

Communication and Identity

FALL 2020
THURS. 6 - 8:45 PM
CIS 3057

SPC 6934
CRN: 88728



This MA/PhD course examines the concept of “identity” as it relates to persons’ ongoing and everyday lived experience. How do identities inform, and sometimes govern, communication? Put differently, how do performances of selves come to matter? In addition, the things communication “does” to identities (people, and lives) will be of interest. Thus, we will spend a considerable amount of time studying the ways in which persons’ co-constitute (make and remake) ourselves, and others, communicatively. How the study of identity lends itself to conducting applied communication research on pressing issues of inclusion and social justice, more generally, will be of particular interest. We will primarily focus on the qualitative and interpretive study of identity; yet, this focus will also call us to discuss and reflect on the relevance of other ways of orientating to identity work. Overall, students will be encouraged to seek answers to these overarching questions as they relate to students’ area/s of study. (Note: this is not the PhD seminar focusing on identity.)

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