

THIS SYLLABUS WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE ON ONCOURSE.
IF YOU STILL FEEL THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PRINT IT OUT, PLEASE PRINT DOUBLE-SIDED

Gender & Communication

COMM 373-01; Spring 2019
T&R 2-3:20; Fenton Hall 174

A gender-equal society would be one where the word 'gender' does not exist: where everyone can be themselves.

- Gloria Steinem

It's my view that gender is culturally formed, but it's also a domain of agency or freedom and that it is most important to resist the violence that is imposed by ideal gender norms, especially against those who are gender different, who are nonconforming in their gender presentation.

- Judith Butler

I believe gender is a spectrum, and I fall somewhere between Channing Tatum and Winnie the Pooh.

- Stephen Colbert

Instructor

Dr. Tracy Marafiote

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Dept of Communication: 324 McEwen Hall, 673-3410

Course Description & Objectives

The **Communication Studies major** stresses critical thinking and how reality is created and maintained through communication practices. It also addresses appropriate and effective participation within relationships and in the *personal, public, and professional spheres*. **This is a Communication Studies course** and in it we will explore the broad and intertwined issues of gender/sex and communication.

We come out of a cultural history in which gender was understood and enforced as a relatively rigid binary. There have always been challenges to this construct, however, and it is these sites of contestation that provide rich sources for understanding the complexities of gender. We will examine such sites in the intersections of gender, sex, sexuality, society/ popular culture and communication. Topics will include gendered/sexed voices, language, bodies, sexual violence*, and feminism, as well as the ways these are constructed and constrained within families, workplaces, the media and popular culture, and educational and religious institutions.

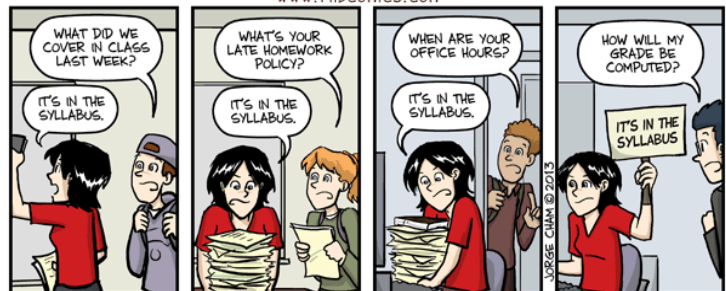
+ NOTE that we may discuss issues that are surprising or uncomfortable to you; that is part of learning. If you are not willing to engage with a paradigm that may be different from your current one, this course (and perhaps college) is not for you. + You should be aware that some course content (readings, videos, discussion/lectures, etc.) may contain strong language, concepts, and images. + Your continued enrollment in this course indicates your agreement to abide by the guidelines, policies, standards, and other information outlined in this syllabus.

* Sexual Violence: As survivor, I believe that it is imperative that this horrible, painful topic be discussed openly so that fewer people of all genders, orientations, identities have that scarring experience. Nonetheless, I full understand the difficulty it may pose to some students and wish to deal with the topic sensitively and with student participation/attnd during discussions these fairly.

IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor That ever lived.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



This course also addresses the following **Department of Communication Learning Goals**, which state that *Students must demonstrate the ability to:*

1. understand, evaluate, and communicate creatively—within and across technically and culturally diverse systems—in ways that responsibly confirm the value of all system members.
2. evaluate and creatively consider communication locally, globally, and historically through perspectives relevant to their specific major.
3. extend and apply skills and knowledge to create community connections beyond the university that foster professional, civic, and developmental engagement.

Required Texts

- Palczewski, C.H., DeFrancisco, V.P., & McGeough, D.D. (2013). *Gender in Communication: A Critical Introduction*, 3rd ed. ISBN: 9781506358451
 - You can order an e-copy (save\$! help the environment!) from [Sage Publishing](#)
- Additional readings/materials will be available on the course OnCourse page.

Department of Communication Philosophy

Communication does not exist outside of relationships. With this in mind, the faculty of the SUNY Fredonia Department of Communication believe that all communicators, whether in the classroom, on the air, or within created works, have a responsibility to themselves and their audience.

The faculty believe that it is our responsibility to provide perspective and structure as students make choices about their work, and consequently, about themselves and who they are as adults and scholars. We encourage students to make the effort to consider the consequences of their choices for themselves, for others, and for those relationships.

The faculty encourages projects and behaviors that are undertaken with thoughtful respect and consideration for others. We support and encourage work that is both ethical and enriching to the students' community and to personal and professional relationships.

All students should review the **Department of Communication Ethical and Professional Standards** at <http://www.fredonia.edu/department/communication/standards.asp>

Instructor Philosophy/Availability

This is a rigorous and effort-intensive course; you will be exposed to issues, perspectives, and theoretical concepts that will demand a high level of effort and engagement. I will conduct each class and our interactions with these expectations. If at any time during this semester you feel that my expectations are unclear, have difficulty meeting any of the above requirements, or have any course-related concerns, please talk with me – preferably **before** it becomes an issue (for assignments, *prior to* any due date) – so that we can discuss a solution. I make an effort to always be accessible both in and out of the classroom, and am always willing to discuss any issues related to your learning.

*"You cannot afford to think of being here to receive an education: you will do much better to think of being here to claim one."
(Adrienne Rich, 1977)*

Be aware that I feel strongly that an education is earned through engaged effort to expand your understanding and knowledge of new topics/issues/ideas, as well as your critical thinking abilities. Neither an education nor a good grade is gained simply by paying tuition, attending class, and turning in assignments. As a student you choose the extent to which this course and your education is a priority for you; it is likely that your intellectual success and your grades will reflect your choices and your effort.

Course & University Policies

ADA Statement Reasonable accommodations are available to students with documented disabilities at Fredonia. Students who may require instructional and/or examination accommodations should contact the office of Disability Support Services for Students (DSS), located on the 4th Floor of the Reed Library (716-673-3270 or disability.services@fredonia.edu). The DSS coordinator will review documentation and determine accommodations on a case-by-case basis. DSS will notify me with an accommodation letter which verifies that you have registered with

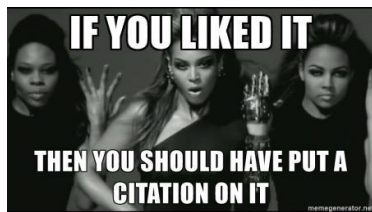
that office and which describes any accommodations approved for you. After you have met with the DSS coordinator, please contact me so that we can discuss any needed accommodations.

Make up Policy/Assignment Deadlines Quizzes, in-class assignments, reading summaries, etc. cannot be made up; all work is due on the designated day – this *includes* absences for weddings, vacations/trips, doctor visits, interviews, business/work, etc. Notifying me in advance is advised but does not constitute an “excused absence.” In the case of *emergencies* or *extreme personal difficulty* (none of the above reasons qualify), some assignments may be made up *with documentation* (copy of hospital bill, funeral notice, etc.); see me. I am happy to provide **feedback on drafts** of assignments; to allow time in my schedule to do so, such requests must be submitted—with the *100% complete* draft—one week prior to the assignment due date. **Late assignments** will be penalized 5% for each day late and will not be accepted more than one week late.

Attendance & Punctuality policy Regular attendance and punctuality are expected for all class meetings. If you have a scheduling dilemma that makes punctuality difficult, you should reconsider your registration. We will both begin and end classes on time every meeting. Repeatedly arriving after class begins will reduce your attendance grade. Three late arrivals or departures equal an absence. Arriving over 10 minutes late or leaving early is considered an absence. **If you miss class**, it is your responsibility to *contact another student* regarding lecture material, notes, assignments, etc. *In any class, in contacting instructors about absences, have the common sense not ask if you did or if you will “miss anything ‘important’.”*



Academic Honesty/Plagiarism



Compliance with strict standards of academic honesty is expected. Academic misconduct/plagiarism will not be tolerated and may be grounds for failure of the course, and suspension or dismissal from the University. Note that **plagiarism** is the failure to correctly cite/reference ANY words or ideas that are not ORIGINALLY yours. You should *always* reference the sources of your information. Plagiarism also includes the using of others' (or sharing your own) essays, quizzes, etc., *and* the use of pre-written, purchased, or down-

loaded materials. *If you do not understand how to cite others' work in your own writing, schedule an appointment with me;* I always am very happy to discuss referencing and learning-related topics with you. Additionally, any **material written for another course** may not be used in this course (or vice versa) without specific permission of both course instructors.

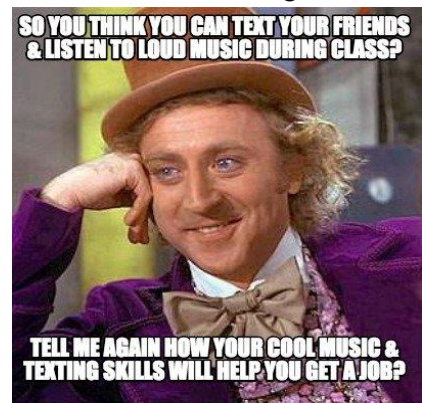
Class Environment Your continued enrollment in this course indicates your agreement that all discussions and interactions will be conducted with thought, maturity, and respect for others' rights to differing values and views. Discussion of differing beliefs is encouraged, and will be conducted in a manner that maintains a climate conducive to the thinking and learning of all members of the class. Students are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline, and engage in the rigors of discovery and scholarship.

Classroom Behaviors See the Dept. of Comm. Ethical and Professional Standards on our website.

Additional behaviors include, for example, use of class time. If you would like to eat during class, you must 1) have your food items in hand by start of class, 2) eat quietly and neatly, 3) clean up after yourself, placing materials in the garbage or recycle bin when you are done.

Cell Phone Policy Phones must be TURNED OFF and PUT AWAY in bag or backpack during class. [Research](#) shows that the mere presence of a cellphone distracts and reduces the ability to focus; a phone that is out during class will automatically result in a loss of participation points, and may be confiscated during class for the remainder of the class or the semester. I retain the right to answer any incoming calls or texts. If you are expecting an emergency call or text, let me know in advance.

Laptop Policy [Research](#) shows that laptops are a distraction in the



classroom. Other than for occasional class assignments, laptops will generally only be allowed in order to accommodate documented special needs (ADA accommodations), or well-supported requests.

Sustainability Policy In keeping with SUNY Fredonia's Green Initiatives to use resources more thoughtfully, you are encouraged you to be mindful about paper (and other resource) usage. Please use double-sided printing for all hard copies of coursework. Moreover, you are encouraged to print selectively from our course E-reserves, share/reuse with classmates, and recycle all E-reserve and other materials that cannot be passed on to future students

Email communication Emails written to any faculty or staff, or to any community member as a representative of SUNY Fredonia, should use standard professional formatting. This includes a clear subject heading, a courteous greeting, proper spelling and grammar, respectful content, and an identifying "signature." See: Great info #1 and Good Example #2 *Pro tip: never start with "Hey"*.

Study Time The Department of Communication enforces rigorous academic standards, which maintain the high quality and success of our graduates. Students should expect to devote a minimum of 3 hours of study/preparation time for each in-class/credit hour.

Requests for Reevaluation/24 hour rule The burden of proof in any reevaluation of your work rests with you. Requests for reevaluation must be made *within one week* of the original evaluation. Before meeting with me, please use the first 24 hours to carefully consider my comments in relation to the assignment guidelines. In writing, identify specific concerns or proposed changes and provide an argument and evidence in support of your position.

Recording Class Material Students may not take photographic, video, or audio recordings of any course material without express permission of the instructor. Any permission granted will be for one-time only and does not extend to other class meetings or materials. Any materials recorded with permission may be used only for the personal study purposes of the individual to whom permission was granted, and may not be shared with other individuals or entities for any purpose.

Course Requirements & Assignments

1. You have ample opportunity to do your work thoroughly throughout the semester and to work with me if you are having difficulties; **extra credit** assignments are not given.
2. In keeping with Fredonia's Green Initiative, this a (relatively) **paperless classroom**; unless otherwise stated, work will be turned in electronically to drop boxes on OnCourse (Assignment Submissions/ Drop Boxes folder). Please print double-sided if printing is necessary.
3. Log onto the **class OnCourse site** for copies of the syllabus, schedule, course assignment guidelines and other course-related materials or information, to submit assignments and communicate with group members, and to keep track of your grades. If you have any difficulty logging into OnCourse, contact the ITS Service Center, W203 Thompson, 673-3407.

NOTE 1: You MUST double-check OnCourse drop boxes to ensure that your assignment was successfully submitted by the due date/time. Failing to verify that your document is attached means that, *if* it is accepted it at a later date, it will be late and will lose points.

NOTE 2: You will typically **receive some written feedback** on assignments, not just number grades. To access comments, go the drop box where the assignment was submitted. **DO NOT submit PDF.**

NOTE 3: Any submitted documents that cannot be opened using MS Word will receive a zero. The only way to receive credit (minus 5-10%/day late) is: copy or click and drag (do **not** open and save) the file to a flash/thumb-drive, *retaining the original save date*. This date must be on or prior to the assignment's original due date to earn any credit. **DO NOT submit PDF files.**

4. SUNY requires you to keep track of your **Fredonia.edu email account** so you receive both university-wide notices and individual emails regarding class-related information. Failure to read *Fredonia.edu* emails does not exempt you from the content of any messages. **Starfish Statement:** We Care About your Success! This course is part of a Fredonia initiative that utilizes the Starfish Student Success Network. It is designed to promote student success through coordination and communication between students, instructors, and support staff. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails regarding your attendance, course grades, or academic performance. To

benefit, it is important that you check your Fredonia email regularly and take recommended actions. You may be contacted directly by an Academic Advisor or Campus Support Professional.

- To assist in refining your **referencing skills**, we will use TurnItIn.com. **Written assignments** are due *electronically* to **BOTH** the OnCourse AND the TurnItIn.com drop boxes (go to Assignment Submissions/Drop Boxes folder) on the dates listed on your course schedule. Work with a commonality rank higher than 3%* on TurnItIn will not be accepted; see "How to correct TurnItIn 'Originality Report' Errors" (Assignments & Descriptions folder) and resubmit prior to due date. ***NOTE** that the 3% is only to allow for common phrases (i.e., "The purpose of this study..." "The research found that..."); it does not mean that a "little bit of plagiarism is acceptable.
- The content of **presentations, videos, and guest speakers' talks** is considered assigned material for which you are responsible. You must be in attendance for all of these.
- We cannot discuss every concept from **assigned material** in class. *You are still responsible* for: the readings' content in assignments and tests; for asking questions about any material that you would like to clarify or that you believe relates to a concept we are discussing. Questions, concerns, and comments related to any of the course readings, materials, or assignments are always welcome.
- In accordance with SUNY Fredonia guidelines, overall **grading/evaluation standards** are as follows:
A(94+)A-(93-0): Superior performance and achievement: demonstrating *exceptional* synthesis of concepts and evidence of critical thinking, and *far exceeding* the basic requirements.
B+(89-7) B(86-4)B-(83-0): Very Good performance, substantial achievement: demonstrating effectual effort in engaging concepts and *exceeding* the basic requirements
C+(79-7) C(76-4)C-(73-0): Fair or standard performance and achievement: demonstrating enough effort for *meeting* the basic requirements.
D+(69-7) D(66-4)D-(63-0): Passing yet substandard performance, minimal achievement: demonstrating *marginal* effort and *not meeting* all of the basic requirements.

Detailed **guidelines/criteria** for the **below assignments** are posted in the **OnCourse "Assignment Descriptions"** folder. *It is your responsibility to read and fulfill all assignments' guidelines as noted on the assignment description and/or as discussed in class.*

Gender, Gender Everywhere Essays 15%* During day-to-day life, notice ways in which you and others *gender* each other. Write two 3 page papers about these processes, messages, and results in relation to course concepts and theories.

Gendered Cultural Artifacts 15%* Image Posts: 5 weeks of the semester, post on the Forum an image of a gendered cultural artifact with a 1 pg write-up; reply to peers comments (10%). Feedback: Any 5 weeks, review two classmates' posts and respond to at least one (5%).*

Small Group Research Project* 20% Focus on a news story or current event. Give a 15-20 minute presentation to the class; write a 5-6 page summary. *

Reading Summaries & Collaborative Learning Groups 15% Complete summary worksheet available on OnCourse (7.5%) for each chapter or article and bring it to class. (Late summaries—those not brought to class on the due date—will lose ½ credit.) Class time will be regularly spent in Learning Groups (7.5%; peer evaluation) in which you discuss your questions/comments, respond to questions from me, and engage in in-class "discussions/debates" of course readings. *



Tests 25% Since so much of this course is dependent on everyone fully engaging the reading materials, there will be weekly or bi-weekly tests(10%); these will not be announced; you should expect and prepare for them. A cumulative final exam (15%) will assess your comprehension of the readings and course discussions. Wholly or partially missed tests cannot be made up. Tests will assess your understanding of the main points and concepts of readings, and your ability to think carefully and apply theoretical concepts to your world.

Attendance & Participation 10% Attendance is required. It is your responsibility to make sure that you

are marked on the roster each class. Both to personally benefit from the concepts and discussions in this course, as well as to contribute to the classroom dynamics and others' learning, it is essential that you regularly and actively participate; this requires your presence. Consequently, *participation grades cannot be more than 5% higher than attendance grades*. Participation is considered informed and insightful comments on, or questions about, class concepts, theories, and processes; a motivated and supportive attitude; meeting of deadlines and guidelines; involvement in class and small-group discussions.

Student Resources

- Counseling Center 673-3424 <http://www.fredonia.edu/counseling/>
 - **sexual assault; alcohol/substance abuse; anxiety, grief, depression, suicidal thoughts;** other
- LoGrasso Health Center 673-3131, 673-3132 <http://www.fredonia.edu/healthcenter/>
 - birth control; immunizations; various health and medical issues
- Learning Center 673-3550, Carnahan-Jackson Ctr, 4th floor Reed Library <http://www.fredonia.edu/tlc/>
 - tutoring, supplemental instruction; language and/or disability support services; other
- University Police 673-3333, 2nd floor Gregory Hall, <http://www.fredonia.edu/upd/>
 - escort bus service; silent witness; bluelight program; other

Off Campus: (this is informational only, these orgs are not sanctioned by the instructor or by SUNY Fredonia)

- STI/other services: Evergreen Health <http://evergreenhs.org/> and AIDS Community Svcs of WNY <http://nyshealthfoundation.org/our-grantees/grantee-profile/aids-community-services-of-western-new-york-inc>
- Family Planning Clinic, Dunkirk Health Dept. <http://www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/271/Family-Planning> Graf Bldg, 319 Central Ave, Dunkirk 71-363-3660 / 866-604-6789

Sp19 Course Schedule (Schedule subject to modification)

Weeks 1-4

wk / date	topic / readings	assignments
	<i>non-textbook readings available on OnCourse or via provided link</i>	T=Tuesday, R=Thursday
1 1/24	Introductions: the Course, the Issues, Each Other PART I: FOUNDATIONS Ch1. Developing a Critical Gender/Sex Lens	
1/29	LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES	
2 1/29	Gender/Sex Binaries v. Spectrums Ch1 continued Ainsworth, <i>Sex Redefined</i> Kralick, Is Gender Written Into Your Skeleton? [1 summary A & K]	>> Do Image Posts/ Feedback (any 5 wks)
1/31	Doc: Gender Terminology [asgt in doc]	R: Gender Term rdg
1/31	LAST DAY TO ADD COURSES	write-up: hard copy
3 2/5	Ch2. Theories of Gender/Sex	R: Fem & Masc rdg
2/7	Doc: What is Feminism Doc: Masculinity & "Toxic Masculinity"	write-up: hard copy