

**LING 1420 Language and Gender (3)**  
Winter 2009, MW 2:30-3:45 pm, 308Tier

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm, and by appointment

**Required text**

Coates, Jennifer (ed.) (1998). *Language and Gender: A Reader*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.

**Course overview**

Language is integral to how we relate to each other. Gender is a sociological area that also greatly affects our interactions. Do men and women communicate differently? Do they communicate differently among themselves than with each other? This course is about the relationship of linguistic variables and choices we make and the sociology of gender (and related social categories such as authority and ethnicity). How are gender differences encoded in linguistic or communicative choices? How do these choices effect how we communicate?

**Schedule (tentative)**

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Readings from:<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Mid-term exam date</i>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1 – Gender differences in pronunciation and grammar</li> <li>• Part 2 – Gender differences in conversational practice</li> </ul>	Monday, 9 February
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 3 – Conversational dominance in mixed talk</li> <li>• Part 4 – Same-sex talk</li> <li>• Part 5 – Women’s talk in the public domain</li> </ul>	Monday, 23 March
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 6 – Theoretical debates (1): gender or power?</li> <li>• Part 7- Theoretical debates (2): difference or dominance?</li> <li>• Part 8 – Looking to the future</li> </ul>	(final exam distributed Wednesday, 8 April, due Wednesday, 15 April)

<sup>1</sup>Specific readings will be announced on an ongoing basis.

**Evaluation**

Grades are determined by your performance on three in-term examinations, occasional homework, participation in in-class activities, and a written final exam, with the following weightings.

- In-class examinations (2)            22% each    44% total
- Readings quizzes (3)                2% each     6% total
- Written homework assignments (5)    20% total
- Final Exam                                30%

Final grades will be assigned using the scale at right, are subject to departmental approval and are not official until assigned by the Student Records Office. Grades will not be posted.

<i>Letter grade</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
A+	95-100	Exceptional
A	89-94.9	Excellent
B+	83-88.9	Very Good
B	77-82.9	Good
C+	71-76.9	Satisfactory
C	65-70.9	Adequate
D	55-64.9	Marginal
F	<55	Failure

**Rules, regulations, policies and assorted fine print**

Late assignments will not be accepted. Exams will be given in class on the scheduled dates. Early exams will not be given. In extreme cases (e.g. valid medical emergency or other unavoidable circumstances) a make up exam or other remedy may be offered *at the discretion of the instructor*. In the case of general emergency affecting the entire class or other circumstance that makes it impossible to give or grade an exam, the instructor reserves the right to reschedule an exam of equal value.

The final exam will be distributed in class on Wednesday, 8 April (the last class meeting), and is due in Rob's office before 4:30pm on Wednesday, 15 April.

Great value is placed on academic integrity. Students should be acquainted with University policies and procedures regarding cheating, plagiarism and impersonation at exams, as set out in the Undergraduate Calendar. By Faculty of Arts policy, the penalty for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination may be a failing grade on the work in question and in the course. For very serious acts of plagiarism, the penalty may include suspension from registration in department or all Faculty of Arts courses for a period of up to five years.

Please be respectful of others at all times. Late arrivals, early departures, personal conversations, disruptions by phone, beeper, or similar devices, and other disturbances are not acceptable..

**Regarding collaboration**

This class will challenge you to assimilate a great deal of material in a very short period of time. While cheating in all forms is prohibited, I encourage you to form small study groups if that will assist you. If you choose to work in groups, you must indicate the names of your study partner(s) on work you turn in to me. Your essays and other turned-in work must be written independently, in your own words. Specific ideas that you get from others (e.g. study-partner(s), the web, published sources, etc.) must be attributed appropriately.

Please ask if you have any questions regarding these policies.

**Quiz schedule and other important dates**

No class	Wednesday, 7 January (instructor unavailable)
Exam 1	Monday, 9 February
No class	Wednesday, 11 February (instructor unavailable)
Holiday	16 February – 20 February (mid-term break)
Deadline	Thursday, 19 March (voluntary withdrawal)
Exam 2	Monday, 23 March
Last class	Wednesday, 8 April (take-home final exam distributed)
Deadline	Wednesday, 15 April (take-home final exam due, 4:30 pm)

Homework may be distributed at any time. In-class quizzes (short quizzes based on readings) will be announced at the beginning of the previous class session. In addition, announcements and distributed materials (files) will be posted to the class's JUMP page by 5pm on any given day. (Login, using your ClaimID e-mail id and password, at [jump.umanitoba.ca](http://jump.umanitoba.ca), and go to your 'courses' tab. If necessary, use the pull-down menu to select "Winter 2009", and then click on "Language and Gender"). Use the Course Tools menu to view "announcements" or to download "files". Files will be in PDF format—make sure you have an appropriate reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader) to view them.)

**Reading List (all readings are found in the textbook)****UNIT 1: Gendered sociolinguistic variation***Part I*

- Ch 2 Sex and covert prestige (P Trudgill)
- Ch 3 Linguistic variation and social function (J Cheshire)
- Ch 4 Girl-talk/boy-talk: Sex differences in adolescent speech (E Eiskovitz)
- Ch 6 Gender and sociolinguistic variation (P Eckert)

*Part II*

- Ch 8 Complimenting – A positive politeness strategy (J Holmes)
- Ch 9 Cooperation and competition across girls' play activities (M H Goodwin)

**UNIT 2: Gendered communication strategies***Part III*

- Ch 11 Women's place in everyday talk: Reflections on parent-child interaction (C West & D H Zimmerman)
- Ch 12 The sounds of silence: How men silence women in marital relations (V L DeFrancisco)
- Ch 13 Talk control: An illustration from the classroom of problems in analysing male dominance of conversation (J Swann)

*Part IV*

- Ch 16 Gossip revisited: Language in all female groups (J Coates)
- Ch 18 Performing gender identity: Young men's talk and the construction of heterosexual masculinity (D Cameron)

*Part V*

- Ch 21 'I don't smile much anymore': Affect, gender and the discourse of Pittsburgh police officers, (B S McElhinny)
- Ch 22 'Not just doctors' orders': Directive-response sequences in patients' visits to women and men physicians (C West)

**UNIT 3: (Changing views) of gender roles***Part VI*

- Ch 24 Women's language or powerless language (W M O'Barr & B K Atkins)
- Ch 25 Are 'powerless' communication strategies the Japanese norm? (P J Wetzel)

*Part VII*

- Ch 27 A cultural approach to male-female miscommunication (D N Maltz & R A Borker)
- Ch 28 Talk in the intimate relationship: His and hers (D Tannen)
- Ch 29 Selling the apolitical (S Troemel-Ploetz)

*Part VIII (will be discussed only briefly in class)*

- Ch 30 Women's talk: The question of sociolinguistic universals (J Holmes)
- Ch 31 Communities of Practice: Where language, gender, and power all live (P Eckert & S McConnell-Ginet)
- Ch 32 The question of questions: Beyond binary thinking (J M Bing & V L Bergvall)