COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: COMM 2220: Gender and Communication

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing skills: Appropriate score on RCTC placement test or completion of appropriate developmental courses with grades of C or better
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 1/Written and Oral Communication, Goal 2/Critical Thinking, Goal 7/Human Diversity

The course will focus on how communication and culture create, maintain, and change gender. Patterns in women's and men's verbal and nonverbal communication, why these patterns differ, and how communication differences are perceived will be emphasized. This course will explore the similarities and differences between the male and female communication culture in a variety of interpersonal and situational contexts, including the family, friendship, romantic relationships, education the workplace, and the media.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): August, 2012

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. The study of communication, gender, and culture
2. Theoretical approaches to gender development
3. Gendered communication
   a) Verbal communication
   b) Nonverbal communication
4. Gendered communication in context and practice
   a) Gendered family dynamics
   b) Gendered close relationships
   c) Gendered education
   d) Gendered organizational communication
   e) Gendered media
   f) Gendered power and violence

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Increase behavioral awareness of gender roles (self and others).
2. Improve empathetic abilities and adopt various perspectives regarding gender relations.
3. Increase understanding of communication theory between women and men (sexes) and feminine and masculine (gender) language.
4. Understand the rhetorical nature of the social construction of gender
5. Examine and analyze gender communication theory in various contexts: academia, family, friends, media and advertisements, business, and personal experience.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 1/Written and Oral Communication: Students will be able to:
1. Understand/demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and presentation.
2. Participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
3. Locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view.
4. Select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences.
5. Construct logical and coherent arguments.
6. Use authority, point-of-view, and individual voice and style in their writing and speaking.
7. Employ syntax and usage appropriate to academic disciplines and the professional world.

Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued...
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:
1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
May include any or all of the following:
1. Objective exams
2. Quizzes
3. Small group projects
4. Oral presentations
5. A written journal
6. Essay exams
7. Online discussion boards
8. Or any other deemed appropriate by the instructor

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None