Course Overview

Welcome to COMM 4140 – Gender & Communication. This class will provide an opportunity to explore connections between gender, rhetoric, and public culture. We will discuss a range of issues including ongoing constructions of feminism and resistance, discourses of gender and sexuality, questions of identity, and a variety of gender-related topics that will hopefully interest you. We will critique a wide array of gendered discourses, questioning what it means to be understood as male or female, masculine or feminine. Social messages that encourage us to adopt or avoid different gendered identities will be critiqued as we interrogate the repercussions of hegemonic gender expectations. Furthermore, we will consider discourses that challenge static gender binaries, reflecting upon the potential for social change and rhetorical strategies aimed at disrupting the status quo.

As a course offered by Communication Studies, we will take seriously the intersections of rhetoric with performance studies, mediated culture, and lived identities. We will investigate an array of locations from which social arguments are articulated—public protests, legal policies, public speeches, acts of disobedience/resistance, movies, poetry, television shows, hashtags, music, and music videos. Additionally, while the particular focus of this course will be on inventions of arguments and subject positions germane to gender, the lessons learned about social movements more generally should be applicable to other marginalized groups agitating for inclusion in the U.S. socio-political-cultural arena.

**Please note**

There are certainly connections between what we study in this course and scholarship germane to interpersonal communication; however, the emphasis of this class is on rhetorical/critical methodologies for analyzing social constructions of gender.

Since this is a 4000-level course in Communication Studies taught from a rhetorical perspective, it is expected that you are entering this course with strong skills in critical thinking, academic discussions and presentations, scholarly researching and writing, and argumentation.
**Course Learning Objectives**

1. To appreciate gender as a rhetorical construction that is socio-historically and culturally situated.
2. To contextualize scholarship regarding rhetoric and gender through illustrative examples from political and popular culture.
3. To investigate how gendered identities intersect with other identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, sexuality, class).
4. To use critical rhetorical methodologies to analyze how dominant expectations of gender shape our lived experiences, particularly in contemporary U.S. society.
5. To examine non-dominant performances of gender as they challenge patriarchal hegemony.
6. To translate theoretical concepts and materials into a public outreach/educational event.

**What You Should Expect From Me**

I view the classroom as one of the few spaces where taken-for-granted notions of privilege and power can be productively challenged and hopes voiced. My approach to teaching is one that takes seriously the charge of raising students’ consciousness and aiding their progression in becoming more engaged participants in our public culture. Following a dialogical model of pedagogy, I insist that students bear a great deal of responsibility in contributing to the learning environment with insight from course readings and expressions of life experiences.

1. I will be prepared for all class sessions, trying my best to make lectures engaging and to make the best use of class time through teacher-student interactions, discussions, and other activities.
2. I will evaluate your work in a timely manner, fairly, and offer constructive criticism for improvement. I will make every effort to grade and return your work within a 10-day time frame, ensuring you have the time to understand the possibilities for improving your projects.
3. I will make myself available during office hours (and in other appointments as requested) to work with you on your assignments—brainstorming, revisions, explanations, examples, etc.—to ensure you have a clear understanding of the possibilities for making your projects as effective and dynamic as possible.
4. I will respond to e-mail questions in a reasonable amount of time, guiding you with as much detail as possible. On week days, I will always respond to you within 24 hours; on weekends, you may have to wait until Monday to receive a response (depending on my researching and travel/conference schedule for the semester).
5. I will be enthusiastically committed to helping you achieve the challenging course objectives.
6. I will approach the classroom fundamentally with an ethic of care and respect for my students and for the course concepts. I do not have the goal to make all students simply “think like me,” but to enable students to understand the concepts associated with this course and use them proficiently, and to think critically.

**Accommodations & Course Accessibility**

UNT is committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation (The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)). If there are circumstances that may negatively affect your performance in this class, please alert me as soon as possible so we can develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. In accordance with the ADA and Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA), I will provide reasonable accommodations to students who need them.

**Statement from the Office of Disability Accommodation:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation in Sage Hall Suite 167 or on their website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.
Readings

The readings for this course vary in length, difficulty, and origination. Most readings are drawn from critical rhetorical theories and are drawn from journals in the field of communication/rhetoric. We will also read an assortment of shorter essays, popular culture articles, and visit various websites. Due to the diverse nature of our texts, there will be some day-to-day variation in terms of your reading load. Some of the essays are complex and will likely challenge you—they are not included to frustrate you—they have been chosen because they are strong examples of the positions we are discussing, and they lay out arguments in ways that are especially nuanced.

