

**COMM 4200: E01**  
**Communication and Gender**  
**Summer Session I 2019**  
**May 10, 2019-May 24, 2019**  
**Final Exam Period: May 28th**  
**Online**



Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Misty M. Wilson

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Office: Humanities 150

Office Hours: Online M-F 10 AM – 11 AM, and I'm available to meet face-to-face by appointment.

\*\*You can send messages anytime 9 AM-9 PM on Google Hangouts.

To send a message or video call, go to your Google Mail. Midway down on the left of your screen, you will see your name, a green dot, and a “+.” Click on the “+” and a box will appear. Type my name into the box. A new dialogue screen will open that will give you the options to IM me or video call me. If I'm not available, I will return your call/message as soon as I can.

**Official UWG Course Description:**

**COMM 4200: Gender and Communication**

This course will survey the role of gender in various communication contexts: relationships, organizations, educational institutions, and mass media. Consideration will be given to the social construction of categories of gender, race, sexuality, and class and how they have changed over time.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to

- Describe three theories of gender identity development.
- Describe the three waves of feminism.
- Explain how gender affects both verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Explain how gender identity development occurs.
- Analyze the role gender plays in various contexts (healthcare, workplace, school).
- Analyze how media perpetuates gender roles and stereotypes.

## Required Textbook and Supplies:

- Wood, J. T. & Fixmer-Oraiz, N. (2017). *Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture* (12th ed.). Boston: Cengage.
- CourseDen for COMM 4420
- Reliable Internet access that will allow for video streaming.

## Policies

**Attendance:** Because our course is an online summer course, we will never be meeting in person; however, your attendance to our class is still (if not more!) important. During the first few days, you should read the syllabus and take the syllabus quiz (due 5/12/19 by 11:59 PM) and post a welcome message on the “Introduction Discussion Board.” **The syllabus quiz and discussion board introduction will count as proof of your attendance in this course, which I’m required to report to the Registrar during our first week of classes. If you do not complete these by the 12<sup>th</sup>, I must report you as non-attending to the Registrar and you are dropped almost immediately from the course.** Given that our time is so compressed, you should plan on logging in every day and spending several hours a day working on the material. If you procrastinate in this class, you will not be successful. Remember, we are condensing 15 weeks into 2.

**Students with disabilities.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal non-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.

**Academic Integrity Statement and Policy.** At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing. The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG. Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all

actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the Student Handbook.

**Additional important UWG rights and responsibilities information:**

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

**Netiquette:** We live in a technological world. We e-mail and text constantly. Please remember that these are forms of communication, and we are responsible for how we communicate with each other. Be mindful of both your content and tone when e-mailing me and other students and also when posting on Course Den. As we are moving toward more computer-mediated communication, we must learn how to be responsible, ethical, competent communicators in a technological age.

**Basis of the Course Grade (230 pts total)**

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Syllabus Quiz.....                | 5 points  |
| Intro Discussion Board Post.....  | 5 points  |
| Module 1 Quiz.....                | 20 points |
| Module 2 Quiz.....                | 20 points |
| Module 3 Quiz.....                | 20 points |
| Module 4 Quiz.....                | 20 points |
| Module 5 Quiz.....                | 20 points |
| Module 1 Discussion Board Post... | 5 points  |
| Module 2 Discussion Board Post... | 5 points  |
| Module 3 Discussion Board Post... | 5 points  |
| Module 4 Discussion Board Post... | 5 points  |
| Module 5 Discussion Board Post... | 5 points  |
| Letter to My Younger Self.....    | 30 points |
| Final Exam.....                   | 65 points |

**Grading Scale**

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>207-230</b> |
| <b>B</b> | <b>184-206</b> |
| <b>C</b> | <b>161-183</b> |
| <b>D</b> | <b>138-160</b> |
| <b>F</b> | <b>0-137</b>   |




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We should stop defining each other by what we are not and start defining ourselves by who we are.

Emma Watson

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## Written Work

**Syllabus Quiz:** I want to make sure that everyone has thoroughly read and thought about our syllabus. So, sometime over the first few days, you need to log in to Course Den and take the “Syllabus Quiz,” which is just what it sounds like: a quiz over this syllabus! You can (and should) use the syllabus to complete the quiz. It is worth 5 points and is multiple choice, true/false. The quiz should be completed by May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 11:59 PM. After that time, the quiz will not be available and you will not receive points. This quiz cannot be completed late for credit.

**Module Quizzes:** Our class is divided into five separate modules. Each module has a 20 pt quiz that covers the readings and videos, so be sure you’ve read and watched all of the material before attempting the quizzes. The quizzes will have 16 questions total, with 15 multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions and 1 short answer/essay question. You have 30 minutes to complete the exam. Due dates are listed on the syllabus calendar. You cannot take quizzes late. Failure to take a quiz by the due date will result in a “0” being recorded for your grade. I do not differentiate between 1 minute late and 2 hours late. Late is late, so please plan ahead. I know that sometimes life happens, so on one occasion I will reset ONE quiz (an unattempted quiz) if you contact me within 48 hours of the due date. After the 48 hours has passed, your opportunity to make up the exam has passed. Excused absences will be determined on a case by case basis. FYI: Travel and/or technical issues (inability to access Internet) are not considered excused.

**\*\*NOTE:** The Quizzes are automatically graded when you submit. What this means is that the MC/TF questions are automatically graded and posted; however, I have to go in and manually grade the essay/short answer question. So, your initial point total on quizzes will not reflect the points you’ll earn on the last written-response question. Grades will be updated once the quiz due date passes and I have a chance to grade them.

