SYLLABUS ENGL 340: LANGUAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY Spring 2022

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Office: CCC 441

Office hours: Mon/Wed, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Tue/Thu, 3:30–4:30 p.m. and by appointment

Class meets: Tue/Thu, 12:30–1:45 p.m. CCC 323

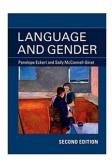
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the relationship, in theory and in practice, among language, gender, and sexuality. As these are highly complex cultural constructs, interrelated but not completely overlapping, the course will cover a variety of issues.

We will survey the major theories of gender and language in various subfields of linguistics over the last forty years, with a focus on the expressions of gender in Western culture. A major goal will be to challenge our received notions of what gender is and how language and gender are interconnected. Among the topics covered are institutional language and power; gender identity and language use; ideologies of gender and language; cultural definitions of "masculinity" and "femininity" and their relationship to language use; and the social construction of gender identities through linguistic performance.

We will also concentrate on the relationship between language and sexuality as expressed in both sexual identity or orientation and sexual behaviors. Again, we will largely limit ourselves to Western culture and contemporary definitions of sexuality, while acknowledging that this topic is understood in a way highly specific to our place and time. This is a relatively new area of investigation, and our class will examine a variety of topics, including the ways sexuality is represented in language; the relationship of gender and sexuality; the specialized languages of sexual subcultures; and the issue of language and desire.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS





Rental

Eckert, Penelope, and Sally McConnell-Ginet. *Language and Gender* (2nd edn.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Purchase

Kiesling, Scott F. Language, Gender, and Sexuality. New York: Routledge, 2019.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Over the course of the semester, there will be three essay exams (one of which will be given during finals week), and five homework assignments (primarily reading reflections). Attendance and participation will also play a role in your grade.

Exams

The exams for this class will be given in class and will be equally weighted. They will be short-answer and longer-form essay exams. The third exam will be given during finals week.

Homework assignments

Homework assignments will provide you with an opportunity to respond to our readings and connect them to your own experiences.

Reading assignments

We will treat this course as a seminar. Please complete the readings in advance so we can engage in robust discussions.

Attendance and participation

Much of your learning will take place in our class, so you should attend on a regular basis. What, exactly, does this mean in the age of Covid? For ENGL 340, "attendance" means being in class **when it is possible for you to do so**. As we know, these are unprecedented times. We're trying to hold a "normal" class while a pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. I will take attendance in every class, but I ask that you not attend if you are ill.

You will have two (2) "freebie" absences for the semester. Use them carefully. If you miss more than two scheduled classes, each missed class will result in the loss of *ten points* from your attendance total (see Grading below). **Note that using a "freebie" does not excuse you from**

any due dates, in-class, or homework assignments. Check with your classmates regarding any work you may have missed. See the Late Work policy below.

If you are ill (with Covid or any other illness), please contact me as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements for that period. It must be your responsibility to update me about any situation that causes you to miss class. Illness and other similar circumstances (family emergency, etc.) will be excused and will not count against the absence total.

Grading

Exams (3 @ 100 points each)	300
Homework assignments (5 @ 30 points each)	150
Attendance/participation/activities	50

TOTAL 500 points

Grading scale

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93-100% = A 87-89% = B+ 77-79% = C+ 67-69% = D+ 0-59% = F
90-92% = A- 83-86% = B 73-76% = C 60-66% = D
80-82% = B- 70-72% = C-
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UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Student academic disciplinary procedures:

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The Board of Regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff, and students of the University of Wisconsin System believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the University of Wisconsin System. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
 - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
 - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
 - (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
 - (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
 - (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
 - (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Commitment to integrity:

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

FERPA:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides students with a right to protect, review, and correct their student records. Staff of the university with a clear educational need to know may also have to access to certain student records. Exceptions to the law include parental notification in cases of alcohol or drug use, and in case of a health or safety concern. FERPA also permits a school to disclose personally identifiable information from a student's education records, without consent, to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Regent Policy Document 4-1

Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Lecture materials and recordings for ENGL 340 are protected intellectual property at UW—Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation.