Our activities in class will be based upon the assumption that you have read and reflected upon the material. With this in mind, you should plan to give yourself plenty of time to read carefully, take notes appropriately, and be prepared to ask questions when necessary. Students are expected to complete and process, to the best of your ability, any assigned readings before coming to class and to bring readings to class with you. Do not give up on a reading just because you’re feeling challenged by it; read the entire assignment and come to class with questions. Quizzes and other take-home assessment assignments will be used as necessary to ensure that students are comprehending the materials.

Required Readings:
To keep your costs at a minimum, all course readings will be posted on your course’s BlackBoard site. You can print out essays either from your home computers or in a General Access Computer Lab on campus. Please see the General Access Computer Labs website, http://www.gael.unt.edu/location-labs, for more information about where to find labs, print quotas, etc. There are two labs in the General Academic Building (GAB 330 and GAB 550), along with quite a few labs spread throughout campus.

*If you should ever find yourself unable to log onto BlackBoard, please use your library privileges to find the article through EBSCO. If the library fails you, e-mail another classmate or me directly.

Strategic Reading & Critical Thought

As you continue to develop your critical thinking and reading skills, here are a few tips to help. Learn how to read critically. This means, you should read using different strategies to understand the text in full. This includes:

**Reading to Comprehend**: Most important is to understand the basic content and arguments being made by the author (the basic who, what, where, how type of information). You want to make sure you understand the author’s intent and have an accurate interpretation of the argument presented. Many of the readings are for you to understand a particular concept (ex: public sphere, direct action, etc.), so you will want to pull out those elements from the readings as you go. You might need to look up words or Google specific references to aid in comprehension.

**Reading to Agree**: Put yourself in the position of the author in terms of seeing how the argument applies to the movement example in the article or another aspect of dissent. What is the author’s stated purpose in the article and how did she/he accomplish this purpose? How is the text similar/different to others we have read, who would the author agree or disagree with compared to other texts? What limitations does the author suggest to his/her own argument?

**Reading to Disagree**: The beauty of this course is that you don’t have to agree (and probably won’t agree) with everything that you read. Reading to disagree is to critically evaluate the arguments presented as well as to form your own opinion on the piece or the situation at hand. Does the text contradict other texts? Are there flaws in the argument presented (assumptions made, biases, evidence presented, etc.)? Does the text not apply or “fit” with movement examples or other cases of dissent?
Accountability

We will spend the bulk of our time discussing the ideas raised in the readings and in class and presenting arguments to one another. I will act primarily as a facilitator and each of you will bear some responsibility for the educational experience of the entire class. If you are not here, you will not gain as much from or contribute as much to the course; your experiences are important to our collective learning experience. Therefore, there will be a strictly enforced accountability policy. The summer session moves very quickly and your attendance is imperative to your success. You have 2 personal days to use as you need/wish (the equivalent of one week of class). This day should be saved to account for illness, interview, upcoming trips, etc. If you take more than two days off of class, your final grade will reflect a full letter grade deduction for each class missed (10% of your final grade per absence beyond 1). However, if you are here for every class meeting (i.e., if you take no personal days), your final grade will reflect a grade increase of 2.5%.

Tardiness to class will count as partial absences (15 minutes late = 1/4 partial absence).

University Authorized Absences—Religious observances and UNT-sponsored activities
In line with UNT policy, there are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences related to sicknesses or other life events (in other words, you don’t need to get a doctor’s note if you have the flu and just need to spend the day in bed, and you don’t need to bring me an obituary if your loved one passes away). You have the equivalent of one week of class to use for such situations—Please use your personal days wisely.

There are only two exceptions made to the above policy about personal days. The first exception is in line with the state of Texas regarding observations of major religious holy days (as identified by Section 11.20 of the Texas state tax code)—these absences do not count against your personal days. Additionally, University-sponsored activities (e.g., travel associated with debate, performance festivals, field trips) do not count against your personal days. HOWEVER, it is your responsibility to alert me by the second week of class, in writing, if you plan to miss class over the course of the semester for either a University-sponsored activity or religious observation. In this e-mail, please include specific dates and your reasons for missing class. If you are traveling for a University-sponsored activity, I will also need official documentation from the Dean of Students within 3 days of your absence.

