Catalog Statement
SPCH 115 is an introductory course designed to analyze issues of gender and communication. Using a communication approach, the course examines theoretical and perspectives issues in gender construction by explaining the differences between gender, sex, and sexual orientation, and how gender, race, and class intersect with one another. Students explore the relationship between gender and communication as it relates to verbal and nonverbal communication. Students also learn to identify the perception of gendered communication from various standpoints, including those of heterosexual men and women as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (and/or questioning) individuals/identities (LBGTQ). An emphasis is placed on improving communication skills by exploring the significance of gender in everyday communication interactions.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0
Total Laboratory Units: 0.0
Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0
Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0
Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0
Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL101. ESL students should also have completed ESL 155.

Course Entry Expectations
Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:
- organize and write thesis-based essays which meet the standards for English 101 entrance;
- use organized, detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
- critically analyze selected works that deal with important contemporary issues;
- summarize, analyze and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
- gather and organize information through library research;
- demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax and mechanics sufficient for English 101 entrance, i.e. communicating (both orally and in writing) in standard English, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation;
- apply strategies appropriate to improving communication with native speakers;
• critically evaluate classroom presentations and analyze the validity of their academic content;
• select and participate in modes of presentation and discussion appropriate for a given academic topic;
• apply knowledge of culture-appropriate presentation style, using effective body language and appropriate level of language.

Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:
• determine and assess gendered patterns of communication;
• analyze the construction of gender and the way it affects communication styles in multiple contexts;
• demonstrate an understanding of the way language and symbols construct gender in the context of our larger sexual, racial, ethnic, and class identities and how gender, in turn, affects communication styles and practices;
• analyze gender role socialization and the role of popular culture in influencing gender communication;
• identify the perception of gendered communication from various standpoints including those of heterosexual men and women as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (and/or questioning) individuals/identities (LBGTQ).

Course Content

Foundations of Gender Communication (12 hours)
  Introduction to gender communication
    Exploring the relevance of studying gender communication
    Introducing the basic theories and principles
  Building blocks and barriers of gender communication
    Definition and interpretation of the term “gender” and “gender identity”
    Definition and interpretation of the term “sexist language”
    World views
    Core values and beliefs
    Norms and roles
    Assimilation and enculturation
  Communication
  Context
  Power
  Ethics and morals
  Barriers to communication
    Ethnocentrism
    Stereotyping
    Prejudice
    Discrimination
    Culture shock
  Sex and gender differences and similarities between men and women

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0
Understanding gender identity
Identity, language, and gender communication

Gender Communication Differences (8 hours)
Verbal issues in intercultural communication
  The study of language
  Gender variations in language
    Communication patterns
  Language and power
  Moving between languages
Nonverbal communication issues
  Defining nonverbal communication
    Nonverbal codes
  Gender variations in nonverbal behavior
  Perception and competencies
  Defining space

Gender Communication in Everyday Life (8 hours)
  Popular culture and gender communication
    Definition of the term “popular culture”
    Consuming and resisting popular culture
    Gendered themes in entertainment programs
    Gender bias in news coverage
    Media portrayals of violence towards women
  Culture, communication and conflict
    Characteristics of gender conflict
    Types of conflict and the importance of context
    Gender influences on conflict management
    Gender power and violence
  Gender relationships in everyday life
    Benefits and challenges of gender relationships
    Foundations of gender relationships
    Relationships across differences
    Social change and gender relationships

Gender Communication in Applied Settings
  Gender and family community (3 hours)
    Explain family function in creating and defining gender
    Socioeconomic status of family impact on gender
    Cultural context in U.S. (including religion)
    Gender expectations in the family
    How diversity may impact family function and gender roles
  Gender and Workplace Communication (4 hours)
    Domestic and global issues
    Power issues in gender business encounters
    Definition of “sexual harassment”
    Distinguish between quid pro quo sexual harassment and hostile environment harassment
    Compare and contrast management style of women and men
Communication challenges in business contexts
Work related values
Communication styles
Diversity, prejudice and discrimination
Social and political contexts of business
Strategies to eliminate bias, “glass ceiling,” and “sex segregation work”

Gender and Education Communication (3 hours)
Gender specific education
Gender communication in educational settings
Roles for teachers and students
Grading and power
Admissions, affirmative action, and standardized tests
Communication, education and cultural identity
Social issues and education
Strategies for eliminating educational sexism and gender bias

Gender and Health Care Communication (3 hours)
History of gender communication in health care
Importance of gender communication in health care
Barriers to effective health care for transgender community
Power in communication about health care

Gender and friendship communication (3 hours)
The nature of friendship (e.g. use Taylor and Altman’s Social Penetration Model and/or Rawlin’s six-stage model)
Communication differences between same gender and cross gender friendships
Barriers to effective friendships

Gender and Romance (4 hours)
Gender impact on romance
“Battered woman syndrome”
The implications of Violence Against Women Act
Communication differences between same gender and/or LGBTQ romances

Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:
- classroom lecture and discussion;
- collaborative learning
- educational technologies including word processing, Internet, computer-assisted learning, and electronic presentation.

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:
- essays that respond, explain, analyze, argue, and/or evaluate gender communication principles (e.g. watch a five-minute clip of a conversation from a television show or a movie. Identify the masculine and feminine speech patterns used by the speakers and how
would student’s interpretation of the conversation differ under the deficit, dominance, or difference approaches?);  
- reading assignments from textbooks and/or journal articles;  
- journaling;  
- field experience (e.g. participating in a cultural event such as a gay pride parade);  
- film analysis (e.g. in the film *Chocolat* (2000), discuss students analyze what role gender differences and gender biases play in the story).

**Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

- self and peer evaluation papers;  
- group and individual oral presentations;  
- written assignments;  
- quizzes;  
- comprehensive final exam.

**Textbooks**

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN#: 978-0199743025  

12th Grade Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-1111346485

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- describe the essential role that gender plays on people’s perceptions, beliefs, communication patterns and behaviors;  
- identify and model effective gender communication practices at work, home, school, and social and professional forums;  
- distinguish between biological, psychological, social and cultural theories of gender and identity and how these differences affect communication.