

## **Sex and Gender Communication Syllabus Spring 2018**

COM 5371     3 Credit Hours

Professor: Dr. Brandau

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Office : Dan Rather Bldg. 322A

### **Required Course Text:**

Wood, J. T. (2014). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture*. (11th ed.). Boston: Cengage.

Backlund, P. M. & Williams, M. R. (2004). *Readings in gender communication*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

### **Course Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to explore the socially constructed concept of gender. The goal is to better understand the impact gender has on our family, interpersonal, professional, and political lives. Class discussions are intended to facilitate a richer understanding gender issues so you will be empowered in addressing gender issues in your own life. In addition, you will have an opportunity to examine an issue related to gender in a well-developed and carefully researched literature review. This assignment will enable you to tailor content to meet your own personal interests.

### **Course Policies**

1. **Attendance.** This course is designed to enable you to access information and complete assignments at times that are convenient to your schedule. This does not mean you may pop in and out whenever you feel like it. Failure to complete weekly assignments, take on-line tests, respond to group discussions, or submit any assignment by the deadline, will be recorded as absences. If you have trouble reading and following directions, this class is NOT FOR YOU! If you miss more than 2 weeks turning in work, you cannot receive full credit for the course. Even though this is an on-line course, absenteeism still hinders the learning process and may result in your failing this course. You may submit assignments early if you would like--just be sure assignments are in by the deadlines specified. If you have questions you can email or call me.

2. **Late Examinations.** If you miss an examination and have a legitimate reason for doing so, you must make it up within a reasonable time (normally 1 week or less). All arrangements for missing an examination must be made prior to the time the

examination is scheduled. If such arrangements are not made, then no make-up examination will be given and you will receive a zero for that examination.

3. NO late assignments will be accepted. No late presentations will be allowed. You are responsible for turning in assignments on time. Keep up with the course activities and due dates to ensure you do not miss a deadline.

4. Plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work” (Dictionary.com). All work must be the original composition of each student. Although you must use outside sources, you must cite them appropriately. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Assignments will be checked for plagiarism by any and all means available, including electronic checking services (i.e. Turnitin.com). The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

5. Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students at 294-1720.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

6. Religious Holidays. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

7. IDEA System. Students are asked to complete an IDEA evaluation of the course and the instructor at the end of the semester. Participation is voluntary.

8. Classroom conduct. In an online environment it is important to observe good Net-etiquette. Spell-check all of your work, read it before posting it. Additionally, please be courteous to your classmates.

Students are expected to read and abide by all rules and policies in the SHSU Student Handbook.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>

#### Assignments and Requirements

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|----------------------------|-----|
| Group Unit Assignments     | 25% |
| Individual Reaction Papers | 20% |
| Exam                       | 25% |
| Term Paper                 | 30% |

#### Instructor's Notes

My office is in the Communication building room 322A. If there is something you do not understand please contact me. You can email me or if it is urgent, you can text me on my personal phone (936) 524-6539. HOWEVER, **if you have a technical problem with an exam or uploading an assignment, please contact BlackBoard.** They have a technical expertise, I do not.

Continuation of enrollment in this course indicates acceptance of the terms and requirements of this syllabus.

[www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus)