

# GENDER and COMMUNICATION

HCOM 2470

Summer Quarter 2008, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

June 28, July 12, 19, August 2, 9, 23, and one class TBD to make up for 6/21

**INSTRUCTOR:** Carol C. Zak-Dance, Ph.D., <mailto:czakdanc@du.edu>

Work Phone: 871-4424 Home Phone: 692-0966.

**TEXTS:** *Gendered Lives* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Wood, Julia T.

Belmont CA: Wadsworth, 2009. ISBN 978-1428229952

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to examine the human communication process as it influences and is influenced by sex and gender differences, gender expectations, and sex-role stereotypes.

In other words, what impact do sex, gender, and stereotyping have on the development of an individual's communication behaviors and skills? Areas that will be considered, researched, and discussed include self-concept development, language usage, nonvocal communication, and communication in personal and professional contexts. Strategies for improving the human communication environment will be explored.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** By the completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- distinguish the effects of sex and gender on communication behaviors, and vice

versa;

- identify the communication behaviors associated with each sex/gender;

- explore and evaluate strategies for improving an individual's communication

within/between the sexes;

- relate and synthesize the course concepts with an individually chosen research

topic, orally and in writing.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Attendance and participation. Class attendance is **essential**. If an emergency

requires missing a class, contact the instructor asap regarding any make-up work.

Class participation is evaluated based upon the student's ability to relate readings

and experiences to class discussions in an attempt to further the class participants'

understanding of the topic.

2. A newspaper article, magazine article, written communication from any source, self-

composed short report of a personal or witnessed experience, or a self-written

report of someone else's experience, as told to you, related to that week's reading

topic, will be presented and turned in each class session. A **separate "relationship to**

**reading" one-page discussion** should be typed and accompany your submission.

These examples will be used for a class theory/practice scrapbook.

3. An end-of-the-quarter research paper (5-7 pages) and oral report. **(A class handout details this assignment.)**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The Women's College fully endorses the University of Denver's Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research—is in violation of the code and will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor code and its procedures.

[www.du.edu/honorcode](http://www.du.edu/honorcode)

**GRADES:**

Final grades will be based upon the following percentages:

Attendance & Participation	10%
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Session Assignments	40%
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Final Paper and Report	50%
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<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
06/28/08	Defining Human Communication	Introduction
	Sex Differences and Gendered Communication	Chs. 1, 2,
07/12/08	Women's and Men's Rhetorical Movements	Chs. 3, 4
07/19/08	Gender and Spoken Language	Chs. 5, 6
	Gender and Unspoken Language	

**Discussion Paper DUE**

08/02/08

Gender and Relationships

Chs. 7, 8

**Discussion Paper DUE**

08/09/08

Gendered Education: Formal & Mediated

Chs. 9, 11

**Discussion Paper DUE**

08/23/08

Gender and the Workplace

Chs. 10, 12

Gender, Power, and Violence

Epilogue

**Discussion Paper DUE**

TBD

**DUE: Final Paper and Report**

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**Please include a SSAE, or FAX # if you would like your paper returned to you.**