

LIN 4656  
*The Sociolinguistics of Language & Gender*

Spring 2025

Matherly 0006 MWF 12:50-1:40

Course website: [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu)

*Required Text: Language Gender and Sexuality by Scott Kiesling*

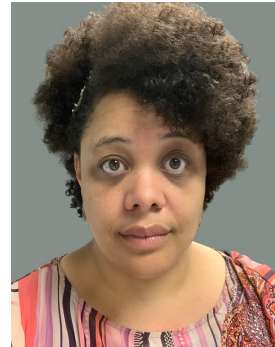
ISBN 9781351042420

*Course description*

This course focuses on gender, sexism and cisheteronormativity in discourse. Students will learn to critically assess how language is used by and about people of different genders in various domains of interaction (e.g. social, family, workplace) to create and sustain status and power in society. This course emphasizes how gender, sexuality, and sexism are performed through language, as well as repercussions of this performance for all areas of life. Class discussions will be based on weekly readings from the assigned text, as well as additional readings which will be provided on Canvas. Students are responsible for biweekly quizzes, discussion questions, a synthesis essay, at least one presentation, and a final exam.

*Learning Objectives*

1. Become familiar with speech act theory, critical discourse analysis and linguistic publics
2. Distinguish between and synthesize macro-sociolinguistic and micro-sociolinguistic objectives and findings
3. Identify how common constructs of sex, sexuality and gender are shaped by contexts of geographic, history and political projects
4. Describe how beliefs about the significance of gender have shaped the modern availability of linguistic data and the development of linguistic theory
5. Apply the above skills to evaluate contemporary linguistic research



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email for additional availability:  
either in office or on Zoom

## *Grade breakdown*

Your grades will be based on: paper presentations (20 %), active participation in class, class activities, and timely postings of discussion questions (15 %); two critical summaries (30 %), (pop) quizzes (10%), and a final exam (25 %).

### *Paper Presentations*

Approximately 15 minutes; depending on enrollment, you may be asked to present a paper together with somebody or present more than one paper over the entire course. Presentations will summarize the assigned reading and conclude with points for discussion, including questions submitted by classmates (see below). A copy of the slides should be mailed to [atripp@ufl.edu](mailto:atripp@ufl.edu) before the start of class.

### *Discussion Board Participation*

Students are required to submit at least two posts to the Canvas discussion board each week. Ideally, this should be done by 8:00 PM the day before our class discussion. Substantive comments in reply to your fellow classmates count towards this requirement. Effective discussion board posts will clearly index relevant sources and effectively engage with prior comments where appropriate. The discussion board posts can be used as an opportunity to ask and answer clarifying questions about the material, express opinions and propose potential discussion topics for class time.

### *Critical Summaries*

Students will write two critical summaries. Each of these assignments will require the student to read a peer-reviewed journal article that reports an original study related to class topics, and that extends upon our class discussions. Summaries should contain: (1) an introduction to the theoretical background, clearly indicating how the present study fits in and contributes to understanding of the issue; (2) a brief description of the goals, methods, results, and authors' interpretation of the data; (3) a critical assessment of the design and interpretation, including commentary on the wider implications of the study. More detailed instructions will be available on the course website. Summaries should be about 2-3 double-spaced pages long, excluding references.

### *Quizzes*

In order to ensure that you are reading and thinking critically about the course material, there will be 8-10 quizzes throughout the semester based on current readings. These quizzes may or may not be announced in advance.

### *Final Exam*

The final exam will be held during finals week, according to the University schedule. The content of the exam will be specified later in the semester, and will generally highlight relevant topics and readings from the entire semester. The format of the exam will be multiple choice, short answer and/or long answer.

### *The fine print*

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** On all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code. Furthermore, students are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. The unauthorized and unattributed use of A.I. composition software (e.g. ChatGPT) shall be considered violations of this pledge. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult me.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT.** Students and faculty both have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. I pledge to treat each of you with dignity, respect, and professional courtesy; I expect you to do the same for me and for each other.

**ACCOMMODATION POLICIES.** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>) to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. .

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES** A student should inform me if the religious observances of their faith will conflict with class attendance, tests or examinations, or other class activities, prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity. I am obligated (and happy) to accommodate that particular student’s religious observances.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS.** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback by completing course evaluations. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens.

**INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT.** Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief. Students are encouraged to share their viewpoints, data, and sources in class and to speak with me or classmates, in class or privately, about any perceived violation of this policy.

**RECORDING LECTURE CONTENT.** Students are allowed to record class lectures. However, the only allowable purposes of these recordings are (1) personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. Specifically, students may not publish, share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to recorded lectures or their transcripts without the written consent of the instructor, regardless of format or medium. Access includes but is not limited to another student within the same class section. A recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil action and/or discipline under the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

A	94-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	0-59%
A-	90-93%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%		
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

GRADING SCHEME. This course follows UF grades and grading policy:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>