

Syllabus - MCOM 1553-201—Gender, Sexuality, in the Media; Spring 2024

Midwestern State University

Contact Information

Class Meeting Time: 9.30 to 10.50 A.M.

Classroom: D202

Course Instructor: Dr. Supriya Karudapuram

Office Hours: 11-1.30 PM Ms; 11-1.30 P.M. & 3.30--4 P.M. TuR & by appointment

Office: B-Wing 109;

Office Phone: 940-397-6608

Email: Supriya.karudapuram@msutexas.edu; you can also email me in D2L



Course Synopsis:

I often come across influencers on YouTube interviewing random individuals about how many genders there are. Answers vary from 2 to 74! Gender as a social construct vs. a biological given has become a hotly contested topic in the US. In this class, we will focus on the relations between gender and communication with an emphasis on media representations of different genders. Sexuality will also be an emphasis in class.

Gender is also a much contested topic because of issues of social justice and equality. Are the genders treated equally—for example pay scales? What about leadership positions in organizations? Who holds top positions such as CEOs and CTOs?

Classroom instruction will be through lectures based on readings and in-class activities such as informal group discussions. I am available during office hours and beyond if necessary to provide supporting & clarifying instruction as needed. D2L will be the primary source of instructional information dissemination such as lecture slides, supplemental reading material, links to videos, and assignment instructions. Assignment submissions for written assignments will also be through D2L. The Mid-Term exam will have the option of completion and submission through D2L or in

handwritten form. Details will be discussed closer to the mid-term exam date. So please get up to speed with D2L features and functions ASAP.

Required Text:

The Handbook of Gender, Sex, and Media. Edited by Karen Ross. Wiley Blackwell. 2012 edition.

Print ISBN:9781444338546 | Online ISBN:9781118114254 | DOI:10.1002/9781118114254

Supplemental Readings will be made available as needed

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Students will learn how to acquire proficiency in analytical and critical writing about gender.
- 2) Students will be prepared for cultivating oral communication skills in conveying gender-based communication and media knowledge.
- 3) Students will grasp concepts and theories as well as aesthetics of visual communication as they pertain to gender in the media.
- 4) The class will equip students to think critically about gender.

Grading

Graded Assignments:

Assignment	Points
1 Media Review Paper	10
Article or Artifact?	10
What's in the News?	10
Social Media Controversy Draft Post	10
Observation-Participation Journal	10
In-Class Mid-Term Exam	25
Final Paper or Paper & Creative Project	25
Total Points	100

Grading Scale:

- **100-90 points= A**
- **89-80= B**
- **79=70= C**
- **69-60= D**
- **59 & Below: F**

Brief Descriptions of Assignments:

Detailed descriptions for each assignment with rubrics and grading scheme will be made available through D2l well in advance of the deadlines for completion. ***Consult Weekly**

Course Schedule below for due dates. If you are required to submit an assignment in class such as an outline it needs to be word processed. The Mid-Term exam can be handwritten. I expect college-quality work for all assignments—therefore it is crucial that you spellcheck and proofread written submissions.

1 Media Review Paper:

You will review a media example for gender roles representation. Instructions will be provided.
Total Possible Points: 10 Points

Article or Artifact?:

Early on in the semester, you will provide a written overview of a research article or an artifact like a Ted Talk on gender roles or identity.

What's In the News?:

For this assignment, every student will focus on a gender-based event around the world. You will present on it in class and have a class involvement activity.

Observation and Participation Journal:

During the Finals Week you will submit a journal of 5 entries—3 are observations of gender/sexuality in the media and 2 are a record of your class participation activities.

Social Media Controversial Draft Post:

For this assignment, you will compose a draft post in response to a controversial issue on any social media platform.

