

LIGN 174 / SOCI 116 - Gender and Language in Society

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ABOUT THE COURSE

This course deals with gender and how it affects and is affected by language. Topics that will be covered include the following (for a complete list of topics see p. 4 of this handout):

- biological sex and social gender
- the different social roles of genders and how these are manifested in language structure and language practices (such as discourse and conversation strategies)
- the theories that have been put forward to explain these linguistic differences
- linguistic stereotypes about gender
- the language of children
- queer speech

Main objective

To provide you with knowledge and analytic tools that will help you think critically about gender roles, (gender and) sexual orientation, gender stereotypes and the role of language in shaping them.

REQUIRED COURSE BOOK

Coates, Jennifer. 2004 (3rd edition). *Women, Men and Language*. Pearson Education.

Additional readings

Cameron, D. 2007. *The Myth of Mars and Venus*. Oxford University Press.

Kulick, D. 2000. Gay and lesbian language. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29: 243-285.

Lippa, R. A. 2005. *Gender, Nature and Nurture*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Litosseliti, L. 2006. *Gender and Language: Theory and Practice*. Hodder Education.

Romaine, S. 1999. *Communicating Gender*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

DVDs

Sexism in Language: Thief of Honor, Shaper of Lies

XXXY and You Don't Know Dick

Body Image for boys

The Human Body: Appearance, Shape and Self-Image

TOPICS COVERED

- Sex and gender
- Review of current sociological and psychological theories of gender
- Main (non-linguistic) differences between genders
- Gender prejudice in the study of language
- The use of prestigious and non-prestigious variants in male and female speech
- Possible explanations for the different use of variants between genders
- Sexism in language and how to counteract it
- Representation of women in the media
- Representation of gender in the media
- How do the conversations of women and men differ
- Mixed-gender talk
- Same-sex talk
- Possible explanations of the differences in discourse practices: the role of socialization
- Possible explanations of the differences in discourse practices: the role of power
- Queer language: LGBT panel
- Queer language: major findings
- Consequences of linguistic gender differences