

The logo for Cal Poly Pomona is a large, stylized arrow pointing to the right. It is composed of several overlapping triangles in shades of blue, green, and yellow. The text "Cal Poly Pomona" is positioned to the left of the arrow.

CalPoly
Pomona

A Fearless Campus

Fearless Classroom Asynchronous Workshop

Challenges To A Fearless Classroom

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Consequences of a Fearful Academic Environment

- **A fearful learning environment can cause the brain to:**
 - Lose its ability to correctly interpret learning clues from the environment.
 - Stay with tried and true behaviors.
 - Lose its ability to index, store, and access information.
 - Become limited in its responses.
 - Lose ability to perceive relationships and patterns.
 - Become less able to use higher-level thinking.
 - Lose long-term memory capacity (perhaps related to above).
 - Overreact to stimuli in a phobic-like manner

(Jensen, 2008, pp. 43-44)



Obstacles to A Fearless Classroom

Student Fear

- Student's fear that someone is going to judge them
- Students fear that they might look like fools
- Students don't know most of their classmates
- Students don't feel comfortable speaking up in front of unknown people
- The student group is large, and they think someone else will pick up the slack
- Students fear grades (Deming)



Risks that students face in a Fearful Classroom



- To appear ignorant when asking a question
- To feel incompetent in general or in a specific task when admitting an error (or simply call attention to it), asking for help or accepting the probability of failing
- To be perceived as negative when criticizing past or present events
- To be seen as intrusive when asking for feedback



Obstacles to A Fearless Classroom

Student's lack of interest and engagement in the class

- Students have a lack of interest in the topic
- Students don't think they have something interesting to contribute



Obstacles to A Fearless Classroom

Student Personality

- In the position of the student, the student automatically becomes vulnerable and perhaps feeling inferior to the professor/instructor.
- The student may feel like an imposter in a classroom where the student assumes other students may be more knowledgeable than them.
- Misconceptions can be attributed to cultural, social factors, and student temperament (introversion/shyness)
- There can be a spectrum of factors that are unique to each individual student and classroom that will allow for self misconceptions.



Fear In The Classroom: A National Concern

There are many more factors and challenges that as faculty we may not think about in trying to engage our students.

This video show's another challenge to a Fearless Classroom and psychological safety that is a national concern.



Please click this link if the embedded video does not play
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Sst2RPsQM8>