Description of the Course

Cross-listed with Women's Studies, English 341 is designed for students interested in an open-minded exploration of language and gender. We reflect on beliefs, stereotypes, experiences, sexuality and other sources of connection between what we understand as gender and aspects of language and related systems of social expression (e.g., literacy, images, arts). In readings, discussions and writing, we explore taken-for-granted understandings of language and gender, being open to diversity of experience and perspective while also ready to change our minds.

Requirements

1. Reading materials to be read for day of class. Each class will begin with students writing short responses to quiz question based upon the week’s readings.

2. Preparation and Participation

   a) Attending each meeting. Your grade will be lowered if you miss class without explicit prior approval by the instructor. Rationale: Because 341 meets one time per week, if you miss one class, you miss the whole week. (If you know that you will miss class more than one time during the semester, please do not take the course.)

   b) Completing the week’s readings before each class meeting.

   c) Contributing to class discussions and smaller group interactions in thoughtful and informed ways. ‘Thoughtful’ and ‘informed’ mean showing evidence of serious engagement with readings, lectures, and other materials and assignments for the course. Learning together in 341 requires taking the readings and other materials seriously and offering contributions and response that reflect this.

3. Written assignments.

   Brief quizzes on readings.
   Short written essays in response to course materials. These will be done as in-class assignments and also as homework.

   Students taking 341 for graduate credit will each lead one reading discussion.

4. Exams

   In-class midterm covering key terms and concepts, plus an essay reflecting on what has been covered to that point in the course. Oct. 14th

   Take-home final involving questions on terms and concepts as well as an essay on one or more scholarly works on language and gender. Circulated: Dec. 9th
   Due: Dec. 21, noon.
Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Graded on accuracy and evidence of work to understand content of readings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Graded on logical organization, development, and solid understanding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Identification of concepts and terms. Essay graded on logic, development, clarity, solid understanding of readings and other materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Same as midterm.</td>
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Required readings: 341 Learn UW site

Main sources (all available in College Library Reserves):


Calendar: Gender and Language  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>Introduction and initial orientations</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Origins of gender and language research</td>
<td>Language and Woman’s Place pp. 3-128 (Lak/Buc)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Editor’s introduction”, “author’s introduction”, original 1974 text &amp; “Changing places: Language and Woman’s Place in context”</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Genders as cultures.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cross-cultural communication, John Gumperz “Cross-talk” (short documentary)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cross-gender communication, Deborah Tannen “He said, she said” exploring different ways men and women communicate” (TV interview)</td>
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<td>Reading: “Two sexes, two cultures” (Craw)</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Further historical and cultural perspectives on gender and language</td>
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<td>“Nu Shu: a hidden language of women in China” (documentary)</td>
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<td>Reading: “The woman” Jesperson (Cam)</td>
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<td>“Androcentrism in prescriptive grammar” Bodine (Cam)</td>
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Fall 2010
Fixing women

Reading: “The assertiveness bandwagon” (Craw)
“Bully broads” (articles and websites)

Oct.

7 Conversation analysis, gender and language

Lecture and data analysis: Placing and designing disaffiliative actions

Reading: “Just say NO? Using conversation analysis to understand how young women talk about refusing sex” C. Kitzinger & H. Frith. 1999. Discourse and Society, 10 (3) 293-316.
“Doing feminist CA” C. Kitzinger 2000 Feminism & Psychology, 10(2) 163-93.
“Conversational insecurity” Fishman (Cam)

14 Midterm

21 Discussion of midterm content & Orientation for our continued study
Women and science: E. Fox Keller interview
Guest: Dr. Eve Fine, Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute

Reading: To be determined

28 What about masculinity?

Reading: “Theorizing language and masculinity” Johnson (J&S)
“Do men gossip” Johnson (J&M)

Nov.

4 Race-class-culture

Reading: Selections from “Part IV Women’s Places” (Lak/Buc)
“The new (and improved?) language and place of women in Japan.” Y. Matsumoto
“I’m every woman’: Black women’s (dis)placement in women’s’ language study” M. Morgan
“The anguish of normative gender: sociolinguistic studies among U.S. Latinas” N. Mendoza-Denton

11 Normative genders and sexualities

Segments from “Paris is burning”; “Speaking as a woman”; “Melanie speaks”

“Indexing polyphonic identity in speech of African American drag

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18 Continua of gender performance

Reading: “Fashioning selves” (E&M)

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25-28 Thanksgiving recess

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Dec.

2 Guest lecture (Gender and bias)

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9 Summary discussion;
Orientation for take-home exam

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21 Final exams due (LUW dropbox, by noon).