Regardless of your reason for missing a class, you are still responsible for that day’s in-class materials and deadlines.

Please note, because of the high demand for this course, students who miss the first class day without prior professor consent are subject to being dropped from the course so that other students may be added.

Assignments

Active Participation & Assignments (15%). This course will benefit students who are motivated to read, write, and engage in discussion. At its core, this course is animated primarily through active dialogue, informed discussion, and critical engagement. Thus, your invested participation is essential. Merely showing up is not enough. If you attend every day but rarely engage in the materials in a way that is responsive to the day’s readings and others in the class, you will earn a poor participation grade. Likewise, if you are not in class, you certainly cannot contribute to our discussions. This portion of your final grade is based on your meaningful contributions to the ongoing class dialogues. Please speak out, speak often, and speak in a manner that demonstrates that you’ve read closely. From time to time, you will be asked to bring in an example relevant to the day’s readings or participate in a group activity—these types of unscheduled assignments will also be factored into this grade.

Concept Portfolios (30%) – We will start these on January 25 – Success in college and in the rest of your life requires a strong day-to-day work ethic and ability to skillfully employ concepts relevant to your coursework and careers. Educational scholars strongly suggest that “frequent, low-stakes assessments” improve learning more than “high-stakes” midterm and final exams. Based on both this research and feedback from students who have taken this course over the years, this course will not include exams; rather, you will turn in “concept portfolio” submissions over the course readings this semester. I will provide copies of the Concept Portfolio Sheets at the start of the semester and make a file copy available on Blackboard. The hard copies are due immediately at the start of each class and no email submissions are allowed. Each student is required to turn in 15 submissions over the course of the semester for points. Submissions beyond 15 are eligible for extra credit.
Gender Fair (30%) – Wednesday, April 27, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm – In an effort to bring the lessons of this course to the wider university and public community, we will host a Gender Fair during the last scheduled week of class. This project will be educational, public, and designed to provoke dialogue and learning within our broader community. This assignment values your ability to translate academic research into accessible and meaningful engagements with people outside the course. This component of your course grade will be based upon your individual, small group, and the overall class’s contributions to the Gender Fair. Much more information about this project will be provided as we settle into our class routine. For now, consider the Gender Fair a “field trip” and know that you need to block off this entire day (8:00 - 4:00), including all outside obligations.

Proposal for Final Paper (5%) – Due Friday, April 1 by 5 pm – Each student must turn in and have a proposal approved before completing the final paper. You will receive more information about the expectations of this paper during the semester. This paper will be due via Turnitin on BlackBoard.

Final Paper (20%). – Due Wednesday, May 11 by 5 pm – Each student will write a 8-10 page paper that rhetorically analyzes some gendered artifact of public/popular culture. Your analysis will be similar to other articles that you will read in class over the course of the semester. You will receive more information about the expectations of this paper during the semester. This paper will be due during the final exam week via Turnitin on BlackBoard.

**Papers written for this assignment have often gone on to be selected for the Top Paper panel at the UNT Student Conference held every Spring.**

Extra Credit

There will be a variety of extra credit opportunities offered over the course of the semester. In most cases, students will be expected to write a 2-page reflection paper responding to an event. Unless directed otherwise, response papers should provide a critical evaluation of the event including the following 3 elements: 1) provide a brief summary of the event as it relates to issues of gender; 2) discuss how the event relates specifically to course terminology, concepts, and scholarship; 3) provide a rhetorical critique/evaluation of the event’s representations of gender roles and expectations. All extra credit papers are due within one week of attending an approved event and should be submitted to Suzanne via e-mail: suzanne.enck@unt.edu

The maximum amount that any student’s grade can be raised from extra credit opportunities (papers, extra concept portfolios, & accountability bonus combined) is 5%.

Grading/Quality of Work

All grades will be in the form of a letter grade (A-F) and weighted according to the demands of the specific assignments. In the end, your final grade will be accounted in the following manner:

A: Exemplary: work or performance that goes well beyond the basic expectations of the assignment to the point of providing a model of excellence to others.

B: Commendable: work or performance that not only meets all requirements but exceeds them, demonstrating depth, originality, and other marks of quality that give the work distinction.

