

Course Syllabus

Gender and Language

Name of the instructor: Dr. Jane Sunderland

Time for the course: Two and/or three days per week.

Course description including objectives

For objectives, see above. The course will introduce and develop understanding of key concepts in current language and gender study, in particular *masculinity/femininity*, *discourse*, *intertextuality*, *multimodality*, and *gender* itself. The course will go beyond simplistic notions of ‘gender differences’ and will focus on gender as something socially constructed in talk, written text and multimodal texts.

Topic or topics for each session

- (1) Introduction to gender and language study; key concepts
- (2) Sexist language, language change and semantic change
- (3) Gendered discourses: identification and naming
- (4) Gender and discourse: talk
- (5) (a) Private conversation
- (6) (b) Institutional talk (classrooms, workplaces)
- (7) Gender and discourse: written texts and representation
- (8) (a) Parentcraft texts
- (9) (b) The *Harry Potter* series
- (10) Gender and discourse: multimodal texts
- (11)(a) Foreign language textbooks
- (12)(b) Young children’s fiction
- (13)© Advertisements
- (14) Gender and children’s literacy
- (15) Gender and language use in social media
- (16) Assessment

Teaching methods

A series of 2-hour seminars. These will include mini-lectures using powerpoint presentations, discussion of readings, worksheet completion, and analysis of samples of data.

Assessment

- (1) Definition of terms and concepts
- (2) Essay (e.g. the meaning and social relevance of a key concept)
- (3) Data analysis (of a written text, transcribed spoken text or multimodal text)

Required readings

Jule, Allyson (2017) *A Beginners Guide to Language and Gender*. Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Litosseliti, Lia (2006) *Gender and Language: theory and practice*. London: Hodder.

Sunderland, Jane (2004) *Gendered Discourses*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.