



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME

LING 406 SPECIAL TOPIC: GENDER AND LANGUAGE

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 30 October 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

CRN 8770 Thursday 12pm – 1.50pm in Alan MacDiarmid Building 104

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Professor Miriam Meyerhoff

Office: VZ301

Phone: 463 5614

Office hour: By appointment as required. (And I am usually in my office Tuesday afternoons.)

Email: Miriam.Meyerhoff@vuw.ac.nz

Course Administrator

Matthew Vink

Office: Von Zedlitz 210

Email: Matthew.Vink@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 463 5255

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4.15pm

Communication of additional information

Information about the course and during trimester will be principally done via Blackboard. Please check your email for announcements etc.

Prescription

The course surveys recent and classic work in language and gender from a sociolinguistic perspective. It covers issues such as: how the category "gender" has developed over time in sociolinguistics; what the relationship is between gender identities and sexual identities; how the ways we talk and act intersect with non-linguistic behaviour to express gender identities.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- 1 Outline the main issues in the field of gender and language research
- 2 Explain what issues and principles underlie major debates in the field to an advanced level
- 3 Discriminate between and define key terms in the field
- 4 Clearly summarise and contextualise (in writing and orally) key readings
- 5 Apply data (texts and recordings) to questions showing sensitivity to theory in linguistics and gender studies.

Teaching format

The course is taught in a seminar format, with an emphasis on engaging with and discussing the application of linguistic and gender theory to real world data. Its format is directly comparable to LING 430 offered in alternate years.

Workload

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 20 hours a week to it. This includes background reading and participation in the lecture. Some of this time is also allocated to the preparation of the assignments and the in-class test which should also be spread across the course. Over the course, your expected workload should be approx. 300 hours, although students aiming for a high grade or who wish to maximise the extent to which they can draw connections between this course and their other courses will almost certainly spend more time.

People study in different ways and therefore allocate different amounts of time to the core activities in a course. There is no "one size fits all" formula. Here is a very rough idea of how you might spend 20 hours a week exploring sociolinguistics with this course.

Each week	Task	Hours
Lectures	Attend lectures	2
	Reading in preparation for the lecture; reviewing reading	7
	Preparing to present and discuss	1 (if spread over the whole course)
Assessment	Background reading	5
	Working on assignments	5
Total		20

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Oral presentation in class	15%	1, 2, 4	to be agreed
2	Final paper proposal (2000 words)	30%	1, 2, 3	Tues 8 September 2015, 12:00
3	Final research paper (4000 words)	55%	1 - 5	Fri 30 October 2015, 12:00

Marking criteria will be provided in the course.

Submission and return of work

Students must attempt all parts of the assessment in order to pass the course. A student's final grade will take account of all assessment.

Assignments should be handed in to the School Office (vZ 210) on the 2nd floor of the von Zedlitz building by 12 noon on the due date. You will need to also submit your assignment electronically via Turnitin on Blackboard by the due date/time. I try to return work within two weeks.

Keep a back-up copy of all assessed work.

Extensions and penalties

In line with school policy, assignments handed in after the due date will receive a considerably reduced grade unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. If you require an extension for good reasons, please talk to Miriam ahead of the date for handing in the assignment.

The assignments are due by **12 noon** on the due date, after which a penalty of 5% per working day applies. Penalties increase each day (at 12 noon) until one week after the due date when the maximum grade possible is C- and no personal comment will be provided. Assignments handed in after this time receive no mark.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in assessed work, and will be penalised. The penalty will depend on the severity of the plagiarism.

Your work should fall within 10% of the target word limit. If it is more than 10% over, I will stop reading and mark it accordingly.

Set texts

Cameron, Deborah 2007. *The Myth of Mars and Venus: Do men and women really speak different languages?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ehrlich, Susan, Miriam Meyerhoff & Janet Holmes (eds) 2014. *The Handbook of Language Gender and Sexuality*, 2e. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. **(Excerpts from this will be made available during the course.)**

The vicbooks website: www.vicbooks.co.nz

Recommended reading

We will be reading weekly from primary literature. For assignments you will be reading widely yourself from journals and books in the Main Library collection. Useful journals include: *Gender and Language*, *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, *Language and Society*.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

This course hasn't been offered before so your feedback will be especially helpful in deciding what to do next time it is offered.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz