

### Course description

While gender and sexuality are often considered to be biologically given categories, the development of feminist studies leads us to a better understanding of how gender is socially constructed, always subject to reproduction, contestation, appropriation, and change. In this course, we will explore this insight by focusing on the role of language and discourse in the construction of gender. We will critically review the major debates in the fields of sociolinguistics and discourse analysis which centered on the issue of language and gender to study how language use is central to our perception and performance of gender and sexuality, and how discourse allows gender to intersect with other aspects of social organization such as power and identity.

### Course page on WebCT

Readings, handouts, and discussion questions for the class will be posted on the WebCT course page. Log on at <http://webcourse.umac.mo/> using your user ID and password.

### Evaluation

Discussion leading & preparation	10%
Discussion responses & participation	60%
Group projects (x2)	30% (15% ea)
Total	100%

### Class Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading
1	14 Feb	Introduction: overview of topics	
2	21 Feb	Discursive construction of Gender and Sexuality	C&K Ch.2
3	28 Feb	Lg and Woman's Place Part 1	Lakoff (Part1)
4	7 Mar	No class	
5	14 Mar	Lg and Woman's Place Part 2	Lakoff (Part 2)
6	21 Mar	Difference vs. Dominance: Studies on the organization of talk	Zimmerman and West, Tannen, Coates
7	28 Mar	Marking gender through language: Variationist approaches	E&M Ch.8, Ochs
8	4 Apr	Presentations: Project 1	
9	11 Apr	Gender and the value of languages: gender, political economy, and language shift	Gal, Kulick
10	18 Apr	Gender and language ideology: Women's language in an imagined community	Inoue, Miller
11	25 Apr	Gender as symbolic resource: gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in discourse	Bucholtz, Chun
12	2 May	Discursive construction of community: a global gay community?	Queen, Wong and Zhang
13	9 May	Issues in gender and sexuality studies: Identity vs. sexuality	C&K Ch.4,5, Bucholtz and Hall
14	16 May	Language and social change: Challenging categories of gender	E&M Ch.7, Cameron
15	23 May	Presentations: Project 2	
16	30 May	Conclusions	