COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the ways in which gender influences communication patterns and communication informs gendered behaviors in our society. In particular, we will examine how gender identities, roles, and norms have been structured within different modes of communication – interpersonal and mass-mediated. Our focus will be mostly on US culture, but we will try to incorporate the study of other cultures as much as possible during the course of the semester. Indeed, we will strive to understand the central role of culture and cultural contexts in current gender roles and expectations.

Learning goals:
1. become familiar with social science and humanities perspectives on gender and communication;
2. improve critical skills when thinking about gender and communication in US and other cultures;
3. develop an understanding of the connections between gender and other areas of social life – race, religion, ethnicity, power, and culture.

TEXT


COURSE PROCEDURES

The lectures and the audio-visual materials covered in this course have been organized around the assigned reading materials. Therefore, students must do the readings before accessing each unit.

During the course of the semester, you will be asked to complete the following:

1) 3 exams: these are based on the readings, discussions, and videos presented during the period prior to the exam. The final exam will be cumulative and
embrace all the content covered during the semester [exams 1 & 2: 75 points each; exam 3: 100 points]

2) **Participation** in discussion boards: you are required to post at least 1 comment each week. Each comment should be at least 100 words and should reflect carefully and thoughtfully on the topic and readings of the week [5 points per week].

3) **Weekly quizzes** on the assigned readings [10 points each].

You will receive more detailed instructions about each assignment during the semester.

If you have any questions about assignments, quizzes, exams, and grades, please get in touch with me as soon as you can. Waiting until the end of the semester will result in the impossibility to change your situation.

**Structure of the course on Blackboard**

Here is what you need to look for in Blackboard:

- **Announcements:** there will be frequent announcements for due date reminders, learning units’ outlines, and other important messages.

- **Course documents:** each week on Blackboard in *course documents* you will find that week’s unit material including powerpoint presentations, articles, quizzes, videos and external links for further examples. Once you have read the chapter assigned for each week, review its content along with the powerpoint presentation. Some of the external links I include as part of a week’s material can sometimes be required readings as well. I will let you know in my emails as well.

- **Quizzes:** under some weeks’ unit there will be a quiz. You will have until Sunday of that week to complete it. You need to remember that once you open the quiz you must finish it within the allotted time (usually 10 minutes). These quizzes will be available under “assignments” as well.

- **Assignments:** Here you will find the exams and the quizzes.

- **Videos:** you will receive an announcement every time there is a video screening. You will receive a link that will enable you to watch critical documentaries online. I expect you to take notes while watching these videos because I consider them as important as the readings assigned in this course.

- **Discussion Board:** each week I will be leading the discussion with a question or a comment related to an article and/or the assigned readings. You will find this under a special theme heading under “discussion board”.

- **Communication:** If you have any questions about the course, assignments or any concerns about your performance at any given time, do not hesitate to contact me.
I usually respond to emails within 48 hours, but there might be times when I’m out of town for work and won’t have access to email for a few days. Rest assured that I will, however, answer your email as soon as I can.

If you have any TECHNICAL problem with Blackboard, you can contact the Delphi Center at the university: phone (502) 852-6456; web site: 
http://louisville.edu/delphi

PROFESSIONALISM

I will NOT accept late work. By ‘late work’ I mean assignments that are not turned in on the due date. If you have some serious and documented circumstances that prevented you from completing the assignment, talk to me before the due date.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: UofL is committed to providing equal opportunities to students with disabilities. If you need any accommodation in your educational process, you need to identify yourself with the Disability Resource Center (Robbins Hall, (502)852-6938). The center will coordinate programs and services to help you in your learning process.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. You are plagiarizing when you use someone else’s ideas, words, concepts without acknowledging the author. All the work you complete during the semester must be your own and must be exclusively for this course. In this sense, I do not accept ‘recycled work,’ that is work you completed for other classes. If there is a topic you have already researched for another course and would like to explore further for COMM324/WGST324, you need to discuss this with me. If you have doubts or questions about plagiarism, please talk to me in advance. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive an F for the course and will incur possible academic sanctions.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

I am originally from Italy and came to the US in 1995 for my graduate studies. I received a Master’s in Anglo-American Literature from the University of Cagliari (Italy), a Master’s in American Studies from the University of Iowa, and a PhD in Communication and Culture from Indiana University – Bloomington. My research focuses on global media with a particular focus on television and film. I’ve written extensively on contemporary Italian television, global media and identity politics, feminism and media. Currently, I’m working on a project that investigates alternative and community media in Italy and Western Europe. I am also researching the role of media in the identity development process among migrant communities. I have lived in different parts of the world and have always been fascinated by multicultural environments and how people in different countries use the media to define their own identities and role in the world.
COURSE SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as I see necessary through the semester.

[GL: refers to “Gendered Lives.” Please note that your edition of the textbook might be different from mine. Chapter numbers may be different. I encourage you to check the chapter topic and not rely exclusively on the number of chapters.]

Week 1 (Jan. 7-11)  Communication, Gender, and Culture
Intro “Opening the conversation”
GL: Ch. 1 “The study of communication, gender, culture”

Week 2 (Jan. 12-18) Theories of Gender Development
GL: Ch. 2 “Theoretical approaches to gender development”; “X: A Fabulous Child’s Story” (available on Blackboard).
QUIZ #1 due by Sunday 1/18 by midnight

Week 3 (Jan. 19-25) Women’s and Men’s Movements in America
GL: Ch. 3 “Women’s movements in America”; GL: Ch. 4 “Men’s movements in America”
QUIZ #2 due by Sunday 1/25 by midnight

Week 4 (Sept. Jan. 26-Feb. 1) Verbal Communication
GL: Ch. 5 “Gendered verbal communication”

Week 5 (Feb. 2-8) Nonverbal Communication
GL: Ch. 6 “Gendered nonverbal communication”
EXAM #1 due by Sunday 2/8 by midnight.

Week 6 (Feb. 9-15) Family Dynamics
GL: Ch. 7 “Becoming gendered”
QUIZ #3 due by Sunday 2/15 by midnight

Week 7 (Feb. 16-22) Gender and Relationships
GL: Ch. 8 “Gendered close relationships”

Week 8 (Feb. 23-March 1) Gendered Education
GL: Ch. 9 “Gendered education”
EXAM #2 due by Sunday 3/1 by midnight.
Week 9 (March 2-8) Organizational Communication and Gender
GL: Ch. 10 “Gendered organization communication”
QUIZ #4 due by Sunday 3/8 by midnight

Week 10 (March 9-15) Gendered Media
GL: Ch. 11 “Gendered Media”
QUIZ #5 due by Sunday 3/15 by midnight

SPRING BREAK MARCH 16-22

Week 11 (March 23-29) Gendered Media continued
Reading TBA

Week 12 (March 30-April 5) Gendered Violence
GL: Ch. 12 “Gendered power and violence”

Week 13 (April 6-12) Students Choose a Topic on Gender and Media
Reading TBA

Week 14 (April 13-19) Social Change and Course Wrap-Up
GL: Epilogue “Looking backward, looking forward”

EXAM #3 DUE ON FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2015 BY MIDNIGHT.