

LIGN 174 / SOCB 118A - Gender and Language in Society
Winter Quarter 2009

Prerequisite: Upper division standing

Credit units: 4:0

Section numbers: 637967 (LIGN 174); 643551 (SOCB 118A)

Time and place: Tu & Thu, 12:30-1:50 p.m. CENTR 115

Instructor: Amalia Arvaniti

TAs: Lucien Carroll, Tristie Ross

Information: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

ABOUT THE COURSE

This course deals with gender and how it affects and is affected by language. Topics that will be covered include the following (for a complete list of topics see p. 4 of this handout):

- biological sex and social gender
- the different social roles of genders and how these are manifested in language structure and language practices (such as discourse and conversation strategies)
- the theories that have been put forward to explain these linguistic differences
- linguistic stereotypes about gender
- the language of children
- queer speech.

Main objective

To provide you with knowledge and analytic tools that will help you think critically about gender roles, stereotypes and the role of language in shaping them.

During the course, examples of linguistic situations around the world will be presented and discussed, although the main focus will be on US discourse and gender practices. The course is a mixture of lecturing and class discussion (especially of DVDs watched in class). *Your willingness to contribute to these discussions and to draw from your personal experiences is essential for the success of the course.*

This course satisfies the Socio-Cultural development requirement for HDP majors; it counts towards Warren College Cultural Diversity requirement, and towards Sixth College breadth requirements; it may also be used towards the language and ethnicity requirement in the Ethnic Studies major (contact the Department of Ethnic Studies for details).

Section - TIME AND PLACE TBA: Section will start on week 3 and will take place in weeks 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. Section is not mandatory, but highly recommended if you want to ensure good grades. The purpose of section is to clarify questions you may have, to further discuss issues arising from the material covered in class, and to give you advice on your exams and the writing of research essays.

CONTACT

Amalia Arvaniti

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REQUIRED COURSE BOOK AND OTHER READING

- ✚ Coates, Jennifer. 2004 (3rd edition). *Women, Men and Language*. Pearson Education.
- ✚ Additional **required and optional** reading is available for downloading from webct (<http://webct.ucsd.edu>)

**LIGN 174 / SOCB 118A - GENDER AND LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY
CLASS SCHEDULE 2009**

Week and date	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING
Wk 1, Tu 1/6	General information about the course	Course book, Chapter 1
Wk 1, Thu 1/8	Sex and gender DVDs: <i>XXXY</i> and <i>You Don't Know Dick</i>	Romaine, S. 1999. <i>Communicating Gender</i> . Chapter 2, pp. 31-63.
Wk 2, Tu 1/13	Is gender just learnt? Review of current views about gender.	Lippa, R. A. 2005. <i>Gender, Nature and Nurture</i> . Chapter 3, pp. 81-118.
Wk 2, Thu 1/15	Differences between genders	Lippa, R. A. 2005. <i>Gender, Nature and Nurture</i> . Chapter 1, pp. 12-36.
Wk 3, Tu 1/20	Sexism in language and how to counteract it. DVD: <i>Sexism in Language: Thief of Honor, Shaper of Lies</i>	Litosseliti, L. 2006. <i>Gender and Language: Theory and Practice</i> . Chapter 1, pp. 9-25.
Wk 3, Thu 1/22	Prejudice in the study of language	Course book, Chapters 2 and 3
Wk 4, Tu 1/27	The use of variants in male and female speech.	Course book, Chapter 4
Wk 4, Thu 1/29	Possible explanations for these differences	Course book, Chapter 5
Wk 5, Tu 2/3	DVDs: <i>Body Image for boys</i> <i>The Human Body: Appearance, Shape and Self-Image</i>	No reading
Wk 5, Thu 2/5	Representation of women in the media Webct-based MID-TERM opens at 2 p.m. Mid-term covers material up to and incl. 2/5	Litosseliti, L. 2006. <i>Gender and Language: Theory and Practice</i> . Chapter 5, pp. 91-122.
Wk 6, Tu 2/10	Representation of gender in the media Webct-based MID-TERM closes at noon	Litosseliti, L. 2006. <i>Gender and Language: Theory and Practice</i> . Chapter 5, pp. 91-122.
Wk 6, Thu 2/12	How does the conversation of women and men differ	Course book, Chapter 6
Wk 7 Tu 2/17	Mixed-gender talk	Course book, Chapter 7
Wk 7, Thu 2/19	Same-sex talk	Course book, Chapter 8
Wk 8, Tu 2/24	Possible explanations of the differences in discourse practices: the role of power and socialization	Litosseliti, L. 2006. <i>Gender and Language: Theory and Practice</i> . Chapter 2, pp. 27-45.
Wk 8, Thu 2/26	DVD: <i>Playing House</i>	Cameron, D. 2007. The Myth of Mars and Venus, Chapter 4, pp. 59-79.
Wk 9, Tu 3/3	The language of children	Course book, Chapter 9
Wk 9, Thu, 3/5	Consequences of linguistic gender differences Research essays due on Thu 3/5, 4 pm	Course book, Chapter 11
Wk 10, Tu 3/10	Queer language: LGBT panel	Kulick, D. 2000. Gay and lesbian language. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 29: 243-285.
Wk 10, Thu 3/12	Queer language: major findings	Kulick, D. 2000. Gay and lesbian language. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 29: 243-285.
Exam week	Webct-based FINAL (covers entire course) Tuesday, 3/17, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- ✚ This course requires primarily *critical thinking*. In general, class attendance, regular studying and reviewing, and submitting assignments on time are essential for a good grade.
- ✚ **BONUS POINTS:** *Active participation in class (questions, discussion), will be taken into account when the final grade is decided.*
- ✚ **EXTRA CREDIT:** please consult <https://experimetrix2.com/ucsd/> for experiments to which you can participate for course credit = 2 points added to your score (out of 100) for one experiment
- ✚ There will be no additional assignments for extra credit, and no possibility to drop your worst grade, so work hard from the beginning.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Webct-based midterm exam (50 Qs, 10 of which will require short answers; the rest are multiple-choice)	30%
Short take-home research essay (6-8 dbl-spaced pages)*	40%
Webct-based final exam (100 Qs, 20 of which will require short answers; the rest are multiple-choice)	30%
TOTAL	100%