**Discussion Board (DB) Posts:** Our class is divided into five separate modules. In addition to the quizzes, you will be responding to a Discussion Board Prompt for each module. The Discussion Board posts should not solely be your opinion, but they should be your informed opinion based on the readings and videos. To accomplish that, please cite your textbook in your response thread. Because we are a learning community, please then respond to at least 2 of your classmates—meaningfully. “Great thoughts” is not a meaningful response. Do you agree with them? Not? Why? Why not? What could they add? What made you think? Engage them. Both the initial thread and responses are due by the Module’s stated deadline on the syllabus calendar. Because the goal of DB Posts is to interact with each other, late posts will not be accepted for credit. I do not differentiate between 1 minute late and 2 hours late. Late is late, so please plan ahead.

Discussion Board Posts will be graded as follows:

5 pts for well-informed and cited initial posts and meaningful responses to peers;

4 pts for well-informed, cited initial posts and adequate responses to peers;

3 pts for an initial post which attempts to be informed, but could be improved and adequate responses to peers

2 pts for an attempted initial post which needs more support and/or lackluster response to peers

1 pts for an attempted initial post which does not cite qualified support and/or lackluster or no response to peers

0 pts for no post attempted

**Letter to My Younger Self:** Over the course of these few weeks, we will learn quite a bit of information. In addition, you have learned a lot just from living. This assignment asks you to combine your lived experience with your education and write an informed letter to your younger middle school self, specifically about issues of gender. More details are posted on Course Den along with the rubric. The letter is due May 26th by 11:59 PM. The letter should be uploaded in the Assignment Dropbox. It will not be accepted over e-mail. Please read the associated rubric before completing the assignment. If the letter is turned in one day late, it will receive a 5 point deduction. If the letter is turned in two days late, it will receive a 10 point deduction. Please note that I do not make a distinction between 1 minute late and 22 hours late. If the letter timestamp is dated May 27th, it is a 5 pt deduction. If the letter timestamp is dated May 28th, it is a 10 pt deduction. I will not accept letters after May 28th. Technical issues which result in a late submission indicate procrastination and a lack of time management on the part of the student; therefore, they will not be considered a valid excuse for late submissions. Also, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the correct document has been uploaded, and the late penalty will apply until I receive the correct document.

**Final Exam:** The exam will have multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will have between 50-65 questions, and you will have 90 minutes to complete it. Everything from the book and anything covered during the class is fair game on the test. The final exam will only be available during our scheduled final exam period, which is May 28th. The exam will be available from 12:00 AM-11:59 PM on 5/28/19. Failure to take the exam during that time will result in a "0" being recorded for your grade. I will only allow make-up exams for students with excused absences or REAL emergencies (death in family, car accident, etc.), according to my discretion. Leaving early, travel plans, etc. will not be accommodated. Also, please note that all make-up exams are entirely essay and must be taken within 48 hours of missing the exam or a "0" will be recorded for your grade.

**Extra Credit Module:** Our class only lasts for a short period of time. Because of this, we just don't have time to dive into all the discussions we should have in a Communication and Gender class. I wanted to offer you the chance to have an informed discussion about a very important issue facing Georgians right now: the passage of what's come to be known as the "Georgia Heartbeat Bill." On Course Den, you will find an Extra Credit Module that gives a background of Roe v. Wade (The Supreme Court case that made abortions legal), how the Pro-Life/Pro-Choice debate has unfolded since then, and where the Georgia Heartbeat Law is situated in that historical context. The Extra Credit is worth 8 pts total. All of the information needed to complete the Module is located in the Course Den module. This Module is optional, not required, but I hope you'll consider engaging in the discussion.

*Each Module on Course Den will have a General Questions Board. If you have a question about anything you have read, ask me! It doesn't have to just be a question. If something you read piques your curiosity and you have thoughts, share them with me! I'll be checking it every day, and I'd love to dialogue with you about how you're interacting with what you're reading.*

*-Dr. Wilson*



### Calendar as of 5/10/2019

\*\*The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.\*\*

Please note that all of the course material is accessible now.  
You can and should work ahead of the due dates.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>DUE</b><br>(DB = Discussion Board)                     | <b>Associated Chapters</b><br>(Wood and Fixmer-Oraiz<br>Textbook)     |
|-------------|---|---|
| May 10      | Class Begins  |   |
| May 12      | Introductory DB Post and<br>Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 PM |   |
| May 15      | Module 1 Quiz and DB Post due<br>by 11:59 PM              | <u>Module 1</u><br>Opening the Conversation<br>Chapter 1<br>Chapter 2 |
| May 18      | Module 2 Quiz and DB Post due<br>by 11:59 PM              | <u>Module 2</u><br>Chapter 3<br>Chapter 4                             |
| May 20      | Module 3 Quiz and DB Post due<br>by 11:59 PM              | <u>Module 3</u><br>Chapter 5<br>Chapter 6                             |
| May 22      | Module 4 Quiz and DB Post due<br>by 11:59 PM              | <u>Module 4</u><br>Chapter 7<br>Chapter 11<br>Chapter 12              |
| May 24      | Module 5 Quiz and DB Post due<br>by 11:59 PM              | <u>Module 5</u><br>Chapter 8<br>Chapter 9<br>Chapter 10               |
| May 26      | Letter to My Younger Self due<br>by 11:59 PM              |   |
| May 27      | Extra Credit Module (Optional)<br>due by 11:59 PM         |   |
| May 28      | Final Exam<br>**Available from 12 AM to<br>11:59 PM**     |   |

## Class Buddies

“Dr. Wilson, did we do anything in class today?”  
I bet somebuddy knows the answer to that question...  
And everybuddy needs somebuddy sometime.

Name:

Phone:

E-mail