**COMM 3561**

**Online Version**

**Introduction to Gender in Communication**

**Instructor:**

**Class Time and Location:**

**Office:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Course Description:**

As people we “do” and embody, gender. These performances are disciplined, maintained, challenged and constructed through communication. The main objective of this course is to raise student knowledge and awareness regarding the ways people and institutions create, maintain, alter, and develop gender concepts through communication practices. In order to complete this objective, this course focuses on basic gender and communication theories and then applies them to institution’s communication in interpersonal, media, rhetorical, and organizational contexts.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Show a clear understanding through writing and testing that gender is the construct of several factors that go beyond masculine and feminine, male and female.
2. Students will identify various critical methods of an interdisciplinary nature and the method contributions to the study of gender and communication.
3. Students will gain an understanding that gender is not just the study of women but a much more extensive construct. This will be evaluated through written and verbal discussions.
4. Students will be able to analyze and evaluate how institutions communicatively express and construct gender.
5. Students will evaluate their own communication habits relate to theories and institutions from class.
6. Pedagogy that deals with gender understands that differences among students matter and that students need empowerment through choice. This will be evident through student participation in course contracts.

**Required Texts:**

De Francisco, Palczewski, and McGeough, *Gender in Communication: A Critical Approach* 3rd Edition (Sage Publications, 2018). (Amazon new $95.00 Also available as e-book) ISBN-13: 9781506358451

Several Outside Readings will be available on E-Courseware

**E-Reserve and E-Courseware Readings Policy:**

YOU are responsible for getting access to the readings and posted on e-courseware. Failure to access these readings does not excuse you from doing the assignments or readings. If you are having problems, email me prior to due date, contact the tech people, or use an on-campus computer in the library.

**Structure of Course:**

This course is set up in weekly modules. The assignments for that week are due on Thursdays and Sundays. A drop box is provided for each week’s work (they may be done prior to due dates but not after). All drop boxes are open at the beginning of the semester but will close at midnight on the due date. In addition, drop boxes will be open for larger course assignments that may also be turned in ahead of time, but no later than midnight on the due date.

**Course Assignments:**

This course allows you some choice in the assignments you wish to comprise the majority of your grade. A contract will be completed and turned in by the second week of class that describes your choices for the assignment. Due dates are included in the syllabus.

Descriptions of assignments are listed on e-courseware. Feel free to ask questions.

Source usage of assigned and unassigned readings is important. You are expected to research all topics chosen for writing assignments and to back up claims with cited evidence. A bibliography is expected for every written paper or take home exam assignment. It does not count toward page limit. **Please indicate at the top of the bibliography what style you are using (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.).**

**Mandatory Assignments:**

**(For more information see the Assignment and Contract module online)**

**Participation and Weekly/Module Assignments (weight 20%)**

Throughout the semester there will be reading response assignments for each chapter and occasional homework. This work will be graded on a pass/fail basis. You will receive credit for each exercise you complete and in which you participate. Your participation grade will stem from points awarded

**Contract (weight 5%)**

You are required to turn in a complete contract specifying which variable assignments you would like to include in you class evaluation. You must turn in your copy of the contract to drop box. Your instructor must approve your contract. **You may change the contract ONCE during the semester. Changes cannot be made after Midterm. You cannot change the weight of a grade once you have received it, but you can change upcoming assignment grades and choices.** Note: this is a pass/fail assignment. You earn and A (95) for turning it in on time, correct and complete. You earn a 0 if you fail to meet the deadline or if contract is done incorrectly.

**Percentages of assignments are chosen. You need to choose one 25% assignment, one 20% assignment, two 15% assignments**

**Assignment Choices:**

**CHOICE #1**

**20% Assignments**

**Midterm exam**

**Critical Essay (written)**

**CHOICE #2**

**(need two)**

**15% Assignments**

**Journals (written)**

**Oral Video Presentation**

**Book Review**

**Self-Evaluation**

**Gender Autobiography**

**CHOICE #3**

**25% Assignments**

**Final Exam**

**Creative Project w/ Presentation**

**Institutional Artifact Analysis (written)**

**Course Policies**

**COVID-19:** If you find yourself struggling due to issues associated with the current pandemic, please let me know. Although Memphis is phasing out quarantine, you or others in your family may still get Covid-19. There are University and city resources to help you deal with difficulties that may occur. If you need help in class, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Incompletes:**

A grade of “Incomplete” is reserved for exceptional situations where students are prevented from finishing course work on time. All grades of incomplete will be left to the discretion of the instructor in regard to the student’s needs and performance. If you experience a problem during the semester that may require an incomplete grade please, see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity:**

The Department of Communication is committed to upholding a high standard of academic integrity. This applies to written as well as oral presentations. All of you assignments must reflect your own effort and work. When using external sources you are expected to cite sources appropriately as discussed in class and in citation guides. If you have any questions about academic dishonor or doubts about what constitutes a violation please see me. If you are expected of plagiarizing or cheating on an assignment you will be turned over to the Office of Student Judicial and Ethical Affairs. For further information you my see the University policy on plagiarism at

<http://www.memphis.edu/studentconduct/misconduct.htm>

**Disabilities:**

I will do my best to accommodate any reasonable request from students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations offered by the University and the department, students must register with Disability Services for Students. <http://www.memphis.edu/sds/disabilitysvcs/index.php>

While I will help, it is the student’s responsibility to tell me of any problems. Please make me aware of known problems as early as possible for the most efficient and adequate help. If you encounter problems during the class let me know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of the class.

**Equity Policy:**

All persons regardless of age, race, religion, gender, physical disability or sexual orientation shall have equal opportunity without harassment in the Communication Department courses and program. Any harassment should be reported immediately to either the classroom instructor or Department Chair.

**COMM 3561 Online**

**Special Topics: Gender and Communication**

**Course Schedule of Readings**

**Homework and exercises are listed on e-courseware in modules**

**Due Date Reading and Assignment Material Due**

**Week 1**

8/17-8/23 Introduction to course

A Critical View of Gender

Chapter 1

**Week 2**

8/24-8/30 Theories of Gender/Sex

Biology and Psychology and Gender Communication

Critical Cultural Approaches

Textbook Chapter 2

**Contracts Due 8/30**

**Week 3**

8/31-9/6 Gendered/Sexed Voices

Textbook Chapter 3

**Week 4**

9/7-9/13 Gendered/Sex Bodies

Textbook Chapter 4

**Week 5**

9/14-9/20 Gendered/Sexed Language

Textbook Chapter 5

**Week 6 20% of Grade is Due**

9/21-9/27 **MIDTERM POSTED**

**20% Assignment DUE**

**Week 7**

9/28-10/4 Institutions

Chapter 6

Family

Textbook Chapter 7

**Week 8**

10/5-10/11 Education Chapter 8

**First 15% Assignment Due**

**Week 9**

10/12-10/18 Work

Textbook Chapter 9

**PROPOSAL FOR CREATIVE PROJECTS DUE**

**Week 10**

10/19-10/25 Religion

Textbook Chapter 10

**Week 11**

10/26-11/1 Media

Chapter 11

**Week 12**

11/2-11/8 Putting it All Together

Textbook Chapter 12

**Week 13**

11/9-11/15 **Second 15% assignment due date**  **JOURNALS DUE DATE**

**Week 14**

11/16-11/17 **25% Assignment Due Date**