

ANTH/WMST 4775  
Language and Gender  
MW 3:10-4:25  
Office hours: MW 1-3 and by appt.

Dr. Pamela Innes  
210 Anthropology Hall  
766-5197; [pjinnes@uwyo.edu](mailto:pjinnes@uwyo.edu)

This course explores the relationship between language use, gender categories, and gender constructions. We will examine the ways in which linguistic practices are used to formulate, discuss, and perform gender categories in our own and other cultures. We also will investigate whether and how performative discourses are used to reinforce or challenge cultural ideas about gender roles and gendered behaviors.

### **Coursework and Grading**

Grades will be determined through two short-answer examinations (60%), in-class work, including quizzes and discussion (25%), and journals (15%). In-class work will be graded daily; journals will be graded within a week of the due date. No late work will be accepted—NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and will be counted as part of your grade. Missing multiples of 4 classes will lead to a drop in letter grade (4 classes missed, one grade lower; 8 classes missed, two grades lower, etc.). Inform me about medical or official absences ahead of time.

**Class participation:** Students are expected to have done all of the required readings for each week before the class meeting. Each student is expected to contribute either questions or observations about the readings and/or the topic each week. When a quiz is given, students will be expected to know the main arguments from the readings and should be able to demonstrate how the current readings relate to past class readings and discussions in one to two sentences.

**Short-answer examinations:** Two short-answer exams will be held during the semester. The first will be on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> and the second will be on the day of the final examination, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Questions in each examination will ask you to synthesize and explain ideas from the readings and class discussions in 3-5 sentences. In your answers on the first exam, you will be expected to incorporate elements from the readings over the first half of the semester. In your answers on the second exam, you will be expected to draw from the entire semester's readings.

**Journals:** You will be asked to turn in five journal responses to readings, class discussion topics, or current events throughout the semester. The due dates for journal assignments are provided in the syllabus. The journal topic will be provided to you the week before the journal is due. Your responses should be between 2 and 5 pages long.

**Please turn off cell phones while in class.**

**Required Textbooks:**

Eckert, Penelope and Sally McConnell-Ginet  
2003 Language and Gender. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Coates, Jennifer  
2003 Men Talk. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

**Readings Posted on the Class Website:**

Bakshi, Sandeep  
2004 A comparative analysis of Hijras and drag queens. Journal of Homosexuality  
46(3):211-223.

Bell, Amelia Rector  
1990 Separate people: Speaking of Creek men and women. American Anthropologist  
92(2):332-345.

Bradley, John  
1998 Yanyuwa: 'Men speak one way, women speak another'. In: *Language and Gender: A Reader*. (J. Coates, ed.) Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. Pp. 13-20.

Hall, Kira and Veronica O'Donovan  
1996 Shifting gender positions among Hindi-speaking Hijras. In: Rethinking Language and Gender Research: Theory and Practice. (V. Bergvall, J. Bing, and A. Freed, eds.) London: Longman. Pp. 228-266.

Innes, Pamela  
2006 The interplay of genres, gender, and language ideology among the Muskogee. Language in Society 35(2):231-260.

Nanda, Serena  
2000 Hijra and Sādhin: Neither man nor woman in India. In: Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. Pp. 27-41.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her/him from fully demonstrating her/his ability should contact me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunity. You will need to register with and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services in the Student Educational Opportunity Offices at 330 Knight Hall (766-3073).

The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated.

## Syllabus

Aug. 24-26	Introduction to the class and the differences between gender, sex, and sexuality. Introduction to linguistic features. Reading: Coates ch. 1; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 1
Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Approaches to gendered language use focusing on discrete linguistic features Readings: Bradley; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 2
Sept. 9, 14-16	Approaches to gendered language use focusing on discursive features Readings: Coates ch. 2; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 3 <b>Journal entry #1 due in class on Sept. 16</b>
Sept. 21-23	Speech acts and displaying and interpreting gender Readings: Coates ch. 3; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 4
Sept. 28-30	Differential use of discursive elements Readings: Coates ch. 5; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 5 <b>Journal entry #2 due in class on Sept. 30</b>
Oct. 5-7	Implication, overt statement, and threading Readings: Coates ch. 4; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 6 Video: Generation M
Oct. 12	Review for exam
<b>Oct. 14</b>	<b>First exam</b>
Oct. 19-21	Categorization and separation Readings: Coates ch. 6; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 7
Oct. 26-28	Dialects, diglossia and gender Readings: Coates ch. 7; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 8 <b>Journal entry #3 due in class on Oct. 28</b>
Nov. 2-4	Sites of struggle Readings: Coates ch. 8; Eckert & McConnell-Ginet ch. 9
Nov. 9-11	Non-Western cultures' concepts of gender and language use: Muskogee Readings: Bell; Innes <b>Journal entry #4 due in class on Nov. 11</b>
Nov. 16-18	Other cultures' concepts of gender and language use: India Readings: Bakshi; Nanda; Hall & O'Donovan
Nov. 23	Continuing areas for research Readings: <b>Journal entry #5 due in class today</b>
Nov. 30	Review for exam
<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>Final Examination from 3:30-5:30</b>