

Syllabus for
COM 409—Gender and Family
3 Credit Hours
Summer 2003

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of interpersonal and intrapersonal communication theories in light of current societal and historical Biblical considerations concerning gender and family relationships. Allows for an integration of theory and practicality in the communication process with special attention to the Christian responsibility of both the male and female and their roles in the family. Compares current research concerning the communication changes taking place in society today.
Prerequisite: COM 101.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to help the student do the following:

- A. understand the impact that gender differences make on communication styles.
- B. recognize the changing roles of men and women in marriage and other societal relationships.
- C. discover the role that commitment plays in having a lasting marriage.
- D. further explore the intricacies of interpersonal communication into the realms of the personality and spirit of man and God.
- E. become aware of aspects of the nature of God, the impact of the Holy Spirit, the example of Christ as revealed and exercised in the life of the believer.
- F. explore the impact of the dominant paradigm, the refutation of it, and aspects of a new paradigm which is forming in the fields of both communication and the social sciences.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. exhibit through communication a better understanding of the impact of gender in communicating.
- B. identify the roles of men and women in current society.
- C. explain historical, Biblical, and cultural roles of men and women.
- D. describe how personality influences the effectiveness of communication.
- E. list various trait concepts that influence personality and communication styles.
- F. explain how personality and gender interact with spiritual gift and motivational gift development.
- G. identify what possible roles men and women can establish and maintain in the family

and society and what style of communication must be incorporated in those relationships to positively influence the fabric of a society.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

A. Required Textbooks

Gray, J. (1996). Mars and venus together forever. New York: Harper Perennial.

Sheehy, G. (1995). New passages. New York: Ballantine Publisher. **or**

Sheehy, G. (1977). Passages. New York: Bantam Books.

Smalley, G. & Trent, J. (1994). The hidden value of a man. Colorado Springs: Focus

on

the Family Publishing.

Johnson, N. (1999). Fresh-brewed life. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

B. Optional/Recommended Materials

Prather, H. (1995). I will never leave you. New York: Bantam.

Books by Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Harold Bloomfield, Barbara DeAngelis, Edwin Louis Cole, Joyce Meyer and others.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.

2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.

3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.

4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.

5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.

6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.

2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:

- inform the professor before the event.
- arrange to complete missed work within one week.
- not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.

- d. present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
5. **Literacy**—The Communication Arts Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.

C. Course Policies and Procedures
Evaluation Procedures

Tests and Quizzes	10%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%
Exams	15%
Research Papers	20%
Group Activities	<u>5%</u>
	100%

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Day 1	Intro to class
Day 2	Decades
Day 3	Presentation of papers
Day 4	<u>Gifts From the Heart</u>
Day 5	Review & exam
Day 6	Gray – Intro – Chapter 5
Day 7	Gray – Chapters 6-10 – PASSAGES assignment
Day 8	John Gray videos
Day 9	<u>Mars and Venus Together</u> exam - MIDTERM
Day 10	Barbara De Angeles videos
Day 11	Passages paper due and presentations
Day 12	Smalley Chapters 1-7
Day 13	Smalley Chapters 8-14
Day 14	Smalley Videos
Day 15	Guest speakers
Day 16	Final

Agena Farmer
Name of Instructor

COM 409
Course No.

Gender and Family
Title of Course

Communication Arts
Name of Department

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of the mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision-making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Understand the impact that gender differences make on communication styles.

Recognize the changing roles of man and woman in marriage and other societal relationships.

Make students aware of aspects of the nature of God, the impact of the Holy Spirit, the example of Christ as revealed and exercised in the life of the believer.

Discover the role "commitment" plays in having a lasting marriage.

Explore the impact of the dominant paradigm, the refutation of it, and aspects of a new paradigm which is forming in communication and social science fields.

COURSE GOALS

Exhibit through communication a better understanding of the impact of gender in communicating.

Identify the roles of men and women in current society and the role personality influences effective communication.

Identify what possible roles men and women can establish and maintain in the family and society and what style of communication must be incorporated in those relationships to positively influence the fabric of society.

Explain historical, Biblical, and cultural roles of men and women.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS

STIMULI

Synthesis of ideas from this class and other O/I common classes to define their self identities and the roles.

Small group discussions to role play conflict situations.

CRITERIA

Essays

Exams

Research paper

Group Activities