

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 1: Linguistics: Language and Gender (2AN1470)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier B A - sciences du langage	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

David Correia Saavedra

Contenu

The main aim of the seminar is to introduce students to the field of language and gender and its key concepts. A secondary aim is to become more familiar with linguistic research and to be able to understand and engage with scientific articles on the matter.

Differences between men and women have been the object of much discussion inside and outside academia. From a linguistic perspective, a basic question is whether men and women speak differently, and whether this binary distinction even makes sense at all. The field of language and gender deals with a broad range of issues, such as gender stereotypes and gender identities, as well as a wealth of questions related to power and sexuality.

In this course, we will explore how these issues are discussed and investigated in academic research. In addition, we will study recent vocabulary changes in the English language, such as the increased use of they as an epicene pronoun, and the use of gender-neutral occupational terms (e.g. firefighter versus fireman).

Forme de l'évaluation

There are two main assignments that determine the grade for this course:

- An oral group presentation (2-3 people) of a published article. This presentation will be more than a simple summary and will also provide a critique of the article (33.33%).
- A written exam (90 minutes, closed-book) at the end of the semester (66.66%).

The final grade is an average of these assignments, with the written exam counting double.

The course is intended for BA students. MA students who would like to participate and earn credits are required to write an additional paper of about 10 pages (4000 words). The topic is free to choose but must be related to language and gender; the paper can be an empirical study, or a literature review. This paper needs to be submitted before the start of the following semester and is a pass/fail assignment. It may be revised in case of failure.

Modalités de rattrapage

Rattrapage: An individual paper of about 15 pages (6000 words) on a topic related language and gender, which can be an empirical study or a literature review. This paper needs to be submitted before the start of the following semester. In case of a rattrapage, the grade given to the paper will be the final grade.

Documentation

Course material will be made available through Moodle.

Pré-requis

Introduction to English linguistics

Forme de l'enseignement

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During this seminar, we will do various kinds of exercises (in class and at home) that will help prepare the students for the exam, and we will also get the group projects started in class. Students are expected to do weekly readings and active participation (especially in the group projects) is necessary.

In case of a "bascule à distance", the course will be streamed and recorded. The assignments will remain the same but will be adapted to the online format: the group presentations will be on Webex Meetings, and the written exam will be a take-home exam that consists of essay-like questions.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Développer une réflexion critique sur des idées reçues concernant les bases des théories, principes, hypothèses et explications dans le domaine donné
- Expliquer les modèles théoriques liés au domaine d'analyse donné
- Présenter les idées thématiques dans la recherche à un public spécialisé et non spécialisé
- Identifier les fondements des théories, principes, hypothèses et explications dans le domaine donné
- Extraire les informations pertinentes de textes complexes sur les thèmes linguistiques

Compétences transférables

- Présenter des idées complexes avec clarté et précision
- Développer une argumentation avec un esprit critique