**LANGUAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

**Capsule Statement:**

This course discusses the relationship, in theory and practice, between language, gender and sexuality. It surveys the major theories of gender and language and also considers how cross- cultural studies of language and language ideologies can 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; sexual orientation and linguistic expression; and the social construction of gender identities through linguistic performance.

#### Objectives:

After the completion of this course, students will be able to;

* Identify and give the significance of central concepts, key propositions, and both hegemonic and contested frameworks in the study of gender and sexuality.
* Describe and assess how concepts, propositions, and theoretical approaches or questions take on different lives in different disciplines, and discuss a range of ways in which questions about gender and sexuality unsettle disciplinary premises and procedures.
* Address questions of epistemology, authority, and methodological reflexivity that have been important within gender and sexuality studies.
* Explore the characteristics and uses of theory in disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies of sexuality and gender

#### Contents:

1. **Concepts, Theories – “Men’s” and “Women’s” Speech**
   1. Social Practice
   2. Performing in the heterosexual marketplace
   3. Womenʼs” Language?
   4. Gender and its intersects
   5. Privilege, Patriarchy and Power

#### The “Power” (dominance) Model; ideas about gender and language in the field of linguistics

1. **Socializing Gender and Language**
   1. Analyzing Male/Female interactions, comparing strategies
   2. Performing gender norms: Femininities
   3. Categories of gender, language and sexuality – cross cultural examples

#### Language, sexual orientation and identity

* 1. Role of language
  2. Gender discrimination in Proverbs
  3. Abusive language and gender

#### Debates on the Category of “Woman”

1. **Response to Gender Essentializing/Universalism: Masculinities**
2. **Theory, Politics, and Social Change**

**Recommended Readings:**

Bing, Janet and Victoria Bervall. (2011). The Question of Questions: Beyond Binary Thinking.

In J. Coates, ed. *Language and Gender: A Reader*. London: Blackwell. Pp. 495-510 Cameron, Deborah (1997). Performing Gender Identity: Young Men’s Talk and the

Construction of Heterosexual Masculinity. *Language and Masculinity*. Meinhof and Johnson, eds. London: Blackwell. pp.47-64

Cameron, Deborah and Kulick, Don. (2003). *Language and Sexuality.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Coates, Jennifer. (1996). “Thank God I’m a Woman”: The Construction of Differing Femininities.” *Women Talk*. London: Blackwell. Pp. 232-262.

Eckert, Penelope and McConnell-Ginet, Sally. (2003). *Language and Gender.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gal, S. (1995) .Language, Gender and Power: An Anthropological Review. In *Gender Articulated*. K. Hall and M. Bucholtz, eds. New York: Routledge. pp. 169-182

Hall, K. (1998). Lip service on the Fantasy Lines. *The Feminist Critique of Language*, D. Cameron, ed. New York: Routledge. pp. 321-342

Hall, Kira and Bucholtz, Mary (eds.). (1995). *Gender Articulated: Language and the Socially Constructed Self.* New York: Oxford University Press

Janet Holmes and Miriam Meyerhoff (eds.). (2003)*. The Handbook of Language and Gender.*

Oxford: Blackwell

Martin, Emily. (2001). *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Beacon Press.

Schieffelin, B. (1990). The Socialization of Gender-Appropriate Behaviors. *The Give and Take of Everyday Life: Language Socialization of Kaluli Children*. Cambridge: University Press. pp. 202-238

Wekker, Gloria. (2006). *The Politics of Passion: Women’s Sexual Culture in the Afro- Surinamese Diaspora*. Columbia University Press.