EQUAL ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

UW—Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to complete an Accommodations Request form. Phone: 715-346-3365 or Room 609 Albertson Hall.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

In the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1 or use campus phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. See www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/floor-plans.aspx for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span structures (gyms, pools or large classrooms).

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet 200 yards away from building. Notify instructor or emergency response personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – RUN. HIDE. FIGHT. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW–Stevens Point Emergency Procedures at www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures for details on all emergency response at UW–Stevens Point.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT:

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit.

It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

At all times you should be respectful toward others; inappropriate and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Our classroom will be a place where all involved feel safe when exchanging ideas. Diverse opinions and concepts are a fact of college life and adult life beyond college. As a class we will work together to understand and appreciate different viewpoints.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it using this <u>link</u>. You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at dos@uwsp.edu.

LATE WORK:

Assigned homework will be accepted late for a reduced grade. Small-group work, in general, will not be possible to make up. If you miss an exam or other assignment, it is your responsibility to contact me for a make-up.

PROBLEM SOLVING:

I encourage you to visit me during office hours, to email me, or to make an appointment any time we are both available to discuss issues connected with this class and/or your performance. Please discuss concerns with me at an early time—while we have options. I tend to be generous with students who consult with me while issues are concerns, rather than crises. Of course, if an emergency situation does arise, please let me know as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

(Note: *E&McC-G* = Eckert & McConnell-Ginet; *K* = Kiesling)

<u>Date</u>	Readings/Assignr	Readings/Assignments	
Week 1 T-Th		Introduction to course	
		Introduction to course	
1/25-27		Chs. 1&2 (K): The basics: linguistic subfields	
Week 2			
T-Th		Gender and sexuality	
2/1-3		Ch. 1 (E&McC-G), Ch. 3 (K)	
Week 3			
T-Th		Gender and sexuality continued	
2/8-10	Homework 1	Milani (2017)	
Week 4			
T-Th		Historical background	
2/15-17		Ch. 2 (E&McC-G), Jespersen (1922), Lakoff (1972)	
,			
Week 5			
T-Th		History continued; Ch. 4 (K)	
2/22-24		Review for Exam 1	
Week 6			
T-Th	Exam 1		
3/1-3	LAGIII I	Review of linguistic tools; gender in grammar	
3/13		Ch. 3 (E&McC-G)	
Week 7			
T-Th		Gender in grammar continued	
3/8-10		Ch. 5 (K), Balhorn (2004)	
Week 8		D	
T-Th	Homework 2	Discourse analysis and politeness	
3/15-17		Ch. 4 (E&McC-G)	

****** SPRING BREAK, 3/21-25: NO CLASSES ********

<u>Date</u>	Readings/Assignments	
Week 9		
T-Th		Discourse analysis/politeness continued
3/29-31		Ch. 6 (K); Ch. 5 (E&McC-G)
Week 10		
T-Th	Homework 3	Discourse analysis/politeness continued
4/5-7	Holliework 3	Review for Exam 2
4/3-7		****NO CLASS APRIL 7****
		NO CLASS AFRIL 7
Week 11		
T-Th	Exam 2	
4/12-14		Assertiveness
		Ch. 6 (E&McC-G)
Week 12		
T-Th		"Common sense" and naming
4/19-21		Ch. 7 (E&McC-G)
14/2 als 42		
Week 13		A multi-company to a managed
T-Th	Hamannaul. A	Applying gender to our world
4/26-28	Homework 4	Ch. 8 (E&McC-G); Anderson et al. (2014)
Week 14		
T-Th		Gender/sexuality in linguistic norms
5/3-5		Ch. 9 (E&McC-G); Ch. 7 (K); Motschenbacher (2020)
Week 15		
T-Th		Putting it together
5/10-12		Ch. 10 (E&McC-G); Ch. 8 (K)
-,	Homework 5	Review for exam
Finals Week		
T - /		
5/17	Exam 3: 8:00-10:0	00 a.m.