# Ohio University-Zanesville

**Communication Studies Department**

**COMS 420 Genders and Communication**

**Online course**

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<https://bbpilot.ohio.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>



**Note:**

**This course has the same standards as a classroom course. Just because we meet online, does not mean the standards are diminished. I realize the time is short for all the work for online course. You still cover the same amount of materials and requirements like normal face-to-face classes. If you cannot organize your time please consider taking the course face-to-face.**

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**DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the field of gender and communication. The lectures and activities are designed to take you on a journey through the principal concepts and issues that define the field of gender and communication. The areas we will discuss in this class will include: gender communication; nonverbal communication; language verbal communication; communication in family and gender communication in class room. Course objectives include your increased ability to: explore the roles that communication plays in presentation, and understand the gender roles and gender identities; increase awareness and understanding of communication within and between genders in variety of formal and informal contexts; develop and analytical attitude toward gender and communications in everyday life.

**Textbook**:

Wood, J. T. (2007). *Gendered lives Communication, gender and culture (7th edition). United State:* Thomson Wadsworth.

Student Edition ISBN: 0-495-00654-8

Thomson Higher Education

10 Davis Drive

Belmont CA 94002-3098

USA

http://www.thomsonrights.com

If you purchase newer version, it is fine with me and you will be fine. Older than 7th edition is not acceptable and you miss test questions.

**POLICIES**

You are expected to read all assignments in the hand out and book by the due date. Your textbook Gendered lives: Communication, gender and culture plus handouts from class materials will be covered on the tests. Students who do the reading when assigned usually do better on the exams and invariable participate more effectively in blackboard discussions. You are expected to participate online; participation will directly affect your final grade. I encourage questions especially when you feel lost or you do not understand the materials. Use office hours wisely. Come online and ask questions. Please do not feel your question is elementary. Your question helps everyone in the course, in addition to yourself, to understand the materials and encourage intellectual discussion. This is a communication class, online participation is required. Participation includes such things as providing examples, asking questions, challenging critiquing ideas, thoughtfully completing on-line activities, and helping others online. **Reading materials and taking the test and quiz silently are not considered active participation**. Note: a portion of your final grade is awarded for your activities on Blackboard, Blackboard participation, preparation and cooperation.

**Office Hours:** My office hours are online. Email me or call me. I will respond to your emails as soon as possible. I will respond to all emails within 48 hours. We have TA in this class her name is Kayla Adkins. Please stay in touch with her if you have any questions. She is available and knows all the answers to assist you.

**Online Behavior:** Appropriate behavior is expected at all times. There will be no complaining “too much homework” “too many readings” “short time to complete the assignment” “need more time to take the test or quiz” “test or quiz are hard” “I am not familiar with Blackboard 9” “What is Wiki?” “What is blog?” You are expected to be prompt and finishing your work online during the time provided. You are expected to learn Blackboard 7.3 on your own if you have not worked with this version of Blackboard before. There is student’s tutorial and helps; please take advantage of these resources. Please if you are working double shift, or do not have enough time to work on this class, you are employed full-time and or are full-time parent and do not have time to complete the works consider taking this course later. Please make sure you sign your full name (first name and last name) in your emails. Finally, do not send any work via email (text or attachment) please.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All forms of academic dishonesty as defined by Ohio University, such as plagiarism, cheating on exams and falsification of sources are all serious offenses. These cases will be reported to the Associate Dean and the Judiciary Board. Students caught engaged in any form of academic dishonesty will receive the minimal penalty of failing the course.

**Exams and assignments:** Exams will be graded strictly, with weight placed on the clarity, coherence, and completeness of your answers. There will be two exams and that will be your midterm and final. No make-up exam will be given. **Late assignments: You will lose 5 points for each day, late submission. No extra credit in the course. I do not accept any excuses.**

**Attendance:**  You alone are responsible for all assignments due or scheduled, class activities, and discussions which occur during the course online. I do not accept any work late after 11:55pm the day the work is due. All work must be posted before that time. You must check your Blackboard as often as possible, at least every other day.

