

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number      SD3122S  
Date of Senate Approval      3/03/2022

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 26 (LL):**                      **Add new course, LL 320, Language and Gender;  
Add LL 320 under the Humanities heading for Women,  
Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

**Effective Date: Fall 2022**

**1. Add:** On page 208, new course, **LL 320, Language and Gender:**

**320                      Language and Gender (4)**

An introduction to the complex relationship between language and gender. Students will explore topics such as gendered language variation, the use of language to construct gender and other social categories, and linguistic sexism and resistance. Students will be introduced to sociolinguistic theories and methods of language analysis that they will apply to observational and reflective assignments. Students will also design a sociolinguistic research project. Odd years Spring.

**2. Add:** On page 301, new entry under the **Humanities** heading for the WGSS electives:

LL 320    Language and Gender (4)

**Impact Statement:** LL 320 will serve as an elective for the WGSS major and minor. Majors and minors are required to split their electives between a list of Humanities courses and a list of Social Science courses. This course will be listed in the Humanities category (it is an additional choice in a group).

The Student Learning Objectives are as follows: Students should be able to:

- 1) describe various theories of how gender influences language and apply them to contemporary English and other languages;
- 2) identify some of the major stereotypes of men's and women's speech and provide evidence that questions or supports these stereotypes;
- 3) observe and explain how people are able to use language to create and perform gender identity simultaneously with other social identities;
- 4) observe and explain the relationship among language, gender, and power in various domains such as family, workplace, and school;
- 5) apply a variety of methodologies in linguistic analysis to spoken and written language in various contexts;
- 6) and design a linguistic experiment investigating some intersection of language, gender, and power. Additionally, this course is also approved as a Diversity Intensive course (with a WGSS prefix), and includes all DI outcomes.

The anticipated class size for this course is 10 students. It is a four-credit-hour seminar course (3.33 contact hours) and should be capped at 15 students.

This course is intended to be offered every other Spring semester (odd years) by Kelly Biers, who has a yearly commitment to the WGSS program, so there is no impact on the ability of WGSS or French to deliver their existing curriculum. The DI designation allows both programs to better contribute to the LAC. This course is not part of the UNC Common Numbering System and need not be added.

**Rationale:** This course provides WGSS students an additional Humanities elective option. It also provides an overlap between WGSS and Languages and Literatures, which has been an underrepresented discipline within WGSS. It offers students the opportunity to consider the linguistic and social construction of gender across languages and cultures. This course has been offered as a special topics course three times already, and has had 10 students enrolled each time. Because there are no prerequisites for this course, it has attracted students from diverse study areas, making for a highly interdisciplinary learning environment.