Department: COM

Initiator name: Leigh Ford

Initiator email: leigh.ford@wmich.edu

Proposed effective term: 201940

Does course need General Education approval?: N

Will course be used in teacher education?: N

If 5000 level course, prerequisites apply to: U

Proposed course data:
Change Course COM 4790
Specific Course Change type selected: Description

1. Existing course prefix and number:
COM 4790

A. Please choose Yes or No to indicate if this class is a Teacher Education class:
No

B. Please choose the applicable class level:
Undergraduate

C. Please choose Yes or No to indicate if this class is a General Education class:
No

D. Explain briefly and clearly the proposed improvement.
The proposed improvement is meant to more accurately reflect the content of COM 4790: Gender and Communication. The current course description contains outdated language.

E. Rationale. Give your reason(s) for the proposed improvement. (If your proposal includes prerequisites, justify those, too.).
The existing course description contains outdated language: it sets gender as a binary when there are gender identities beyond male and female. The proposed course description reflects more modern understandings of gender as well as clarity on the areas of communication covered in the course.

F. List the student learning outcomes for the proposed course or the revised or proposed major, minor, or concentration. These are the outcomes that the department will use for future assessments of the course or program.
The learning outcomes are as follows:
1. Students will be able to clearly identify and apply gender communication theory.
2. Students will be able to analyze communicative events through a gendered lens.
3. Students will be able to communicate respectfully with those of different gender identities.
G. Describe how this curriculum change is a response to student learning assessment outcomes that are part of a departmental or college assessment plan or informal assessment activities. This change in description arises from faculty expertise and changes in the discipline/gender understandings.

H. Effect on other colleges, departments or programs. If consultation with others is required, attach evidence of consultation and support. If objections have been raised, document the resolution. Demonstrate that the program you propose is not a duplication of an existing one.
No effect

I. Effect on your department's programs. Show how the proposed change fits with other departmental offerings.
No effect

J. Effects on enrolled students: are program conflicts avoided? Will your proposal make it easier or harder for students to meet graduation requirements? Can students complete the program in a reasonable time? Show that you have considered scheduling needs and demands on students' time. If a required course will be offered during summer only, provide a rationale.
No effect on these issues.

K. Student or external market demand. What is your anticipated student audience? What evidence of student or market demand or need exists? What is the estimated enrollment? What other factors make your proposal beneficial to students? The anticipated student audience will remain the same. The course and material will remain the same; only catalog copy is changing. Students will benefit from a clearer, more up-to-date description of course content.

L. Effects on resources. Explain how your proposal would affect department and University resources, including faculty, equipment, space, technology, and library holdings. Tell how you will staff additions to the program. If more advising will be needed, how will you provide for it? How often will course(s) be offered? What will be the initial one-time costs and the ongoing base-funding costs for the proposed program? (Attach additional pages, as necessary.) No effect

M. General education criteria. For a general education course, indicate how this course will meet the criteria for the area or proficiency. (See the General Education Policy for descriptions of each area and proficiency and the criteria. Attach additional pages as necessary. Attach a syllabus if (a) proposing a new course, (b) requesting certification for baccalaureate-level writing, or (c) requesting reapproval of an existing course.) Not applicable

N. (Undergraduate proposals only) Describe, in detail, how this curriculum change affects transfer articulation for Michigan community colleges. For course changes, include detail on necessary changes to transfer articulation from Michigan community college courses. For new majors or minors, describe transfer guidelines to be developed with Michigan community colleges. For revisions to majors or minors, describe necessary revisions to Michigan community college guidelines. Department chairs should seek assistance from college advising directors or from the admissions office in completing this section. No effect on transfer articulation for Michigan community colleges is anticipated.

O. Current catalog copy:
COM 4790 - Gender and Communication
Examines the variable of gender as it influences communication between women and men. Topics include female-male stereotypes, interpersonal attraction, differences in female-male verbal and nonverbal codes, relational dialogues and patterns, and female-male interaction on the job.

Credits: 3 hours

Restrictions: Restricted to juniors and seniors only.

Notes: This course satisfies General Education Proficiency 2: Baccalaureate-Level Writing.

**P. Proposed catalog copy:**
COM 4790 - Gender and Communication

This course examines the construct of gender through a communicative lens. Topics include interpersonal, organizational, mass media, and social media communication. Issues of gender identity, sexual orientation, gendered structures, and more are explored.

Credits: 3 hours

Restrictions: Restricted to juniors and seniors only.

Notes: This course satisfies General Education Proficiency 2: Baccalaureate-Level Writing.

Department Curriculum Chair approver: Leigh Ford

Department Curriculum Chair comment:

Date: 04-MAY-2018

Department approver: Leigh Ford

Chair comment:

Date: 04-MAY-2018