

COURSE OUTLINE
ANTH 2251F Language, Gender and Sexuality
Dr. Tania Granadillo
Fall 2017

Lecture: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30, UCC 67
Tutorial: Thursdays 2:30-3:30, SSC 3227

Office hours: Tuesdays 11-12, Thursdays 1-2

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Note: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard

Antirequisites: Anthropology 2151A/B, the former Linguistics 2185A/B, 2286F/G, 2287F/G.

Prerequisites: One of Anthropology 1020E, 1025F/G, 1027A/B, Linguistics 2288A/B, or Women's Studies 1020E, 1021F/G.

Extra Information: 2 hours lecture, 1 hour tutorial, 0.5 course.

"Unless you either have the prerequisites for this course or have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

I. Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the relationship between language and sex/gender systems from a critical linguistic anthropological perspective. Areas investigated include: language and gender stereotypes; gender variation in language usage; power and women's status; and male vs female communicative styles in different contexts; sexual identity, and sexual desire.

II. Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Read, summarize, and critically evaluate language related literature from academic and popular sources about gender and sexuality
2. Locate and synthesize research findings in linguistic anthropology with the purpose of formulating and effectively communicating well-supported arguments about gender and sexuality.
3. Recognize, understand and respect the complexity of cultural and linguistic diversity in the past and the present, locally and globally about gender and sexuality.
4. Appreciate the history, key arguments and applications of different theoretical approaches used in linguistic anthropology about language, gender and sexuality.
5. Identify, evaluate and employ, in an ethical manner, appropriate research methods in linguistic anthropology.

III. Required Books

- Coates, Jennifer and Pia Pichler (eds) (2011) *Language and Gender: A Reader*, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell, UK.
- Cameron, Deborah and Don Kulick (eds) (2006) *The Language and Sexuality Reader*. Routledge.

Other readings available through WebCT OWL course website. Login at <http://webct.uwo.ca> > Owl (powered by Sakai) > Log In > Anthropology 2151

IV. Course Requirements

Tutorial Attendance 5%

Please come to tutorial class regularly, prepared to be an active participant.

At the end of each tutorial class I will ask you to write the following on an index card:

- your name and the date
- the most important thing you learned in class
- a question you still have

These index cards will help me keep track of my own performance. They will also serve as a record of your attendance. If you leave early or forget to hand in a card, the attendance for that day may be forfeited. You are allowed two unjustified absences throughout the semester. Any other absences must be justified in advance. An email before class will suffice in many circumstances. More than two absences will affect your attendance grade.

Homework Assignments 40%

There are 4 homework assignments due throughout the semester. They will be posted on the Owl website by the end of the class and must be turned in electronically through the same site and in hard copy. They will be due by the beginning of the following class. Be sure to follow the instructions provided with each assignment.

Reading Quizzes 15%

Every week there will be a reading quiz on OWL that will cover the lecture materials for the current week. This quiz will need to be completed before every Tuesday class. This will ensure that everyone is up to date on the readings and will be able to follow and contribute to class presentations and discussions. There are a total of 11 reading quizzes; because each one is worth less than 1.5% there will be no makeups.

Course Paper 40%

You will be required to write a paper of around 2500-3000 words on a topic related to class material. It can be original research or a position paper on a controversial topic within the field. This will be broken down into different components. The topic is worth 5%, annotated bibliography 10% and the paper 25%. Additional instructions and possible topics will be posted in OWL. You have the option of submitting a draft for feedback. See dates on the Schedule.

V. Grading Structure

Your grade will be based on the cumulative sum of points you earn in the areas outlined above. It's as simple as that. If you would like to know your grade at any point in the term, simply keep a running total of your accumulated points and compare them to the number of points possible at

that point. I will be happy to confirm your point total at any time. This can also be checked through the Gradebook on Owl.

VI. Grading Philosophy

Your grade is your responsibility, not ours

Your grade in this course is up to you, as much as we can make it so. We encourage you to talk to us, and to each other, in order to ensure that you understand the course material. If you have additional concerns about how you can ensure that you earn the grade you are hoping to earn in this course, please consult us for suggestions. If you feel you have been graded unfairly, please communicate with us about your concerns - and be a strong advocate for yourself! We promise that we will not be mad at you because you argue a grade.

