

CMST G265: GENDER COMMUNICATION

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	11/05/2024
Top Code	150600 - Speech Communication
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Local General Education (GE)	• Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences (GD)
Diversity Requirement (GCD)	Yes
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 4 Social & Behavioral Sciences (4) • Cal-GETC 4D Gender Studies (4D)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 4 Social&Behavioral Sci (4) • IGETC 4D Gender Studies (4D)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU D4 Gender Studies (D4)

Course Description

Formerly: COMM G265. This course explores the role, influence, effects, and significance of gender on our everyday communication interactions. Students will use theoretical perspectives to critically examine gender phenomena, gender socialization, and stereotypes to enable students to appreciate gender differences and interact more effectively. ADVISORY: CMST G100. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Course Outcomes
2. Explain theories of and processes of gender specific communication.
3. Discuss the external factors and influences that have shaped their own gender identity and self-awareness.
4. Examine the role gender identity has on personal and professional communication.
5. Evaluate the role of social and environmental factors that impact gender development and communication.

Course Objectives

- 1. Identify and describe contemporary theoretical explanations for gender and gendered communication differences.

- 2. Explain the way language and symbols construct gender in the context of larger sexual, racial, ethnic, and class identities, and how gender in turn affects communication styles and practices.
- 3. Evaluate gender role socialization and the role of popular culture in influencing gender communication.
- 4. Discuss how perceptions of gendered communication vary from different standpoints such as those of heterosexual, LGBTQ, and cisgender men and women.
- 5. Use various strategies and techniques for improving communication.
- 6. Utilize both field-specific nomenclature as well as effective oral, listening, and critical thinking skills needed to manage communication encounters in diverse social environments.

Lecture Content

Conceptual foundations for the study of gender communication
The communication process
Gender in a transitional era
Differences between men and women
Relationships between gender, culture, and communication
Theoretical approaches to studying gender
Biological theories: Traditional gender queer and brain theory
Interpersonal theories: Social learning theory and cognitive development theory
Cultural theories: Symbolic interactionism
Critical theories: Standpoint theory and Queer performance theory
Gender movements in the United States
First wave feminism
Second wave feminism
Third wave feminism
Antifeminism
Profeminist and masculinist men's movements
Gendered verbal communication
Verbal expression of cultural views on gender
Gendered styles of verbal communication
Gendered communication practices
Gender-based miscommunication
Implications and consequences of gendered language: Male-generic language and sexism
Gendered nonverbal communication
Encoding and decoding abilities
Gendered patterns of nonverbal communication
Touch
Proxemics
Artifacts
Vocal cues
Facial and body movements
Becoming gendered
Entering a gendered society
Gender communication in family dynamics and roles
Masculinity, femininity, and gender nonconforming
Gendered education: Communication in schools
Gender differences in curriculum
School organization, distributions of power and authority
Classroom interactions: Male and female expectations for faculty and students
Gender Differences in close Relationships
Interpersonal relationships
Gender styles in friendships
Female and male patterns in romantic relationships
Gender and organizational communication
Institutional beliefs about men and women
Organizational policies: Work schedule and leaves
Masculine norms in professional life
Sexual harassment
Efforts to challenge gendered inequality in institutions
Gendered Media
Media saturation in cultural life
Gender themes in media
Stereotyped images of men, women, and relationships
Gender messages in advertising
Implications of media representations of gender
Gender Power and Violence
The social construction of gendered violence
Sexual assault
Gender based murder
Resisting gendered violence

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

Reading Assignments

Textbook, supplemental materials.

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments might include but are not limited to reflection papers, critical paper, journal entries.

Out-of-class Assignments

Out-of-class assignments might include but are not limited to exam(s), portfolio, presentations, debate and/or performance of personal narrative.

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Students will be evaluated on their ability to: Demonstrate knowledge of empathetic abilities and recognize alternative perspectives. Distinguish between biological and psychological theoretical approaches as they apply to gender development. Identify and explain the external factors and influences that have led to his/her gender identity. Describe and demonstrate effective communication skills in response to a specific miscommunication.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Investigate the theoretical approaches to gender. Do they compete or complement each other in the definitive explanation of how gender develops and what it means. Describe an experience of miscommunication because of gender and/or sexual identity differences. Reflect on childhood and the ways appropriate behavior for men and women are taught. Explore the cultural, social, and historical factors that contribute to our understanding of gender differences. Use a recent article from a mass media source that reflects stereotypic language relating to issues of gender and/or sexual identity to class.

Eligible Disciplines

Communication studies (speech communication): Master's degree in speech, speech broadcasting, telecommunications, rhetoric, communication, communication studies, speech communication, or organizational communication OR bachelor's degree in any of the above AND master's degree in drama/ theater arts, mass communication, or English OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Wood, J.T. Fixmer-Oraiz, N. . Gendered Lives, 14th ed. Cengage Learning, 2025 2. Required DeFrancisco, V.P., Palczewski, C.H. McGeough, D.D.. Gender in Communication: A Critical Introduction, 4th ed. SAGE Publications, Inc, 2022

Other Resources

1. Equivalent Open Education Resources