C: Satisfactory: work or performance that fully meets all requirements competently and shows the ability to function as a college student.

D: Marginal: work or performance that either (1) fails to meet all requirements though what is done is considered competent, or (2) meets all requirements but not at a basic level of competence, or (3) both of the above but not poor enough to be considered failing.

F: Failing: work or performance that falls significantly short of requirements or basic competence or both. And, of course, work not done.
Meetings & Grade Disputes

For some students, this will prove to be a challenging course. I highly encourage students to use my office hours to ensure maximum success in achieving your own course goals. If you are struggling with readings, come talk to me about them. If you are wrestling with course terminologies, see me. If you have little background in rhetoric, visit me so you can secure the mentoring you might need. I am willing to meet with you ahead of time and talk about your assignments and upcoming exams. I am more than willing to read outlines ahead of time to offer suggestions for finding research. Indeed, students who have found the most gratification in this class have realized the importance of keeping an open dialogue with me.

Grades are best discussed in an atmosphere that is relaxed, not rushed, and private. As such, student grades will not be discussed before or after class. I maintain a 24/7 policy with regard to discussing grades—Once I have returned an assignment with a grade, please wait at least 24 hours to talk with me about the grade (this will allow you time to reflect on the feedback and constructively determine questions for our meeting). Any meeting regarding grades on a particular assignment must be scheduled within 7 days of the return of that assignment—it is never good to wait too long to seek clarification. I will not discuss grades over e-mail or telephone, and I will not discuss your grades in reference to anyone else in the class.

If you want me to reconsider a grade, you need to submit a written memo detailing your argument for why your grade should be higher (again, the memo needs to be filed within 1 week of receiving feedback). This memo needs to demonstrate a complete argument (including claims, warrants, and data/backing). Please note: Claiming that you “worked really hard” or “need a certain GPA to maintain a scholarship or participation on a sports/academic team” does not count as an argument for increasing a grade based on the standards of a given assignment.

Deadlines

Please pay close attention to deadlines as you will be held to them. This policy is in place to assist you in your life—deadlines are important and reflect on your credibility and professionalism (please treat this course as a priority). We all depend upon machines to get our work done. We all know that machines break down. When they do, it does not constitute an “excuse” or an “emergency.” It is expected that you will prepare your assignments far enough in advance so that when your computer malfunctions (as it inevitably will), you will still have time to rectify the problem and turn in the assignment on time. Since you will turn in your proposal and final paper to Turnitin on BlackBoard, you must follow deadlines closely because Turnitin on BlackBoard has an automatic submission cutoff and will not accept late work. Please always save the receipt that Turnitin sends you after you have submitted an assignment—this is your only proof that you have submitted your work should there be a glitch in the matrix. If you don’t receive a receipt, e-mail me a copy of your assignment immediately.

If you are taking your personal day, traveling for a University-sponsored activity, or observing a religious holy day, you can still turn an assignment in on time by turning it in EARLY.

There are very few circumstances in which makeup assignments are applicable to this class. Since you will have most major assignments well in advance, you will always have the opportunity to turn in work early. Again, plan accordingly to account for interviews, travel (University-sponsored activities, religious observations, and personal days), and illnesses. If you miss an in-class assignment (e.g., quiz) due to a University-sponsored activity or religious observation, you can write a make-up essay to take its place. If you miss an in-class assignment because you are taking your personal day, the assignment cannot be made up.
**Academic Integrity**

It is expected that all students have read and understand the Dean of Student’s expectations regarding academic honesty and integrity. It is of utmost importance that you understand what is meant by cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, fabrication, plagiarism, etc. It is also important for you to understand your rights should I or any other instructor accuse you of academic dishonesty. Every graded assignment requires you to do original, independent, and creative work.

In addition to copying someone else’s words or ideas, reusing your own work (from other courses) is considered academic dishonesty—you might be permitted to extend research from other classes, but you must clear this with your instructors before proceeding with such research. Frequently, you will be asked to summarize and synthesize various course readings and additional research. Even if you are not quoting text directly, you need to indicate when you are using another scholar’s thoughts/ideas/concepts/paradigms/etc. by putting their name and publication year in parentheses after the idea. Violation of these expectations will result in swift and severe consequences (typically, failure for the assignment and possibly, failure for the course).