**Confidentiality:** Due to the personal nature of the class activities and exercises, confidentiality must be assured. Please note that experiences shared in this class must stay in this class. Sharing experiences enrich the educational value of this course and a safe environment is imperative for all participants.

**Final grades:** will be determined on a percentage basis. The grade breakdown is as follows, based on a total of 320 possible points:

A = 100% - 95% A- = 94% - 90% B+ = 89% - 86% B = 85% - 83%

B- = 82% - 80% C+ = 79% - 76% C = 75 % - 73% C- = 72% - 70%

D+ = 69% - 66% D = 65% - 63% D- = 62% - 60% F = 59% and below

Please note that you are responsible for all reading whether or not it is discussed in the lectures’ note. Similarly, please note that you are responsible for all material including that which is drawn from sources outside your textbook and hand out. Your exams are worth 120 points (Exams included Midterm and Final). Your final project is worth 60 points. A choice movie review is worth 30 points. Men and women movie is worth 20 points.

* **There is no negotiation on due dates or points:**
* **Exams (2 @ 60 points) 120 points**
* **Final Project (book or interview) 60 points**
* **Word Puzzles (2@10 points) 20 points**
* **Wiki page – Newsletter (group work) 30 points**
* **Movie – Men and Women are different 20 points**

**Total 250 points**

**Movie – Men and women are different:**

**From blackboard front page on the left side click on External Link and you will see the movie’s link.**

**Watch this movie first week of class. Then watch the movie again on last week of the class. Write 3 pages on your interpretations “Men and Women are different” of video. You are not bind by the theory or thought. Share your views about the movie from the first time you watch and then compare with the second time you review the movie. Did you learn anything? Did this course change your view about the movie?**

**Final Project:**

**You have two options for your final project. Choose only one of them.**

**Option one:** Read one of the following books

*Barbie Culture* by M. F. Rogers, (Sage, 1999).

*Inside The Kingdom. My life in Saudi* Arabia by Carmen Bin Ladin (2001).

*Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi (1979*).*

*Princess* by Jean Sasson (2001).

*Talking from 9 to 5 by Debora Tannen (1994).*

*You Just do not Understand Women and men in conversation by Debora Tannen (1990).*

*You are wearing that? Understanding mothers and daughters in conversation by Debora Tannen (2006)*

*Invisible privilege: A memoir about race, class and gender. By Paula Rothenberg (2004). ISBN 0-7006-1362-5*

You may purchase the book from Amazon.com or any other source. You have to analyze the book. Keep in mind that this is not a book report. Although a summary of the points in the book are necessary for your analysis, I will not accept simply a summary of the book. The requirement for this assignment is to read the book and present your point of view, discussing the book in your paper. Discuss gender issues illustrated in the book you choose. Finally refer to the gender theories the book discusses. (10-15 Pages)

**Option two: Qualitative Research--** Interviewing is a standard style instrument in the human sciences, including communication studies. Doing interview constitutes a communicative event with particular norms and rules. Therefore, choose five mother-daughter pairs of a variety of ages, religions, ethnic, economic and family backgrounds.

* + - Two sets of interviews:
    - Mothers interviewed separately from daughters
    - Joint interview of mother and daughter
      * Use open-ended questions to guide women’s reflections on their childhood, teenage years, and recent memorable experiences with goods and shopping
      * Record the varieties of stories that were shared with this group
      * Record the interviewees’ attitudes and experiences
      * Record the styles of their communication
      * Record the choice of words
      * Record the seating arrangements

Consider the topics you read in the text book and hand outs about women and changes in our society. Write up interviews with each of your subjects. Afterwards, write out your findings, and their views about their experiences in their life as women. Finally, project your view and learning from the course into your paper. (25-30 pages)

Note: After you finish either final project you must submit your work on Blackboard via the link provided for you on assignment area.

