

GENDER AND LANGUAGE

Spring, 2020

LIN 4656-0212

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Office hours: Tuesdays, noon-1:30; and Thursdays 1:30-3, or by appointment
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Text: Jennifer Coates and Pia Pilcher (eds.). *Language and Gender: A Reader*. Blackwell, 2011.

Supplementary readings from:

- 1) Deborah Cameron's blog on sex and sexism in language: debuk.wordpress.com.
- 2) Readings posted on CANVAS

This course offers the student a perspective on gender and sexism in discourse. It is an opportunity to study how language is used by women and men and about women and men in the various domains of interaction (e.g. social, family, workplace) to create and sustain status and power in society. It offers the chance to study how sex and sexism function in language and their repercussions for all areas of life. Weekly readings will be discussed in detail, with group panel presentations taking place every second Thursday. Students will take a midterm and a final exam. Attendance and participation are required for successful completion of the course. More than three unexcused absences will result in a deduction of 5 points off the final course grade (for every three unexcused absences).

Grading is based on the following:

Midterm Examination:	25%
Final Examination:	25%
Panel presentation:	25%
Quizzes	15%
Attendance and Participation:	10%

Group panel: A panel discussion/presentation will take on several Thursday classes on the topic for the prior week. A small group (depending on the number of students in the course) will take over the class discussion on the topic. Panelists are responsible for applying their knowledge to the subfield of Gender and Language that is the topic for the week's discussion. Members of the panel should relate the activities to the prior discussions for the section. Panels will present the material to the rest of the class in such a way that we are engaged and learn something new from the presentation. You can choose any interesting format—debate, dramatization, group games, etc. Clarity is important. You may use any technique to get the major points across. Use your imagination. The purpose of the panel is to actively involve each of you in a section of the course that most interests you.

Quizzes (15%): In order to ensure that you are reading and thinking critically about the course material, there will be four quizzes throughout the semester based on current readings. These quizzes may or may not be announced in advance.

Attendance Policy: I take attendance seriously. You cannot do well in this course without coming to class and participating in the co-construction of knowledge. This course will not be run as lectures but as discussion almost exclusively. Therefore, you are expected to come to class having prepared to participate with a thorough reading of the assigned material. If you must be absent you will, if possible, bring a written note from a physician, clinic, infirmary, or other authority explaining the reason for your absence. I realize that sometimes you are unable to come to class due to illness that is not treated by a doctor.

Because of this, you will be allowed three unexcused absences before your grade is affected. For example, if you have a B average at the end of the course and you have four unexcused absences you will receive a B-. Tardiness disrupts the flow of discussion. If you must come late, please enter as unobtrusively as possible. Three tardies exceeding five minutes each will count as an unexcused absence. Please be vigilant about your attendance and preparation for each class.

Cell phones, texting, and laptops: Please turn off your phones before the start of class. If you wish to take notes using your laptop, that is permitted. Please refrain from doing otherwise with laptops or smart phones during class. No texting is allowed during class. I try to move around if the configuration makes this possible. I assure you that I will know if you are distracted.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy and receive a failing grade for the course (www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php) It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions about it, please consult the professor.

Grading Scale: See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

A= 93-100
A-=90-92.9
B+=87-89.9
B=83-86.9
B-=80-82.9
C+=77-79.9
C=73-76.9
C-=70-72.9
D+=67-69.9
D=63-66.9
D-=60-62.9
E=under 60

Part 1. Jan. 7-9 Introduction to the sociolinguistics of Gender and Language

Read: Text: Introduction

Part 2. Jan. 14-16. Linguistic studies

Read: Text chapters 2, Trudgill; 5, Nichols; 6, Eckert;
December, 2016 Debuk: A brief history of gender

Part 3. Jan. 21-23. Gender and conversational practice

Reader: Chapter 7, Holmes; Chapter 8, M.H. Goodwin;
September 25, 2019 Debuk: In praise of strident women

Thursday, Jan. 23. First panel on linguistic studies in G & L; Conversational practice

Part 4. Jan. 28-30. Mixed-Sex Talk

Reader: Chapter 11, West and Zimmermann; Chapter 12, DeFrancisco; Chapter 14, Herring et.al.;

Debuk, October 31, 2019: Out of humour

Part 5. Feb 4-6, Same sex talk

Reader: Chapter 16, Coates; Chapter 19, Cameron; Boxer and Gritsenko (Canvas);

Debuk, June 16, 2019: Verbal hygiene for men

Thursday, Feb. 6--Panel 2 on Mixed sex talk; Same sex talk

Part 6. Feb. 11-13. Gender and the Public Domain

Reader: Chapter 22, Reynolds; Chapter 24, Holmes and Schnurr; DeCapua and Boxer (on Canvas);

Debuk, Nov. 24, 2019: Marie and Fiona go to Washington

Thursday, Feb. 13, Panel 3. on Gender and the Public Domain

Part 7. Feb. 18-27. Language, Gender and Sexuality

Reader: Chapter, 27, Abe; Chapter 28, Hall; Chapter 29; Leap; Oct.2015

Debuk, Nov. 10, 2019: The spinster returns

Thursday, Feb. 27: Panel 4 on Gender, Language and Sexuality

March 10: Review for midterm

March 12: Midterm examination (Canvas)

Part 8. March 17-19. Gender or Power?

Reader: Chapter 32, O'Barr and Atkins; Chapter 33, Wetzel; Chapter 34, West;

Debuk. June 7, 2019: Imperfect pitch

Thursday, March 19; Panel 5 on Gender and Power

Part 9. March 24-26. Difference or Dominance?

Reader: Chapter 35, Maltz and Borker; 36, Tannen; 37, Troemel-Ploetz;

Debuk: May 27, 2019: Female email

Thursday, March 26: Panel 6 on Difference or Dominance?

Part 10: March 31-April 2 When is Gender Relevant?

Reader: Chapter 38, Schegloff; Chapter 39, Weatehrall; Chapter 40, Swann,

Debuk, May 13, 2019: Broad men and narrow women

Thursday, April 9. Panel 7 on Gender Relevance

Part 11. April 7-9 New Directions

Reader: Chapter 41, 42, 43

Debuk: April 10, 2019 Sexism's greetings

April 14-: Review for final test

April 16: Final test

April 28: Go over final test and wrap up