For an excellent resource for both avoiding plagiarism and integrating sources effectively, see [Harvard’s Guide for Using Sources](http://harvardguide.org). Ways to avoid plagiarism suggested in their guide include keeping your writing and sources separate (in a different file or a different color font), keeping a source trail, quoting your sources properly, and not only paraphrasing carefully but also acknowledging sources explicitly when paraphrasing.

**Class Climate**

The types of issues we will discuss in this class range from the politics of the abortion debates to representations and enactments of races and sexualities. In many instances, you will be presented with information that does not coincide with how you have experienced the world or what you have learned previously—what a boring life this would be if we were always only learning the same thing over and over!

At times, we will be discussing events and topics that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. If you suspect that specific material is likely to be emotionally challenging for you, I’d be happy to discuss any concerns you may have before the subject comes up in class. Likewise, if you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to course material with the class or with me individually afterwards, I welcome such discussions as an appropriate part of our classwork.

Some course participants will undoubtedly have strong reactions to some of our readings and discussions—strong reactions are not discouraged. Since this is a course in Communication Studies, your contributions need to be framed as complete arguments (not just claims) and presented respectfully. We will strive to create an environment in which you all feel comfortable articulating your arguments and relaying your relevant experiences in classroom discussions. Constructive critique is welcomed (and expected). Words or deeds that marginalize people because of their gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexual orientation, or ability disrupts the productivity of our learning community and cannot be tolerated.

**UNT Acceptable Student Behavior Statement:**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. The Dean of Students’ Office has a clear explanation of your rights and responsibilities in this regard — please see their website for more information: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

**Firearms Policy**

Until August of 2016, it remains unlawful to bring firearms on the campus of the University (concealed or otherwise), even if you hold a permit. You are expected to follow this law and leave any firearms off campus.

**Statement Regarding Title IX**

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you are the victim or a witness of sexual assault or relationship violence, UNT has resources available to help. Contact UNT’s Survivor Advocate, Renee LeClaire McNamara (940-565-2648) or renee.leclaire@unt.edu to be connected with confidential support services on campus. Please see the Dean of Students’ website for more information: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0)
Cell Phones/Text Messaging/Computers

In recent years the saturation of cell phones, text messaging, and laptops has produced something I call the problem of divided attention. A March 25, 2008 article in The New York Times summarized recent studies of productivity in business settings. Researchers found that after responding to email or text messages, it took people more than 15 minutes to re-focus on the “serious mental tasks” they had been performing before the interruption. That’s almost 30% of our typical class period! Other research has shown that when people attempt to perform two tasks at once (e.g., following what’s happening in class while texting), the brain literally cannot do it. The brain has got to abandon one of the tasks in order effectively to accomplish the other.

Such research illustrates that attempts to multitask weaken your performance as a student. For this reason alone you should seek to avoid the problem of divided attention when you are in class. But there’s another, equally important reason: we technology users often lose our senses when it comes to norms of polite behavior, and the result is that perfectly lovely people become unbelievably rude. For both of these reasons, please turn off your cellphones or set them on silent mode when you come to class; it is rude for our activities to be interrupted by a ringing cellphone. Similarly, smart phone distractions (Facebook, Twitter, email, web, text messaging, and the like) may seem quiet and unassuming, but they do distract me and others around you.

If you use a computer, be certain it is used solely for the purpose of taking notes during the discussion (i.e., don’t check e-mail, do research, read web sites, etc.). Much research is finding that students who are on the internet during class distract not only themselves, but those around them. Finally, do not record class without permission. Each student in the class is deputized to police technology distractions; it’s not just me who is bothered by them and I may not always notice. If a student near you is distracting you with his/her technology use, you should feel free to politely ask that person to please stop or move to a space in the classroom where s/he will be less distracting to others. Finally, I reserve the right to declare “screens down” at any time during class, for any reason or request that you send me copies of your notes at the end of any class.

E-Mail & BlackBoard

Students are expected to check their preferred e-mail quite frequently in order to stay current with course communications. If you have a question outside of class and can’t make it to my office hours, please contact me via e-mail (do not e-mail me through the BlackBoard site). Plan to check BlackBoard often for course reminders, announcements, updates, assignments, and readings.

If you are experiencing problems with the BlackBoard system (e.g., if you can’t log on or access the system), please contact the UNT Help Desk immediately: 940-565-2324 or helpdesk@unt.edu. If they cannot help, you should contact a peer to ask her/him to send you the reading or contact your professor.

