

 POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	Department of Communication Studies COM 3012 Gender and Communication 3 Units
Spring 2021	

Meeting days: Tuesdays on Zoom Thursdays asynchronous on Canvas	Instructor: Dr. Lisa Raser
Meeting times: Tuesdays 9:30-10:45 am	Email: lraser@pointloma.edu
Meeting location: Zoom/Canvas	Zoom Office hours: Go here to sign up.
	Final Exam: Thursday June 10th, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will explore issues relating to gender in society using communication as the central method of inquiry. We will read about and discuss the many ways that communication in families, schools, media, and society in general creates and perpetuates gender roles. We will have many opportunities to connect theory and research about gender to our personal lives. Your experiences, insights, questions, and ideas are a key part of this course.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Explain concepts and theories related to gender and communication and articulate your own perspectives on those concepts.
- Explain the role of communication in constructing a cultural consciousness of gender.

- Discuss how other categories of difference such as race, sexuality, age, class, and ability affect gender and communication.
- Identify the ways that gender affects our communication in relationships, education, organizations, and the media.
- Analyze a popular culture artifact using critical probes to answer the questions: what is this artifact communicating about gender and what are the implications of those messages?
- Gather academic sources and research a topic related to the intersections of gender and communication.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Fixmer-Oraiz, N., & Wood, J. T. (2019). *Gendered Lives: Communication, gender, and culture* (13th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Gender Connections: At the beginning of many of our Zoom classes, I will ask the class if you have any "Gender Connections" to share. News articles, television shows, advertisements, classroom experiences, and our interactions with others all provide useful material for "gender connections." This time will allow us to consider more of the ways gender issues pop up in our lives and experiences. As the course progresses, we will all be more aware of the power of gender and the prevalence of gender stereotypes. Please be willing to bring in examples for discussion and also be ready to share your perspectives on the issues raised. "Gender Connections" can be one of the ways that you might consider participating in Zoom class discussions.

Gender Journals: This semester, you will write two different gender journals where you will apply your own experiences, observations, feelings, and insights in order to make personal connections to the theory and research that we are learning. In one part of the journal, you will select and reflect upon an article from *The New York's Times'* gender and culture newsletter, *In Her Words*. (Please sign up to receive this newsletter delivered free to your email - more details are provided on the "[Required Resources](#)" page.)

The other part of the journal will ask for responses to reflective prompts and other personal applications to the course material.

Gender Artifact Critique: You will choose an artifact from popular culture (a scene from a television show, movie or book, a blog, advertisement, website, social media or beauty

campaign, song, music video, etc.) and critique it through a lens of gender and communication. For this assignment, you will write a short paper and share your critique with the class over Zoom.

Gender Research Paper: You will select a topic of inquiry related to gender and communication that interests you for this research paper. Examples of topics might include: language used to describe male and female politicians, gender activism on social media, portrayals of men in advertising, racial disparities in prenatal care for mothers, gender-based pricing on personal care items.) You will conduct research on your topic by compiling an annotated bibliography of academic sources, creating a claim/argument, and writing a 8-10 page paper.

Quizzes, Discussion Posts, Collaborations, etc: Throughout the semester there will be quizzes, reflections, discussion posts and other assignments (individual and collaborative with peers) that will be due each week. The point values for these assignments may vary, but will be clearly designated on the assignment.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	Number of Points AVAILABLE
Gender Journals	40
Gender Artifact Critique	30
Annotated Bibliography	30
Gender Research Paper	100
Discussions, Quizzes, Collaborations, Participation	350
TOTAL	550

NOTE: There may be adjustments made to the point values/totals listed above. Each assignment will be clearly marked with the point value when assigned on Canvas.

Student grades and feedback will be posted in the Canvas grade book after each assignment has been graded. It is important to read the comments posted in the grade book as these comments are intended to help you improve your work. Final grades will be posted by Sunday, June 20th.

Rounding: Typically, grades follow the scale below and are not rounded up. Rounding of grades is only done in rare circumstances when the percentage point after the decimal is extremely close to the next grade and the student has demonstrated exemplary participation and effort in the course. Any possible changes are made by instructor discretion; please do not request that your grade be rounded up.

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages				
A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89.9	C+ 77-79.9	D+ 67-69.9	F Less than 59
A- 90-92.9	B 83-86.9	C 73-76.9	D 63-66.9	
	B- 80-82.9	C- 70-72.9	D- 60-62.9	

COURSE POLICIES

SUPPORT

I am committed to helping every student attain their best possible education.

I AM HERE TO HELP! Please do not hesitate to ask questions, or schedule a Zoom office hours appointment. I am also happy to provide support and feedback on assignments before they are turned in or presented. If you have any particular needs or concerns that it would be helpful for me to be aware of, please do let me know.

ZOOM PARTICIPATION:

Since this course focuses on learning about *communication* within the context of community, your regular attendance and participation are required for you to be successful. It is important that you participate both verbally and nonverbally in class discussions on Zoom as you would in a classroom setting (ie: using eye contact to demonstrate active listening.) **In order to demonstrate both your verbal and nonverbal participation, please plan to have your video on for Zoom classes.** If you have a concern about having your video on (for example: an illness or a particular distraction in your learning space) please let me know via email or via private message on Zoom.

There are eight (8) points available for each Zoom class, four (4) for attendance and four (4) for participation. In order to receive the full points for a Zoom class, please demonstrate your engagement in the course by having your video on and participating in the discussion (large group discussion, break out rooms, using the chat box, etc.) If you are logged on to our Zoom class but we cannot see your live face or hear your voice, you will not receive participation points for that class period.

Please arrive to our Zoom classes on time. If you are late to a Zoom class or leave early without notice, you will receive a reduction of your participation points for that class period. Missing

more than 20 minutes of any part of the Zoom Class (in the beginning, middle or end) will count as an absence.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in according to the due dates set on Canvas. In general, no late or makeup written assignments/presentations will be allowed. Please communicate with me in advance of an assignment due date if you are concerned that an illness or other personal hardship may prevent you from turning in an assignment on time.

Incompletes for the course will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

EMAIL

I will frequently use Canvas Announcements or email to communicate with you and I do my best to respond to your emails as promptly as possible. I will respond to emails Monday-Friday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. If you send me an email over the weekend, I will respond on the following school day.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using

the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the Office of Spiritual Development

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the *Technology and System Requirements* information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

The following is a zoomed-out version of our course schedule, including reading and major assignment due dates. This schedule does not include weekly Canvas assignments, quizzes, discussions, etc. (please see weekly Canvas modules for more detail.) Schedule is subject to change with reasonable notice.

Week 1	Welcome & Course Introductions
Week 2	Reading: GL Ch. 1
Week 3	Reading: GL Ch. 2
Week 4	Reading: GL Ch. 3
Week 5	Reading: GL Ch. 4
Week 6	Reading: GL Ch. 5
Week 7	Reading: GL Ch. 6 // Gender Journal # 1 Due
Week 8	Reading: GL Ch. 7
Week 9	No Reading this Week // Gender Artifact Critique Due & Share on Zoom
Week 10	Reading: GL Ch. 8
Week 11	Reading: GL Ch. 9 // Annotated Bibliography Due
Week 12	Reading: GL Ch. 10
Week 13	Reading: GL Ch. 11

Week 14	Reading: GL Ch. 12 // Gender Journal # 2 Due
Week 15	Gender Research Paper Due