LING / WGSS 320i
Language, Gender, Power

Course Overview and Objectives

This course examines how gendered language practices and cultural variation reflects and helps shape social identity. Perspectives from the field of communication studies, linguistics, anthropology, and sociology will be discussed. Objectives include gaining understanding of how linguistic data is collected and interpreted from various paradigms; as well as supporting effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural and social contexts.

Required Text

Language and Gender, Mary Talbot, 2nd Edition

Course Materials

• Textbook—we will cover the whole book so it isn’t money wasted.

• A spiral notebook or loose-leaf paper for in-class assignments and note-taking

Major Course Assignments & Grading

In-Class Assignments, Homework, and Quizzes = 30%

You will be asked to complete multiple in-class assignments for credit, including taking short quizzes/writing paragraph summaries over the topics/assigned reading we are currently discussing. Quizzes/summaries will always be given right at the beginning of class and timed. If you are not present in class when the quiz or assignment is given, you cannot get credit for them. Additionally, these cannot be made up, but at the end of the semester, we will drop your lowest two grades.

Tests = 60%

The tests will be primarily short answer content questions based on lectures, discussion, readings, plus any other materials covered such as videos and class activities from the discussion sections. Please do not assume the slides in the large lecture will cover everything on the test as they will not given the time constraints of two fifty minute classes. Several of the questions will be drawn directly from the reading, particularly the data examples and studies cited, and you can also expect to see questions which are based on the materials Mr. Martinez presents in his Friday classes. Not reading carefully, or missing Friday’s lectures will cost you points so please prepare and attend regularly!

Final Exam = 10%

This exam will be cumulative and may make use of a variety of formats.
COURSE POLICIES

Attendance, Lateness Policy, Class Participation Make-up Work

You are expected to attend class on-time and with assigned reading completed. If you miss more than three classes for any reason, you will begin to lose participation points—we don’t track “excused” vs. “unexcused” absences—you have three “passes” so use them wisely. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, and if you are late, it is your responsibility to check with Mr. Martinez and sign in after class—however, please note that signing in late for three classes will equal one absence. Additionally, late arrivals are disruptive to the classroom learning environment so please be on time. Be aware that any Test, quizzes and in-class assignments cannot be made up if you are absent, so please keep this in mind and if you must be out, submit work ahead if possible and don’t miss a major Test date.

Working Online

This semester we will be using Saluki Online / Desire2Learn (D2L). Students can log into the D2L system at http://online.siu.edu for online access to the course syllabus, schedule changes, assignments, email access to classmates and the Instructor, and additional class resources. Grades will be posted on D2L as they become available. All written material assigned as homework must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc) in the digital drop box in D2L. For help with D2L, visit the SIU online help desk at: http://cte.siuc.edu/d2lhelp/welcome/.

The Classroom Environment

Food
As a busy student, snacking in class may be necessary for you. Snacking is perfectly fine, but please only “quiet” food (no crunching, noisy bags, etc.).

Respect
- Please treat others in this class with respect. We all come from diverse backgrounds. It’s alright to have meaningful discussions and even respectful disagreements. However, no discriminatory or inappropriate language will be tolerated.
- Personal conversations in the large lecture are not acceptable and I will ask you to please be quiet or to take the conversation outside.
- Finally, please do not pack up to leave early—we will make every effort to begin and end right on time and won’t keep you late.

Technology
- Please turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.
- Emails are replied to in the order received, within 36 hours of receipt. If you haven’t heard from us by then, assume we didn’t get your message and please resend or call us.
- Email format: On the subject line, please write 320i and a brief topic title. Use “non-abbreviated” English and be sure to include your name somewhere in the email as this is a large class. Please check your student e-mail account regularly and subscribe to the D2L / SIU Online Notifications for changes or updates to the schedule. Assignments will not be accepted via email.

Schedule Overview—please note that Test dates are approximate but not absolutely fixed—they will never be earlier than date stated, but may be moved back a few days if we fall behind. “TBA” may mean additional readings, video clips, or other content which will either be posted on our D2L / SIU Online page directly or linked. Some weeks we may not have extra TBA material and will simply focus on the chapter or videos listed—we will post a more details for each week under as a “News Item” on D2L as needed.
# Course Schedule*

*like Life, this schedule is subject to change

## Part I: Airing Stereotypes and Early Models

### Week 1
Syllabus
Information / Activity

### Week 2
Talbot CH 1 “Language and gender”
TBA

### Week 3
Talbot CH 2 “Talking proper”
TBA

### Week 4
Talbot CH 3 “‘Women’s language’ and ‘man made language’”

**Test #1 (F 2/12)**

## Part II: Interaction among Women and Men

### Week 5
Talbot CH 4 “Telling Stories”
TBA

### Week 6
Talbot CH 5 “Conversation”
TBA

### Week 7
Talbot CH 6 “Difference-and-dominance and beyond”

**Test #2 (F 3/4)**

## Part III: Discourse and Gender: Construction and Performance

### Week 8
Talbot CH 7 “Critical perspectives on gender identity”
TBA

### Week 9
Talbot CH 8 “Consumerism”
TBA

### Week 10
Talbot CH 9 “New men and old boys”

**Test #3 (F 4/1)**

### Week 11
Talbot CH 10 “Public Talk”
TBA

### Weeks 12 & 13
Talbot CH 11 “Language, gender, and sexuality”
TBA

### Weeks 14 & 15
Talbot CH 12 “Reclaiming the language” Final Exam Review

**Test #4 (F 4/29 or M 5/2)**