An exploration of the role that gender plays in the language of and about men and women, focusing on gendered speech as part of social practice in local communities. Topics include identity categories and labels, ‘reclaimed epithets’ (e.g. *bitch* and *slut*), gender vs. sex vs. sexuality, the contested notion of ‘political correctness’, sexist/misogynist language, and linguistic prescriptivism. GSS 234/LING 223 satisfies the WCAS Area III Distribution Requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.