<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Code</th>
<th>ENGL441</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Title</td>
<td>Language and Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Value</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite / Exclusion</td>
<td>None</td>
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**Objectives**

This subject aims to introduce to the students a range of current issues in the academic field of language and gender studies, and help them make use of the intellectual resources made available in the academic field to critically reflect on their own experiences in language learning, language use and other communicative interactions.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:

**Category A: Professional/academic knowledge and skills**

a. have acquired a broad understanding of the current key issues in the field of language and gender studies;
b. evaluate the value and attitude orientations that underlie the major perspectives to researching on these key issues;

**Category B: Attributes for all-roundedness**

c. explore ways to connect these key issues to aspects of their own experience as language learners and users;
d. critique a situated aspect of language use in their own everyday experience in Hong Kong from one or a combination of current perspectives in language and gender research studies.

**Subject Synopsis**

1. Perspectives to language and gender
   
   1.1. sociolinguistic difference
   1.2. sociocultural dominance
   1.3. social constructionist: transcending difference versus dominance

2. (Fe)Male talk as organized / organizing interaction
   
   2.1. access to meaning-making in speech
   2.2. participation in personal and institutional speech networks
   2.3. framing speech activities: gossip / discussion, bickering / arguing, humour / giggle
   2.4. speech behaviour: interruption, turn-taking, hedge, silence

3. Speech acts as (fe)male moves
3.1. acts as embedded in practice: locutionary, illocutionary, perlocutionary
3.2. negative / positive politeness for accomplishing autonomy / bonding
3.3. functions of talk: interpersonal / affective, referential / instrumental
3.4 compliment: connecting and building solidarity, evaluating and ranking

4. Language learning as arenas for sociolinguistic intervention

4.1. (f)male speech models as socially constructed ideals
4.2. using and resisting speech models: the ideal, the common, the popular

Teaching/ Learning Methodology

The subject will start with a small number of teacher-led seminars, during which the students are expected to actively respond to the teacher input as a way to identify issues for further exploration. After the above preparatory stage, students will give group presentations to explore language and gender issues that are relevant to their own language experience or academic interest, inviting other students and the instructor to respond to the way they shape the issues they are exploring. Review of assessment tasks will also be done in seminar towards the end of the semester.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific assessment methods/tasks</th>
<th>% weighting</th>
<th>Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Group presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Individual paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mid-term test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Underlying these assessment tasks is the Continuous Assessment method, which engages the learner throughout the semester in following up on the academic materials introduced in class and in constructing their own connections between these academic materials and their language experience in social life.

Student Study Effort Required

Class contact:

- Lectures 26 Hrs.
Seminars 13 Hrs.

Other student study effort:

- Private study 58 Hrs.
- Take-home assignments 29 Hrs.

Total student study effort 126 Hrs.

Reading List

Focus Reading:


Selected Bibliography:


**Useful Journals**

*Discourse and Society*

*International Journal of the Sociology of Language*

*Journal of Sociolinguistics*

*Language in Society*

*Women and Language*

Prepared by Hiroko Itakura and Terence Lo and revised by Angela Tse, June 2014