Grades are not personal statements about your intrinsic worth; they are accurate and fair-minded assessments of the objective merits of your work at a particular time and place.

While we are kind and sympathetic, we will not respond well to arguments about your grade that are based on anything other than the merits of your particular assignment. The smartest people in the world sometimes get poor grades - and the less-than-smartest sometimes get As. Your grade is not an index of your intelligence or of our beliefs about your intelligence.

The grade you earn is in no way required to be the grade you "need". Similarly, the grade you earn does not have anything to do with other grades you have earned in the past.

Need (due to financial aid status, athletics, or any other such requirement) is not an appropriate criterion for us to use in figuring your grade in this course. Neither is the fact that you are "an 'A' student", generally speaking. Please limit your discussion of grades in this course to the quality and quantity of work you do for this course - and we'll do the same! The grade you earn ought to be proportional to your willingness to do the course work in this class.

Note also that you will not be able to do well in this course unless you are willing to (a) attend regularly; (b) participate fully, (c) think really hard about the material, even if you find it confusing or difficult, and (d) do the work, regardless of how bored/frustrated you are with it. If you are doing all these things, and you are still concerned about your grade, then please see us for suggestions and assistance. If you are not doing all these things, please accept a lower grade and move on - that's precisely what low grades were intended for!

The grade you earn in this class ought to reflect your performance on the assignments, and not your availability to do extra credit work outside of class when you blow off the real assignments so there are no extra credit assignments.

VII. Course Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation**. These policies are outlined, with links to the full policies, at: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Written Assignments

All written assignments completed outside of class must be typewritten or word-processed, formatted for 8.5 – 11" white paper, double-spaced, using 12 point font. They must include your FIRST AND LAST NAME and the ASSIGNMENT NAME or a TITLE. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per business day that they are late as counted through the electronic datestamp on OWL and will not be allowed after 5 business days.

Electronic devices

During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer and it should be used solely for the purpose of taking notes related to the class. Mobile phones, ipods, mp3 players etc. must be turned off during class. Remember that electronic distractions will count against your participation mark.

VIII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

Weekly Schedule (*subject to change at any time*)

Check the course website on OWL at least once a week for announcements and further information on assignments. Answers to common questions may also be posted there. Feel free to contribute to discussion threads posted by your classmates or to add your own. T=Tutorial, L=Lecture.

| | Date | Topic | Readings | Assignment |
|----|------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | T: sep 07 | Introductions | | |
| 2 | L: Sep 12 T: Sep 14 | Language, Gender and Sexuality | LG introduction LS General introduction | RQ |
| 3 | L: Sep 19 T: Sep 21 | Gender differences in pronunciation and grammar | LG 4, 6 | RQ |
| 4 | L: Sep 26 T: Sep 28 | Mixed and same gender talk | 12, 17, 21 | RQ, HW 1 |
| 5 | L: Oct 3 T: Oct 5 | Gendered talk and the public domain | LG 22, 25 | RQ |
| 6 | No class | Fall Break | | |
| 7 | L: Oct 17 T: Oct 19 | Theoretical debates and New directions | LG 36, 40, 42, 43 | RQ, HW 2 Essay Topic |
| 8 | L: Oct 24 T: Oct 26 | Laying the foundations: early studies | LS 1, 3 | RQ |
| 9 | L: Oct 31 T: Nov 2 | Labels and identity: LGBTQ... | OWL | RQ Annotated Bibliography |
| 10 | L: Nov 7 T: Nov 9 | Gayspeak: language, identity and community | LS 6, 8 film: Do I sound gay? | RQ, HW 3 |
| 11 | L: Nov 14 T: Nov 16 | Sexual styles and performances | LS 11, 13 | RQ (Draft for comments. Optional) |
| 12 | L: Nov 21 T: Nov 23 | Heteronorms | LS 14, 15, 18 | RQ |
| 13 | L: Nov 28 T: Nov 30 | Sex and desire | LS 21, 23 | RQ, HW 4 |
| 14 | L: Dec 5 T: Dec 7 | Wrap-up/Overflow Review | | Paper |