Mid-Term Exam:

You will answer 3 short answer questions. There will also be a Match the Following and Agree/Disagree section based on readings covered till the Mid-Term Exam day. A study guide will be provided and we will have an in-class review session during the class prior to the exam day. Total Possible Points: 25 Points

Final Paper OR Paper & Creative Project:

You can do a 4-page paper using 3 course/concepts using analytical and critical writing. Or you can do a shorter paper 2 pages in length and a creative project such as a PowerPoint slides deck or a YouTube uploadable artifact or a digital installation like a montage on any platform based on course concepts/theories. Total Possible Points: 25 Points;

Course Policies:

Attendance:

You are allowed 1 unexcused absence during the semester. Otherwise attendance is mandatory as videos will be screened for assignments and class lectures may go beyond the readings. Absences beyond the 1 allowed absence will result in a cumulative 2-point deduction. Emergencies and

religious holidays as well as attendance at university-permitted events such as sports will be excused—but please notify me via email ahead of time or in the prior class in person if you can. It is your responsibility to make up work missed as soon as possible by coming to my office preferably during office hours or through a peer. And yes, every class is important—so the question “did I miss anything answered” is redundant.

Punctuality:

For Class:

Since films will be screened in class and presentations will occur, punctuality is required. You are allowed to be late up to 5 mts. after class begins 2 times during the semester. Subsequently each tardy show up will result in a cumulative 2-point deduction. If you are going to be late by 5 mts. beyond the allowed 2 times because of classes in a building across campus communicate that to me as soon as possible when classes start. Should emergencies occur on a class day that necessitates tardy show up, email me as soon as you can.

For Submission of Assignments:

On time submissions of assignments is crucial for grading and to honor students who do so. Since most of your submissions will be through D2L you have considerable latitude in submitting assignments on the required day/date. You are allowed to submit 1 written assignment by the following day without penalty. Subsequent to that I will deduct half the total possible points for late submissions if within the week or by the weekend depending on the required date/day. Assignments submitted the week after the required date/day will result in an F. Mid-Term exam cannot be made up. Emergencies need to be communicated to me in a timely manner should they interfere with timely submission of assignments.

Classroom Conduct:

We live in a society and culture where difference either makes the world go around or not! Instructional choices are not meant to offend—however I realize issue and feelings may come up that may go against your sensibilities and sensitivities. In like manner, if and when we have discussions and activities, please honor your fellow classmates who may come from a different life path than you. You do not have to agree; however, you respectfully disagree. Disruptive behaviors such as *ad hominem* attacks, silencing your peers, and offensive language such as profanities and threatening non-verbal behaviors will not be tolerated and can result in me requiring you to leave the classroom and reporting such behavior to university authorities. Practice empathy—meaning put yourself in another person’s shoes—in this case your fellow classmates—and ask yourself if such behavior is acceptable to you before engaging in it.

Academic Honesty/ Integrity:

Academic honesty/integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own.

Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. ***Any writing that is not the work of you or your group members is plagiarism. *Students in this course are expected to adhere to the MSU Student Honor Code.** Do note that D2L comes with a plagiarism detection tool.

By way of advice, do not wait till the last minute as this might increase the chances to cheat or plagiarize. Study. Look to me for guidance on assignments and the mid-term exam.

Technology Use & Abuse:

In-Class Use of Devices:

I will permit use of mobile devices such as mobile phones and tablets if you use them for in-class research-related activities and/or for the oral presentation assignment if you need to consult an outline and/or if you need to look up an uploaded file or materials on D2L and/or assigned readings. Laptops can be used for note taking during lectures. However, if I find you surfing the net for entertainment/social media and/or emailing/texting your personal circle or working on assignments for other classes, I will mark you down. As far as the oral presentation assignment, university policy prohibits you from connecting your personal laptop to the podium in the classroom for projection purposes. So, either save your presentation to OneDrive or email it to yourself as a downloadable attachment or best—save it on a flash drive/thumb drive/USB port.

AI such as Chat GPT:

The use of generative AI is not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Texas Tech's Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Disability Accommodations:

Please inform me on day 1 of class if you are a student with a disability and need accommodation in this class. Students with a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before classroom accommodation can be provided. MSU provides students with documented disabilities academic accommodation (Disability Support Services, Clark Student Center, Room 168).

Campus Carry:

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry Rules/Policies](#).

Campus Resources for Academic Success and Personal Wellbeing:

Tutoring Services:

Tutoring and Academic Support Services (TASP) Learning Center (TLC) located on the first floor of the Moffett Library provides tutoring free of charge to students. I emphasize writing related tutoring for this class. <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php>

Library Assistance:

The Moffett Library is offering walking tours first week of classes and they have an Ask a Librarian chat function. Please spend some time navigating the site for their resources. <https://msutexas.edu/library/>

IT & D2L Support:

Campus Information Technology support is available via the [MSU Texas IT Webpage](#).