***Schedule***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Assignments Title** |
|  | **Inform your instructor by email your intention to stay in the course**  **By the end of day ? write a short bio about yourself and Post on assignment area. Go to the assignment area there is a link to post your bio. If I do not get this information on time you will be dropped from this course. Last day to post your bio and email is ? before midnight** |
|  | **Review Movie [Movie – Men and Women Are Different] Do not write your analysis. Just review the movie at this time.** |
|  | **Opening the Conversation --- Introduction** |
|  | **The study of communication, gender and culture -- Chapter One** |
|  | **Theoretical approaches to gender development -- Chapter Two** |
|  | **The Rhetorical Shaping of Gender Women’s Movements in America -- Chapter Three**  **The Rhetorical Shaping of Gender: Men’s in America --- Chapter Four** |
|  | **Gender Verbal Communication Gender Interaction: Masculine and feminine styles of verbal communication --- Chapter Five** |
|  | **Gendered Nonverbal Communication -- Chapter Six** |
|  | **Becoming gendered: The Early Years -- Chapter Seven** |
|  | **First XWord is due. The work must be submitted in assignment area by 11:55pm on this day** |
|  | **Gendered Close Relationships -- Chapter Eight** |
|  | **Midterm -- Over Chapters 1-6**  **Your have 3 day to log in and complete your test. If you miss the test I will not give make up exam.** |
|  | **Gendered Education: Communication in schools --- Chapter Nine** |
|  | **Gendered Organizational Communication -- Chapter Ten** |
|  | **Gender Media -- Chapter Eleven** |
|  | **Gendered Power and Violence --- Chapter Twelve** |
|  | **Looking backward, looking forward --- Epilogue** |
|  | **Second XWord is due. The work must be submitted in assignment area by 11:55pm on this day.** |
|  | **3 pages paper video (Men and Women are different) is due.** |
|  | **Newsletter page Wiki page is due.** |
|  | **Final project is due. The work must be submitted in assignment area by 11:55pm on this day. You have a choice of reading a book from the list or do a qualitative research. Please check the syllabus.** |
|  | **Final -- Over Chapter 7-12** |
|  | **Final Grades are due** |

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Please remember to submit all assignments by the dates indicated on the course schedule. The deadlines for all assignments are also indicated in two areas on the class website; (1) Click on “Assignments” and click on the individual assignment to see the due date; or (2) Click on the “Tools” button and click on “Tasks.”

All assignments must be submitted via Blackboard. To submit a document via the links provided please do the following:

1. Save the document as either a Word file or “Rich Text” file, 12 font, double spaced
2. Click on assignment
3. On assignment area there is a link for each assignment(s) with its name.
4. Click on this link
5. You see a box. Write your comments in the box
6. Under the comment box there is a browser box
7. Click on the browser and open the file you wish to submit
8. Click “Submit”

Grades will be posted under the “Tools” section where you can click on “Check Grades” to find your score.

**Newsletter Assignment — Wiki**

**Instructions:**

A Wiki is a website where you can create and edit public and private wiki pages.  That means can post and edit information about virtually anything you wish, and you can read what others have posted, too. Groups are private Wiki areas.  You may create private areas for collaboration with a limited set of people.

Blackboard 7 allows us to create a Wiki page. Therefore I am taking advantage of this tool and asking the class to use a Wiki page and create a four page newsletter for this class. I have already put you into a group of four. You need to communicate with the other members and create your newsletter. A list of topics for newsletter is below.

So choose one of the topics and develop your newsletter. You are free to use pictures, video, text, graphics, interviews, etc. The more creative you are, the more attractive your newsletter will be.

Each group has a name. For example, Group#1, Group#2, etc.  This project is worth 30 points. You will be graded on the content, creativity, and cooperation as a group.

