

ANTHROPOLOGY 2251F
Language, Gender and Sexuality
Tentative Course Outline
Fall 2017-2018

Lecture: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 UCC 67
Tutorial: Thursdays 3:30-4:30 SSC 2032
2 hours lecture, 1 hour tutorial, 0.5 course.

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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

Antirequisite(s): Anthropology 2251F/G, Linguistics 2185A/B, 2286F/G, 2287F/G.

Prerequisite(s): One of: Anthropology 1020E, 1025F/G, 1027A/B or Women's Studies 1020E, 1021F/G.

"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

III. Course Requirements

Participation 10%

Please come to class regularly, prepared to be an active participant. Your contribution will improve the quality of the class discussion, not to mention your participation grade. Participation can also be enhanced by posting messages in the discussion part of the Owl website. Every week a message thread will be enabled. Please follow appropriate netiquette. I will be monitoring this discussion site regularly. Electronic distractions will count against your participation mark.

Homework Assignments 15%

There are 2 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 Quiz 10%

Every week there will be a reading quiz on OWL that will cover the readings for the current week. 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.

Midterm Exam 20%

The midterm will take place during class time on **XXX** in our regular classroom. There will be no make-up test unless you provide documentation from Academic Counseling. Students arriving more than 30 minutes after the exam has begun will not be admitted. Details about the format of the exam will be given in class.

Final Exam 20%

The exam will be administered according to the final exam schedule, date TBA. Conflicts with other exams will be dealt with according to policy. It will be a 3 hour exam focusing on material learned after the midterm exam; however, you will be expected to use what you have learned from the first half of the course when relevant. Details about the final exam will be given in class. No makeups will be administered unless the proper procedures are followed. Likewise, students needing special accommodations must follow the proper channels. **WARNING: DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS IN DECEMBER UNTIL YOU HAVE THE EXAM SCHEDULE IN HAND.** "I have a vacation already booked" is not a justification for a makeup exam.

Course Paper 25%

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 5% and the paper 15%. 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.

IV. 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.

V. 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.

VI. Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance and participation in lecture and tutorials is fundamental to your learning experience. You must come to lectures having read the assigned material. Lectures will not simply repeat the

content of the readings, but instead will be designed to get you thinking about the ideas and reinforce particularly difficult concepts. Students arriving late should enter quietly and take the first available seat, making every effort not to disturb the class or the instructor. Tutorials are obligatory; as such **a minimum attendance of 11 (of 14) is required for passing the course.** Graduate Student Assistants will take attendance every tutorial class by circulating a sign-in sheet.

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.

Accessibility, Plagiarism, Medical Accommodation, etc:

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

VII. 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.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due
1	Lecture Tutorial	Introduction to Lg, Gender and Sexuality	LG introduction LS General introduction	
2	Lecture Tutorial	Gender differences in pronunciation and grammar	LG 4, 6	
3	Lecture Tutorial	Mixed and same gender talk	12, 17, 21	
4	Lecture Tutorial	Gendered talk and the public domain	22, 25	
5	Lecture Tutorial	Theoretical debates	32, 36, 40	HW1

6	Lecture Tutorial	New directions	42, 43	Essay Topic
7		Midterm		
8	Lecture Tutorial	Laying the foundations: early studies	LS 1, 3	Annotated Bibliography
9	Lecture Tutorial	Labels and identity	OWL	
10	Lecture Tutorial	Gayspeak: language, identity and community	LS 6, 8	
11	Lecture Tutorial	Heteronorms	LS 14, 15, 18	(Draft for comments. Optional)
12	Lecture Tutorial	Sexual styles and performances	LS 11, 13	HW2
13	Lecture Tutorial	Sex and desire	LS 21, 23	
14	Lecture	Review		Paper