* THEMES for research essays (details will be available in week 3)

1. Michelle Obama: from educated career woman to clothes horse.
2. Prop 8: the pro- and anti-prop 8 rhetoric and the part that gender roles have played in it.
3. Sarah Palin or how to appropriate the feminist rhetoric.

The grades of the essay will be based on the following criteria:

- ✚ clarity of expression: can the reader follow your exposition? are your examples and arguments presented in such a way that a reader not familiar with the material can understand them?
- ✚ strength of argumentation: have you picked relevant and convincing arguments and examples to support your position?
- ✚ evidence of independent thinking: does your essay show evidence that you have assimilated the material and can present it in your own words? does it show evidence that you can go beyond what you have read in the required materials?
- ✚ presence of original material in your work: e.g. do you draw parallels between situations discussed in class and novel situations? do you present original arguments not found in your reading? have you done any research or extra reading to support your arguments?

HOW TO GET THE BEST GRADE YOU CAN IN THIS CLASS

- This course involves a certain amount of memorizing but relies primarily on critical thinking.
- Attend class regularly and take notes; some exam questions may be covered in more detail in class than in the readings.
- If you cannot come to class, download any notes, do the assigned reading and consult with a fellow student.
- If you are unclear about a point, come to section, or our office hours, or make an appointment to meet with one of us to go over your questions, or post a question on webct.
- The purpose of exams is to test your knowledge; they are not meant to replace studying and reviewing. This means that you should
 - regularly study and review the material;
 - give yourself ample time to finish each exam and assignment;
 - expect that you will need to (a) study for this course and (b) think while taking exams/writing your essay.

- Submit all assignments on time, or have a valid reason (as per University regulations) for being late (proof will be needed); unjustified delays will result to penalties (2 points off your grade per day).

PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

MAIN PRINCIPLE: The efforts of the instructor and TAs should benefit all students

Following this basic principle will allow us to do the best job we can for the class.

How can you help?

Please help us make good use of our time by respecting our office hours and our time:

- ✓ If you have a question, first consult this syllabus (or the copy available on webct); it is likely to have the answer.
- ✓ If this is not the case, please use the webct discussion forum and webct announcements.
- ✓ Email us for simple inquiries about exams, reading, handouts and the like, *if you cannot find this information in the prospectus or webCT.*
- ✓ Come to section or office hours if you have questions regarding class content.
- ✓ If you cannot come to section or office hours, make an appointment.
- ✓ However, do not come to our office hours expecting a run-down of what we did in a class you missed, and do not e-mail us to ask if there had been any announcements.
- ✓ If you email us during the weekend, your inquiry will be answered during working hours the following Monday at the earliest.
- ✓ If you send us e-mail, make sure you mention the class you are taking in the subject line and your full name in the message especially if you are e-mailing from a non-UCSD account; e-mails that do not include either your name or the class you are taking will not be answered.
- ✓ If you are unhappy with your grade for whatever reason, please see one of us during office hours, or e-mail us. Please do not use class time to dispute grades.

Please be fair to others:

- ✓ Before you contact us for any special arrangement, please consider the following: is what you are asking covered by the University's regulations? If not, how will it impact the instructor and TA and your fellow students? Is it fair use of our time (which we could spend on activities that will benefit all students)? Is it fair on the other students?

In the classroom

- ✚ Come to class on time!
- ✚ Feel free to (a) ask questions in class; (b) request clarification; (c) request that a point be repeated.
- ✚ Please, no cell phones, pagers, or disruptions of any kind during class.
- ✚ Although attendance is required at UCSD, you are free not to come to class if you so wish.
- ✚ However, if you miss class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to be informed about what was covered; download any notes and other materials from webCT, do the assigned reading, ask a classmate for their notes, consult webCT for any announcements.
- ✚ Note that class attendance is required because it helps you understand and assimilate the material. If you choose not to attend class, this may have an impact on your grades.

EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS (mid-term, essay, final)

- ✚ You may work with classmates on your tests if you wish, but if you do, this should involve only *discussion* of the material. All submitted work must be your own. If you submit a mid-term or final, let alone an essay, that closely resembles work submitted by anyone else in this class or in previous courses like this one, it will be considered cheating. This will automatically result in at least no credit for the assignment in question, possibly also failure of the course, and you will be referred to your dean for disciplinary action. This is University policy and there will be no exceptions.
- ✚ Essays longer than the set limit or not following other format requirements will not be accepted.
- ✚ Please mark the deadlines for the mid-term, essay and final so you can complete them in time.
- ✚ Following University regulations, exams will only be rescheduled in case of a health or family emergency, or if they coincide with a religious holiday you wish to observe. If you cannot make the final for reasons not covered by the regulations you should consider taking a different class.

- ✚ Late assignments will not be accepted (unless you have very good reasons for being late) and can provide proof.