

THE SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF GENDER AND LANGUAGE

Fall, 2013

LIN 4656-1285; WST 4930-0592

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30; and Thursdays 2-3:30 or by appointment
4131D Turlington Hall

Text: Jennifer Coates and Pia Pilcher (eds.). *Language and Gender: A Reader*. Blackwell, 2011.

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. Students who choose to do research may do a 15-20 page paper in lieu of final test. 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:	30%
Final Examination:	30%
Panel presentation:	30%
Attendance and Participation:	10%

Part I. August 22. Introduction to the sociolinguistics of Gender and Language

Read: Text: Introduction

Part II. August 27-29. Linguistic studies

Read: Text chapters 2, Trudgill; 5, Nichols; 6, Eckert

Part III. Sept. 3-5. Gender and conversational practice

Reader: Chapter 7, Holmes; Chapter 8, M.H. Goodwin

Panel I: Sept. 5 on Linguistic Studies

Part III. Sept. 10-12. Mixed-Sex Talk

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

Panel II. Sept. 12 on Mixed Sex Talk

Part IV. Sept. 17-19 Same sex talk

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

Part V. Sept. 24-26. Gender and the Public Domain

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

Panel III. Sept. 26 on Same Sex Talk

October 1: Review for first exam

October 3: Midterm exam

October 8: Go over midterm exam

Part VI. Oct. 10-17. Language, Gender and Sexuality

Reader: Chapter 27, Abe; Chapter 28, Hall; Chapter 29; Leap

Panel IV. October 17 on Gender and the Public Domain

Part VII. Oct. 22-24. Gender or Power?

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

Part VIII. Oct. 29-31. Difference or Dominance?

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

Panel V. Oct. 31 on Gender or Power?

Part IX. Nov. 5-7. When is Gender Relevant?

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

Part X. Nov. 12-14. New Directions

Reader: Chapter 41, 42, 43

Panel VI. Nov. 14 on Difference or Dominance?

November 19: Review for final test

November 21: Final test

November 26: No class

Dec. 3: Go over final and wrap up of course

