

President's Dream Colloquium on Women in Technology

Course Description / SAR 897-5

This multidisciplinary course covers a broad range of topics within diversity in the technology sector. While a main focus is on women and their role in technology, the course highlights issues that affect other under-represented groups as well. It is also not primarily targeting students in technology – the speaker series features experts from a range of fields (mathematics, media, psychology, and politics, just to name a few). The course itself is designed from the perspective of multiple disciplines, including STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), psychology, education, business, gender studies, and interactive art and technology.

This course will establish a foundation for future managers, supervisors, sponsors, mentors, and others wanting to pursue leadership roles to work towards creating a level playing field in technology and other industries. As technology is a pervasive aspect of life in the 21st century, it is the theme of the course, but not the sole topic. Advertising, media, language and communication, phenomena such as “stereotype threat” and “imposter syndrome,” product design, and company/corporate culture will be covered in its six modules:

- Module 1: Diversity 101: The Case for Diversity in Technology
- Module 2: Women in Media & Advertising
- Module 3: Gendered Language
- Module 4: Social Psychological Phenomena
- Module 5: Gender in Research & Product Design
- Module 6: Why Women Are Undervalued As Leaders & Innovators

Course evaluation is as follows:

In-Class Participation	15%
Two Paper Reviews	10%
White Paper Proposal	10%
Final Summary of Research and White Paper	40%
Final Presentation	25%

Students will be required to participate in class discussions and exercises based on selected course readings. Each student will be required to select two of the class readings and submit paper reviews that provide critical analyses as to the strengths and weaknesses of their selected papers for review.

The final project for this course will be focused on best practices and policy recommendations for a particular issue that impacts gender diversity. Students will: 1) write a report summarizing the literature in the area, 2) create an infographic that explains the issue, relevant statistics and solutions to a general audience, and 3) give a final presentation to the class presenting the results of their investigations on this topic.

Final Grading

Undergraduate students: Pass/Fail

Graduate students: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory