

**GENDER AND LANGUAGE**  
LIN 4656, LIN 6932, WST 6935, WST 4930  
T 4 R 4,5 Online  
Dr. Diana Boxer [dboxer@ufl.edu](mailto:dboxer@ufl.edu)  
Office hours: TBA

**Spring, 2021**

**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](http://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. The lowest grade among the four quizzes will be dropped.

**Attendance Policy:** I take attendance seriously. You cannot do well in this course without attending 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 appear on zoom 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 attend 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. 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 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](http://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

**Other requirements/expectations for online class:**

*This course is delivered online and synchronous for in-class discussions and lectures. These activities will take place during our assigned class time. You are expected to be available during those times.*

*Additionally, please keep in mind that all times listed on this syllabus and announced in class are according to Eastern Standard Time (i.e., Gainesville time). If you are not located in the Eastern Standard Time zone, you should adjust times for all synchronous activities and due dates accordingly.*

*Most of our one-on-one communication will occur via email [OR Canvas] There are two important course policies regarding email: 1) I expect that you are reading your email at least once per day, and 2) All emails that you send must follow basic rules for*

*professional correspondence. If you are unsure of what constitutes professionalism, feel free to ask...or simply err on the side of caution.*

*Computer Access: The University requires access to and on-going use of a computer. This should not be a tablet device or smartphone, but an actual desktop or laptop computer. To succeed in this course, you will also need a stable internet connection and appropriate space to take online exams. Minimum equipment specifications are available at: <https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>.*

### Online Class Behavior

Students are expected to behave appropriately during class time, even though class time is virtually conducted. Disruptive behavior is a violation of the Student Honor Code (Section 3D). Some general “netiquette” guidance:

- Arrive/Zoom in on time or a few minutes early if possible. Attendance will be taken at for each class
- When you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.
- Dress appropriately for class. Even though you may be alone at home your professor and classmates can see you.
- Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room; a chair and desk/table set for schoolwork in a quiet corner should be sufficient. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.
- Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings. Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see. You may use a virtual background if your device supports this feature. Be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.
- Refrain from eating during the class hour, as you would in a face-to-face course.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course. This is especially important in a remote situation, where multiple voices attempting to speak at once result in no one being heard

#### **Part 1. Jan. 12-14. Introduction to the sociolinguistics of Gender and Language**

**Read:** Text: Introduction

#### **Part 2. Jan. 19-21. Linguistic studies**

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

**December, 2016 Debuk:** A brief history of gender

**Part 3. Jan. 26-28. Gender and conversational practice**

**Reader:** Chapter 7, Holmes; Chapter 8, M.H. Goodwin;  
**Debuk March 2, 2020:** Is the fuscia female?

**Thursday, Jan. 28. First panel on linguistic studies in G & L; Conversational practice**

**Part 4. Feb. 2-4. Mixed-Sex Talk**

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

**Debuk, Dec. 16, 2020:** Don't drop the doc: Jill Biden and performative outrage

**Part 5. Feb 9-11. Same sex talk**

**Reader:** Chapter 16, Coates; Chapter 19, Cameron; Boxer and Gritsenko (Canvas);  
**Debuk, June 16, 2019: Verbal hygiene for men**

**Thursday, Feb. 11--Panel 2 on Mixed sex talk; Same sex talk**

**Part 6. Feb. 16-18. Gender and the Public Domain**

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

**Debuk, July 25, 2020: Expletive not deleted**  
**Thursday, Feb. 18, Panel 3. Gender and the Public Domain**

**Part 7. Feb. 23-March 4. Language, Gender and Sexuality (NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 25)**

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

**Debuk, Nov. 10, 2019: The spinster returns**

**Thursday, March 4: Panel 4 on Gender, Language and Sexuality**

**March 9: Review for midterm**

**March 11: Midterm examination (Canvas)**

**Part 8. March 16-18. Gender or Power?**

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

**Debuk. June 7, 2019: Imperfect pitch**  
**Thursday, March 18; Panel 5 on Gender and Power**

**Part 9. March 23-25. Difference or Dominance?**

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

**Debuk: May 27, 2019: Female email**  
**Thursday, March 25: Panel 6 on Difference or Dominance?**

**Part 10: March 30-April 1 When is Gender Relevant?**

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

**Debuk, June 22, 2020: Forever 21: What to eat on Keto**  
**Thursday April 1, Panel 7 on Gender Relevance**

**Part 11. April 6-8, New Directions**

Reader: Chapter 41, 42, 43  
**Debuk: Nov. 27, 2020: 'Woman:' An upda**

**April 13: Review for final**  
**April 15: Final Exam**

**April 20: wrap up**