Support for D2L is available via [MSU Texas Student Resource Webpage](#).

Wellbeing:

Wellness related resources information is available via [MSU Texas Wellness Center Webpage](#).

Counseling services information can be found at [MSU Texas Counseling Webpage](#).

**It is my sole discretion to make alterations to the syllabus in your favor*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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WEEK 1

- TUESDAY, JAN 16th
 - Introductions
 - Overview of Class
- THURSDAY, JAN 18th
 - Activity on a web-based article/video of Interpersonal Communication such as Friendship/Intimate Partnerships/Family/Workplace Communication
 - Video on Gender Identity

WEEK 2

- TUESDAY, JAN 23
- Breakdown of Gender, Sexuality, and Media concepts
- THURSDAY, JAN 25
Movie screening and Discussion

WEEK 3

- TUESDAY, JAN 30th
- Movie Screening and Discussion contd.
- THURSDAY, FEB 1st
- General Reading on Gender (TBA)
- SUNDAY, FEB 4th

Article or Artifact written assignment due by 11.59 P.M. on this day/date on D2L

WEEK 4

- TUESDAY, FEB 6th
General Reading on Sexuality
- THURSDAY, FEB 8th
General Reading on Media

WEEK 5

- TUESDAY, FEB 13th
 - Book readings begin
- THURSDAY, FEB 15th
What's in the News? In-Class Oral Assignment Due (no written work is necessary)

WEEK 6

- TUESDAY, FEB 20th
 - Book readings continue
- THURSDAY, FEB 22nd
Book readings continue

WEEK 7

- TUESDAY, FEB 27th
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, FEB 29th
 - Book readings continue
 - Mid-Term Exam Review Session

WEEK 8

- TUESDAY, MARCH 5th
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, MARCH 7th
 - ***MID-TERM EXAM**

SPRING BREAK—MARCHth to 16th-NO CLASSES

WEEK 9

- TUESDAY, MARCH 19th
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, MARCH 21st
 - Book readings continue

- SUNDAY, MARCH 24th
Media Review paper due by 11.59 P.M. on D2L

WEEK 10

- TUESDAY, MARCH 26th
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, MARCH 28th---Holiday Break—No Class

WEEK 11

- TUESDAY, APRIL 2nd
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, APRIL 4th
Social Media Controversy Draft Post Written Assignment due by 11.59 P.M. on D2L
Brief oral discussion of the post—context and sample

WEEK 12

- TUESDAY, APRIL 9th
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, APRIL 11th
 - Book readings continue

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WEEK 13:

- TUESDAY, APRIL 16th
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, APRIL 18th
 - Book readings continue

WEEK 14

- TUESDAY, APRIL 23rd
 - Book readings continue

- THURSDAY, APRIL 25th
 - Book readings continue

WEEK 15

- TUESDAY, APRIL 30th
 - Book readings conclude

- THURSDAY, MAY 2nd
 - Workshop for Final Assignment, Reflections, and Wrap Up

WEEK 16

- ***SATURDAY, MAY 4th—FINALS BEGIN**
- ***Final Paper/Paper & Creative Project due—deadline TBA**

- **Observation-Participation Journal due—deadline TBA**

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SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

Spring Semester 2024* Priority Application Date for Admission
.....November 1, 2023

Application Deadline for Admission December 1,
2023 Student Registration.....Early November-
January 15 Martin Luther King's Birthday observed.....January 15 Classes
beginJanuary 16
Change of Schedule and Late RegistrationJanuary
16-19

Final Deadline for May graduates to file for graduation..... February
12

Spring Break begins 5:00 p.m.....
March 9 (March 10-16)

Summer and Fall 2024 Schedules of Classes available online.....mid-
March Classes
resume..... March 18
Last Day for "W", 4:00 p.m. – Drops after this date will receive grades of "F."

March 25 Holiday Break begins 10:00 p.m.

March 27 Classes
resume.....April 1

Last day of classes
May 3

Final examinations beginMay 4

Commencement May 11

*Spring 2024 Schedule of Classes available online mid-October.