

LING/WOMS-222: Language and Gender

2017 Spring

1 General Information

LECTURE: MWF 10:10am – 11:00am ALS 132

INSTRUCTOR: Mai Ha Vu

OFFICE: Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science
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OFFICE HOURS: TBD
Other times by appointment

2 Course Description

This course explores the interaction between gender, language, and social structure. We will conduct critical investigation in the ways the production and perception of language reflects and perpetuates differences in gender identity and sexual orientation, and the potential in language to challenge and transform perceptions of gender and gender relations. We will also learn about how intersecting identities can further affect the relationship between gender and language. Both individual and social implications will be emphasized.

By the end of the course, students will have developed critical reading and reasoning skills when consuming social science articles. They also will be able to notice how language and gender interacts in their everyday life, and give a well-informed, critical analysis of their observations.

3 Course Materials

- Textbook (required). Language and Gender: A Reader (2nd edition). Jennifer Coates & Pia Pitchler, 2011.
- Additional readings will be posted on Sakai (<https://sakai.udel.edu/portal>).

4 Policies

4.1 Class Discussions

An important part of the college experience is to be exposed to views and experiences different from your own. Class is one of the places to get that, and so it is important that everyone feels comfortable to participate, and valued for their contributions. To maintain a welcoming space for everyone, hateful, non-constructive, and discriminative views will not be tolerated.

4.2 Academic Integrity

- If you present any idea or text that is not your own, you must use in-text parenthetical citations in APA format and add a full list of references to the end of your assignment.
- Plagiarism of other students' work, published materials, course materials, or any other unpublished materials not newly created by the student will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.
- Students must comply with UD's Academic Code of Conduct: <http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/15-16/code.html>

4.3 Academic Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities receiving services this semester should talk to me in person so we can discuss your needs.

4.4 Sexual Misconduct Policy

If, at any time during this course, I happen to be made aware that a student may have been the victim of sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, or stalking), I am obligated by federal law to inform the university's Title IX Coordinator. The university needs to know information about such incidents to, not only offer resources, but to ensure a safe campus environment. The Title IX Coordinator will decide if the incident should be examined further. If such a situation is disclosed to me in class, in a paper assignment, or in office hours, I promise to protect your privacy—I will not disclose the incident to anyone but the Title IX Coordinator.

For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and reporting information please refer to www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct. UD provides 24 hour crisis assistance and victim advocacy and counseling. Contact 302- 831-2226, Student Health Services, to get in touch with a sexual offense support advocate.

5 Grading

Participation	15%
Discussion questions	10%
Language observations	5%
Assignments:	40%
3 short papers, each worth 10%	30%
Presentation	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Final project	25%
Final presentation	5%
Final paper	20%

93–100%	A	74–76%	C
90–92%	A–	70–73%	C–
87–89%	B+	67–79%	D+
84–86%	B	64–66%	D
80–83%	B–	60–63%	D–
77–79%	C+	0–59%	F

- Grades can only be discussed in person (they cannot be discussed via e-mail).
- All grades will be posted to Sakai.

6 Participation

6.1 Discussion questions

- You are required to submit a discussion question for each day of class (but there are exceptions).
- Discussion questions are due **by 9am** on the day of class, on Sakai.
- You do NOT need to submit discussion questions on the day when you present in class.
- You do NOT need to submit discussion questions when we do not cover a research article in class.
- If we are scheduled to cover more than one article in class, you may choose the article to submit questions on.

6.2 Language observations

- You are required to come to class with a language observation **every Monday**.
- Language observations can be many different things: e.g. conversations you hear around you, debates on Facebook, advertisements, articles you read, something you notice on TV or in movies, etc.
- The observations must be about the interaction of language and gender.

7 Assignments

7.1 Presentations

- Each of you is required to present an article in class and lead the initial discussion.
- Presentations should at the least give a detailed summary of the article, and supplementary materials such as magazine articles, pictures, memes, blogposts, and videos are encouraged.
- The student should prepare discussion questions as part of leading the initial discussion.
- There is no strict time or format requirement, but generally the presentation should take about 20 minutes.

7.2 Short papers

- There will be three short papers (500-word) assignments throughout the semester.
- Prompts might ask you to investigate an aspect of everyday life, or critically evaluate a claim about language and gender.

8 Midterm exam

- The midterm exam will be take-home where you critically evaluate an article on language and gender in 3-4 pages, double-spaced.
- You will have two weeks to complete the exam.

9 Final project

- You will conduct a simple project, investigating an aspect of language and gender. Examples of topics include polling friends and family about their opinion on gendered speech, analyzing a TV-show on how it displays gender differences in dialogues, gender differences in the use of adjectives in children's books, etc.
- You must submit your final project proposals for approval by **04/10**. The proposal should contain the followings:
 - The question that you are answering, and how it is connected to the course material.
 - Your plan for tackling the question (methods of data collection and analysis)
 - Preliminary literature research including at least three sources.
- You will give a 12-minute presentation on your project in the end of the semester, and write a 4-6 page, double-spaced final paper on your findings.

10 Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. Please check it frequently on sakai.

Dates	Topic	Reading	Due dates
02/06	Introductions		
02/08	How to read articles?	Kaplan(2016) Appendix	
02/10	How to read articles?	Sedivy (2016), Schnoebelen (2016)	
02/13	Linguistic concepts		
02/15	What is gender?		
02/17	Common misconceptions	Kaplan (2016) Ch.8	
02/20	Gender-exclusive differences	Ch.1	
02/22	Differences in pronunciation	Ch.2, Ch.6	
02/24	Differences in grammar	Ch.3, Ch.4	
02/27	Differences in grammar	Ch.5	
03/01	Differences in language use	Ch.7, Ch.8	
03/03	Differences in language use	Ch.9, Ch.10	
03/06	Differences in perceptions	Yuasa (2010)	
03/08	Differences in perceptions	Anderson (2014), Greer & Winters (2015)	
03/10	Perceptions of WOC	Rickford & King (2016)	
03/13	Language and domestic violence (TW)	Ch.15	HW1 due
03/15	Dominance through interruptions	Ch.11, Ch.12	
03/17	Gender and dominance in discourse	Ch.13, Ch.14	
03/20	Gender identity and language	Ch.18	
03/22	Gender identity and language	Ch.16, Ch.17	
03/24	Gender identity and language	Ch.19, Ch. 21	
04/03	Gender identity and language	Ch.20	Midterm due
04/05	Women in the public domain	Ch.22, Ch.23	
04/07	Women in the public domain	Ch.24, Ch.25	
04/10	Women in the public domain	Ch.26	Project proposal due
04/12	Language, Gender, and Sexuality	Ch.27, Ch.28	
04/14	Language, Gender, and Sexuality	Ch.29, Ch.30	
04/17	Language, Gender, and Sexuality	Ch.31	HW2 due
04/19	Gender or Power?	Ch.32, Ch.33	
04/21	Gender or Power?	Ch.34	
04/24	Difference or Dominance?	Ch.35	
04/26	Difference or Dominance?	Ch.36, Ch.37	
04/28	When is Gender Relevant?	Ch.38, Ch.39	
05/01	When is Gender Relevant?	Ch.40	
05/03	New Directions	Ch.41, Ch.42	
05/05	New Directions; Wrap-up	Ch.43	
05/08	Final presentations		HW3 due
05/10	Final presentations		
05/12	Final presentations		
05/15	Final Presentations		
05/22	Final papers due		