Crisis Contingency

In the event of the university closing for weather-related reasons or illness outbreak (e.g. swine flu), please visit the course website on Blackboard. I will provide instructions on how to turn in assignments and how the class will proceed utilizing BlackBoard's announcements function.

Incompletes

In accordance with University policy, a student can only receive a course grade of “I” if the student 1) has completed at least 75% of the coursework, 2) is passing the course, and 3) has a justifiable and documented reason beyond the control of the student for not completing the work on schedule (e.g., serious illness, military service).
Writing/Research Resources

As the semester progresses, you may want some additional help with your writing or with research. If this is the case, please utilize the following resources:

Communication Studies Library
The Department of Communication Studies has an impressive collection of scholarly books relevant to this course. Please take advantage of this perk! Do keep in mind, though, that the Communication Library is not a lending library; you can use the books and media inside the library space when the library is open and make photocopies of particular chapters/essays that would be most helpful to you. To see what the Communication Library has in its collection and find out when it is open for general use, consult the Department’s website.

COMM Library Copier Use Policy
Students conducting research in the Communication Studies Library associated with departmental coursework have access to a printer/photocopier located in the office adjacent to the library. We encourage students to make use of this resource to print research accessed online in the library or to copy essays from any of the department’s holdings. Students may not use this resource for other purposes, such as printing courses assignments, class notes, scripts, etc. Students who use the copier for uses other than those outlined above will lose copying privileges.

The Writing Center
A great place to talk about ideas, improve the organization of your paper, or work on your writing skills. Check the Writing Center website for more information about hours, request an appointment, or even find out how to receive feedback on your writing online at: http://writinglab.unt.edu/. You can also contact The Writing Center at 940-565-2563 or e-mail: WritingLab@unt.edu, or go visit them in SAGE #152.

Research and Instructional Services (RIS)
Available through Willis Library, Research and Instructional Services (RIS) assists with research, instruction, and collection needs. Contact them for assistance at (940) 565-3245, or visit them at http://www.library.unt.edu/ris-research-instructional-services to ask a question online.

Academic Research
(or, why you should avoid becoming a Google Monkey)

This is a 4000-level theory course in Communication Studies and COMM 3010 is a prerequisite. You are expected to be capable of performing (and willing to perform) collegiate level academic research. Sometimes, this will require a trip to the brick and mortar building called a “library”—this may seem arduous, but all of your research needs are not always available on your home computer. The only time you should be using Wikipedia or Google is to help you brainstorm—googling a topic or doing a Wikipedia search should never constitute an end result of your research. Wikipedia and Google should never show up on your Works Cited page. In your presentations, phrases such as “according to Wikipedia.com …” and “as explained on Google.com…” should never escape from your mouth.

Bottom line: Run away from Wikipedia and Be Very Cautious About Google Scholar.

The UNT Library website has the option “Communication & Mass Media Complete”—this search engine should be your friend. While it does not catalogue all journals in the field of Communication, it does search a good number of them and offer many of them in pdf format. From the UNT Library homepage, select the link to Databases. Select “C” and from there you will find the link to “Communication & Mass Media Complete” — This should always be the first place you look for research and should be where you find the bulk of your research for any project in this course.

Regardless of which database you select, you need to find either a pdf of the source (this is the equivalent of the article photocopy) or the physical journal at the library. You will be told often that “internet sources” are not acceptable research in this course. Locating peer-reviewed journal articles that are catalogued online is not the same thing as an “internet source.” When I say “no internet sources,” I mean something that only exists online and is not peer-reviewed. There are some exceptions to this “no internet source” rule; please consult with me if you think you have encountered an exception.
**SPOT Evaluations**

The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) evaluation is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you online at the end of the semester (April 18 through May 1), providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Disclaimer**

This syllabus should not be considered a binding contract on the part of the professor, who reserves the right to change any aspect of the course without prior notice.

**Acknowledgments**

Syllabi are often influenced by others in the field who do good work as teachers and mentors. I am especially indebted to the following people for their influence on this syllabus: Jeff Bennett, Cara Buckley, Anne Demo, Ragan Fox, Claire Sisco King, Amy Pason, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jamie Skerski, and Isaac West.