I am able to follow the history of all Wiki pages. I will monitor your Wiki activity (logins, edits, contributions by each person) so do not slack off. Please cooperate with your group members and create an outstanding newsletter.

This project replaces your discussion board in the class. Instead of discussing one topic with the whole class, four of you will focus on the topic of your newsletter. Therefore, you need to maintain an ongoing, interactive group discussion concerning the newsletter and its content.

**Note:** While you may create private groups, consider keeping your content fully public!  That way, more people can benefit.  Use the blog to discuss and to ask for information from other students in the class.

**Technical Note:** Every time you finish a posting or edit, please make sure you log off both the Wiki and Blackboard so your other group members can add or edit materials. If you do not logoff, the other members are blocked from the Wiki.

**The topics of your newsletter may be chosen from the following:**

*Is the Gender Wage Gap Justified?*

*Are Barriers to Women’s Success as Leaders Due to Societal Obstacles?*

*Does “Mommy Track” (Part-Time Work) Improve Women’s Lives?*

*Should Same-Sex Couples Be able to Marry?*

*Do Women and Men Commit Equal Levels of Violence Against Intimate Partners?*

*Does Pornography Reduce the Incidence of Rape?*

*Is Gender Identity Innate?*

*Are Different Patterns of Communication in Women and Men Innately Determined?*

*Can Women’s Sexuality Be Free from Traditional Gender Constraints?*

*Is Anatomy Destiny?*

*“We came a long way baby.” The historical movement of women’s progress.*

Introduction

I have created a Wiki, so you can contribute to it by adding text, hyperlinks, images, and embedded media. You will be able to contribute to the Wiki when it is made available to you and your group.

Editing a Wiki

1. Enter a course.
2. Click a content area(Information) to locate a Wiki.
3. Click the **View** link for the Wiki.
4. Click the **Edit** link in the Wiki sidebar.
5. Enter information into the text box by typing or copying and pasting.
6. If you copied text from a Microsoft Word document, click  and press **Crl**+**v** to paste the text. If you copied text from another type of document, click  (**Ctrl+v**) to paste.
7. Click **Save** to save your changes to the Wiki.

Adding Hyperlinks

1. To insert a hyperlink, highlight the text that you want to link to another page.
2. Click . (first button on toolbar).
3. If the link is to a new internal page, select the **Link to a new page** option and enter the page name in the **Page Name** field. This creates the new page and the link to that page.
4. If the link is to a page that was created previously, select the **Link to an existing page** option and select the page from the list of pages.
5. If the link is to an external web site, select the **Link to an external web site** option and enter the address in the **URL** field.
6. Click the **Insert** button.
7. When done, click the **Save** button.

Inserting Images

1. Click the **Edit** in the Wiki sidebar.
2. Click . (fourth button on toolbar).
3. If the image is stored on your computer, select the **Upload an image** option and click the **Browse** button.
4. In the **File Upload** dialog box, navigate to and select the image.
5. If linking to an image on another website, select the **Include an image from an external web site** option.
6. Enter the address in the **UR**L field
7. For any image, enter a **description** in the alt text field.
8. Click the **Upload** button.
9. Click the **Insert** button.
10. When done, click the **Save** button.

**Online Tips:**

This course is designed for serious and motivated students who are committed to completing readings, online assignments, tests and papers in a timely and thoughtful manner. By registering for this course, you have indicated your understanding of this fact and your commitment to being an active and prepared participant. Please take the Online Readiness Questionnaire at the end of the syllabus to assess your personal readiness for taking a course via the Internet. Two other important documents are also at the end: How to Survive an Online Course, andSteps to Setting Up and Using Your Oak Email & Blackboard Account.

Because this course is being offered on-line, it is your responsibility to keep current on assignments and meet all deadlines posted on the website. Failure to meet posted deadlines results in a failing grade for the assignment.

