greater ability to thoroughly synthesize and integrate findings than undergraduate students.*

Requirements: Graduate students' term papers should approximate an outline structure that is characteristic of scholarly papers. That is, it should have an introduction, literature review leading to a conclusion section that details insightful questions that remain to be addressed and/or an integrated summary of past findings.

Use APA style, include at least 15 current scholarly sources, type it (again, follow APA guidelines for margins, font size, etc.), include an abstract at the front of the paper, and expect the paper to range in length from 12 to 15 pages, excluding the title page, abstract, references, etc.). Remember to get instructor approval on your topic.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be calculated on a straight scale:

A = 90 -100%	C = 70 - 79%	F = 59% or less
B = 80 - 89%	D = 60 - 69%	

### **Attendance Policy**

The emphasis of this course is on communication and we will have many in-class activities and opportunities for you to work with your team on your group project. In order to contribute to your team, and in order to learn about and improve your group communication skills it is essential that you attend class and take part in exercises and assignments. It is highly likely that missing classes will (a) prevent you from understanding expectations for assignments and will result in a reduction in your ability to earn high scores on your assignments and (b) will make learning the content of your text book more difficult and so will result in a reduction in your midterm and final exam scores. Absences that are approved by the University will be excused when an email is received from the Dean of Student Affairs and the student reports and verifies them with the instructor.

#### **How many absences will be tolerated?**

You may miss up to one (1) class without an excused absence report from the Dean's office without penalty, HOWEVER, your second unexcused absence will result in 25 points being subtracted from the sum of points you will earn on your assignments (which is 5% of your final grade), and your second unexcused absence will result in an additional 50 points being subtracted from the sum of points you will earn on your assignments (which is an additional 10% of your final grade). In order to make up missed work, you must contact me promptly when you have missed a class during which assignments are due.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Reading Assignments/In-class Topics and Activities
1	1/13	Orientation to the Course
2	1/20	Introduction: Opening the Discussion Chapter 1: The Study of Communication, Gender, and Culture
3	1/27	Chapter 2: Theoretical Approaches to Gender Development
4	2/3	Chapter 3: The Rhetorical Shaping of Gender: Competing Images of Women Chapter 4: The Rhetorical Shaping of Gender: Competing Images of Men
5	2/10	Chapter 5: Gendered Verbal Communication
6	2/17	Chapter 6: Gendered Nonverbal Communication
7	2/24	Exam #1
8	3/2	Chapter 7: Becoming Gendered: The Early Years
9	3/9	Chapter 8: Gendered Education: Communication Schools
10	3/16	Chapter 9: Gendered Close Relationships
11		Spring Break
12	3/30	Chapter 10: Gendered Organizational Communication
13	4/6	Chapter 11: Gendered Media
14	4/13	Chapter 12: Gendered Power and Violence
15	4/20	Epilogue: Looking Backward, Looking Forward
16	4/27	<b>Undergraduates' term papers and presentations are due and Graduate Students' term papers and presentations are due</b>
<b>Exam #2 will be given during our Final Exam Period, Wednesday, May 4 at 4:00 pm</b>		

### Access to this Syllabus:

This is the only physical or hard-copy of this syllabus you will receive. Electronic versions of this syllabus can be accessed on MU Online (Blackboard) and MyMU under the appropriate course listing.