**Schedule of Readings**

It is expected that you will read the text(s) **BEFORE** coming to class for the day, that you will take notes over your readings, and that you will **bring the readings** with you to class so we can discuss them most fully. Please use your printing privileges and bring all readings with you along with your notes to enable quick consultations. We may alter some of the assignments as the semester progresses depending on the needs of the class. **All Readings Will be Available via Blackboard**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. 1/18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—NO CLASS—Honor the DREAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. 1/20</td>
<td>Introduction to Course. Why are you here? Let’s get to know each other …</td>
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<td>M. 1/25</td>
<td>What is this Gender thing?</td>
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<td>• Julia T. Wood - Chapter 1 from <em>Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture</em>，“The study of gender, communication, and culture”</td>
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<td>W. 1/27</td>
<td>Introducing the Gender Fair</td>
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<td>• Suzanne Enck - “Planning a gender fair as a semester-long final project”</td>
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<td>M. 2/1</td>
<td>Historical Evolution of Feminist Activism</td>
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<td>• Julia T. Wood - Chapter 3 from <em>Gendered lives: Communication, gender, and culture</em>, “The rhetorical shaping of gender: Women’s movements in the United States”</td>
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<td>W. 2/3</td>
<td>Gender, Justice, and (In)equality</td>
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<td>• Allan G. Johnson - “Patriarchy, the system: An it, not a he, a them, or an us”</td>
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<td>• bell hooks - Selections from <em>Feminism is for everybody: Passionate politics</em></td>
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<td>• Judith Lorber - “The social construction of gender”</td>
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<td>M. 2/8</td>
<td>Framing Gender &amp; Politics</td>
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<td>• Ryan Shepard - “Confronting gender bias, finding a voice: Hillary Clinton and the New Hampshire crying incident”</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. 2/10</td>
<td>Hegemonic Masculinities</td>
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<td><strong>Bring in an advertisement that depicts and/or challenges aspects of hegemonic masculinity described by Trujillo (print this out and be prepared to discuss and turn in).</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>M. 2/15</td>
<td>Intersectionality</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. 2/17</td>
<td>Protecting (White/Feminine) Purity</td>
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<td>M. 2/22</td>
<td>Interrogating Constructions of Black Masculinity</td>
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<td>W. 2/24</td>
<td>Pedagogies of Rape Prevention</td>
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<td>M. 2/29</td>
<td>Queer Theory 101</td>
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<td>W. 3/2</td>
<td>Learned Homophobia and Heteronormativity</td>
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<td>M. 3/7</td>
<td>Troubling Bodies &amp; Binaries</td>
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<td>W. 3/9</td>
<td>No Reading — Gender Fair Work Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. 3/21</td>
<td>Masculine Bodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. 3/23</td>
<td>Breast is Best</td>
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</tbody>
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**Friday, 4/1 Paper Proposals Due Through Turnitin on BlackBoard by 5:00 pm**
M. 4/4 Queer Worldmaking and Ambivalent Activism
- Isaac West, Michaela Frischherz, Allison Panther, and Richard Brophy - “Queer worldmaking in the ‘It Gets Better’ campaign”
- Julia Himberg - “Laughing out loud: Wanda Sykes and the making of lesbian celebrity activism”

**Tuesday, April 5 **Last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of W or WF**

W. 4/6 Performance & Resistance - Part 1
- Anne Teresa Demo - “The Guerrilla Girls' comic politics of subversion”

M. 4/11 Performance as Resistance - Part 2
- Eve Ensler - Selected monologues from *The Vagina Monologues*
- Michele L. Hammers - “Talking about ‘down there’: The politics of politicizing the female body through *The Vagina Monologues*”

W. 4/13 Hashtag Activism
- Feminist media studies - Social media special issue
- Take Part - “#Feminism: 10 hashtags that empowered women in 2015”

M. 4/18 No Reading — Gender Fair Work Day in Class
W. 4/20 No Reading — Gender Fair Work Day in Class
M. 4/25 No Reading — Gender Fair Work Day in Class
W. 4/27 GENDER FAIR — 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*****

M. 5/2 Individual Meetings as Needed
W. 5/4 In-class Paper Workshop

**FINALS WEEK**
Final Papers due through Turnitin on BlackBoard by Wednesday, May 11 by 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 13—Masters’ Hooding & Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony
10:00 a.m. Noon — Willis Library Forum