**Online Activities and Responsibilities:**  Because this course is being offered on-line, it is your responsibility to keep current on assignments and meet all deadlines posted on the website. Failure to meet posted deadlines results in a failing grade for the assignment.

* Because this course involves on-line exercises which elaborate on the materials in the text, you must remain up-to-date on the assigned readings so you can participate with your classmates in the activities and on-line discussions.
* Students are responsible for adapting to any changes in due dates, tests, assignments, weight of assignments, and schedules. Such changes will be posted on the class website.
* Students are responsible for accessing the class website regularly to check for class

messages, updated assignments, and view grades. If you have problems with your password or user ID in accessing the website, please phone the Computer Help Desk.

* If you have a question or concern and you do not need an immediate response (next six-hours) e-mail me. However, if you need an immediate answer, and/or the question is long/complex, call me at home Mondays through Sundays from 8am- 10pm on my cell phone.

**Online Participation** is required. Please be considerate of others' viewpoints. I encourage you to respond to others' experiences and ideas. If something offends you, please respond in an appropriate manner. If something interests you, let us know! Participating will increase your learning. *Participation includes such things as providing personal examples, asking questions, challenging or* *critiquing ideas, thoughtfully completing online activities, and even helping others*.

**Written Assignments**: All written assignments must be in Word format, double-spaced, 12-font. These assignments will be graded on both content and writing style. Because writing is so important to a successful career, grammatical errors, spelling errors, typos, incorrect punctuation, and the like will be deducted from your total grade for a written assignment.

* All written assignments must be submitted in Word format in the area provided on the class website <https://bb7pilot.ohio.edu/>
  + *No work sent via e-mail will be accepted*. If you do not know how to work with Blackboard, please to learn use it before taking the course.
* You are required to save hard copies of all your assignments, and backed-up copies on disk or CD. Do NOT save files on your hard-drive only.
* Save documents with your name and the title of the assignment, e.g., *Marc Smith On-Line #1 Pygmalion Effect; or Moonbeam Baja Journal #1,Stop Communicating*
* All written assignments must be the original work of the student and may not be submitted concurrently in any other class without the specific written permission of both instructors. Plagiarism or ghost writing will cause failure of that assignment and may result in failure of the course and other administrative actions. Please refer to the *Ohio University Student Handbook* for a discussion of penalties for unethical student conduct.

**Tests**: All students must take tests online on the designated dates. All students will take test at the scheduled times. Each test will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer/essay questions. Tests will cover content from the text and information provided in chapter outlines and on-line activities. No make-up tests are permitted.

**Successful Traits:**

Self-directed and disciplined — you should plan to spend at least as much time completing assignments and reading your chapters as you would in a traditional classroom. You will need to be self directed and disciplined to complete assignments on schedule.

Organized — you will need to be able to organize your time, plot, out how much material you need to cover, and set weekly and monthly schedules so that you complete assignments.

Independent --- You will be expected to work independently without a lot of promoting.

Enjoys reading --- The ability to read and comprehend subject matter is critical in this course.

Enjoys writing --- The primary method of communication in online classes is writing; whether via e-mail, online chats or blackboard discussion boards.

Comfortable with computers – You will need to be comfortable with internet browsing and searching, sending and reading attachments, word processing, and downloading installing software plug-ins.

**Your learning style**

Everyone has different learning styles. You should attempt to identify your learning style and choose the courses that are better suited to your particular learning style. There are two types of learning modes active and passive

Active leaning includes the following learning styles

Doing

Speaking

Passive learning modes tend not to be as effective for most people as the active learning mode when it comes to retention

Seeing

Reading

Listening

Many online learners are employed in their field of study and are able to apply their new found knowledge to their work. As a result many online learners say they learn more in online classes than in the traditional classroom. Online classes rely heavily on passive learning: reading text, listening to audio clips, seeing graphics, etc. Active learning modes involve writing, email, and online chat room. You need to be aware of your learning style and the styles needed to be successful in this class. Thank you.