Cluster Course Addition

All changes to Clusters must be approved by PSU's Senate Curriculum Committee.

1. COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER. Communication and Gender  Sp/Ws 337U

AVAILABILITY. This course is offered every term. It is taught primarily online now. It is considered a partially online course with four to five in-class meetings a term.

2. GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS.

A. OTHER CLUSTERS
Women's Studies Cluster and Popular Culture Cluster.

B. SUITABILITY

This course is well suited for the Family Studies Cluster. Gender identity and gender issues in the family are presented throughout the term in various areas of this gender study. Some of the topics covered:

- Gender role socialization from infancy to adulthood;
- Language of the family embedded in gender synonyms;
- Shared-tasks in two parent households;
- Non-traditional families;
- Juggling family and career, expectations for each gender;
- Maternity/Paternity leave - the Family Leave Act;
- Media representations of women and men in and outside of family roles;
- Lack of effective listening the major complaint/problem in parent/child relationships, btw. siblings and btw. couples.

The language of gender is very insightful about gender identity and the family. The words, "breadwinner," "head of household," and "provider" continue to be included on students' lists of synonyms about men, and never (not once in at least ten years) have these words been included on lists of synonyms about women. Both men and women create these lists.

Another example, a quick analysis of gender synonyms about both genders, finds most words are punishing. In fact, in all of the thousands of synonyms for women and men, most are negative. The small percentage of terms which are positive are those words associated with the family.

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C. CLUSTER INDIVIDUALITY

For a long time, I have considered proposing this course to be included in the Family Studies Cluster. The study of gender and the family is a practical and even obvious combination. Students make the connections easily and many have made the inaccurate assumption it was in this cluster and were surprised to find it was not. The topics covered in this course have a very specific foundation within family dynamics and practices. The communication issues, primarily the lack of comprehensive listening, are applied most often to family communication patterns.

COURSE APPROVED FOR CLUSTER INCLUSION BY

DEPARTMENT CHAIR ___________________________ DATE ____________

CLUSTER COORDINATOR ______________________ DATE ____________

CHAIR, CLUSTER COORDINATOR ______________________ DATE ____________

CHAIR, UNST COMMITTEE ______________________ DATE ____________