

BAD WORDS AND TABOO TERMS

LING 1069

Spring 2017

Instructor: Randall Eggert **TA: Christina Yong** **TA: T'Shara Keil**

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Hours: T,H 1:00-2:30

Hours: **TBD**

Hours: **TBD**

Course Description

This class is an introduction to linguistic study through the lens of taboo language, a pervasive part of all languages. We will survey topics in modern linguistics by studying taboos in various languages. Students sensitive to obscene words are discouraged from enrolling, as are students with only a prurient, non-scholarly interest in taboo language.

Intellectual Explorations-Humanities Requirement Designation

This class is designated as fulfilling the Humanities Exploration requirement, and is thus designed to “help students achieve a critical understanding of human thought, culture, and society through the study of big questions, both contemporary and enduring” (<http://ugs.utah.edu/general-education/requirements/hf.php>). As part of this designation, the course has the following Essential Learning Objectives:

1. Inquiry and analysis
2. Critical thinking
3. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning

Specific Course Objectives

All of language is uniquely human, but taboo language can tell us even more about what it means to be human. Linguists use language as a window to the mind, and that is my primary goal with this class. More specifically, by the end of the course you should be able to

- **Identify**

- What parts of vocabulary taboo words are most likely to be drawn from
- How taboo words are used to swear
- The three aspects of meaning
- The processes that create and change taboo words
- Where in the brain language in general is processed
- Where in the brain taboo words are processed
- The three parts of a speech act
- **Describe**
 - The social and emotional aspects of a word that identifies it as taboo.
 - How taboo words are similar to other words.
 - How taboo words differ from other words.
 - How taboo words are created
 - How taboo words cease to be taboo
 - What swearing does to a person physiologically
 - How one's sociological background can shape how one swears
 - How society and culture can shape what is or is not taboo
 - How swearing in one's first language is different from swearing in one's second language
 - How context affects whether swearing is acceptable
- **Explain**
 - What makes a word taboo
 - Why taboo words exist in a language
- **Analyze**
 - Questions about language from an objective point of view

Required Course Materials

Eggert, Randall. 2011. This Book is Taboo. Kendall-Hunt. Available as an e-book at <http://www.kendallhunt.com/eggert/>

Course Policy

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook; this extends to the online classroom. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

http://catalog.utah.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=633#Attendance_Policy

<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>

Grading

Your Grade will be based on quizzes (25%), two exams (25% each), and class participation (25%). There will be **no make-up quizzes or exams**, except in the case of a severe illness, a death in the family, or a catastrophic act of nature or nation. In all cases, I expect a letter explaining the situation. The same goes for incompletes. Unless you make special arrangements with me to receive an incomplete, I will not give one. Special arrangements should be in the form of a statement that we write up and sign. University regulations prohibit the use of the "INC" grade unless the student has completed 80% of the course work. **Plagiarism is not tolerated** and may result in a zero for the plagiarized assignment. You are not to use--or even read--other students' exams (from this semester or from previous semesters) when working on your exam; doing so may result in a zero for the assignment. Late assignments **may** be accepted at my discretion, but up to 10% of the grade will be deducted for each day it is late.

http://catalog.utah.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=351&hl=%22grading%22&returnto=search#Grading_Policies

Posses

The word posse comes from Latin and originally meant 'to be capable', or, as a noun, 'capability, power' (the word possible comes from the same root). In order for you to be capable—or for you to have power—you will be assigned to a posse with other students. You will work with each other and learn from each other throughout the semester.

Modules

The class is divided into two-week modules. During each module, you will need to complete reading assignments from the text-book, watch multi-media presentations, take quizzes, and participate in class discussions.

Exams

The two exams are essay based. The first exam should be two pages long. The second exam builds on the first exam and should be four pages long. You should provide examples to illustrate your points and cite any sources that you use in your answer.

Class Participation

You are expected to contribute to discussions within your posse. You are expected to contribute examples from your own observation of phenomena, suggest possible analyses of data, and help design hypothetical studies that would help to resolve any outstanding questions that come. Class participation points are calculated based on active participation within your posse and completion of assignments.

Equal Access

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Canvas

Canvas is our classroom. You can access it through the CIS (gate.acs.utah.edu) or through utah.instructure.com. At the beginning of the semester, you need to familiarize yourself with the intricacies of the site (it is a powerful course tool and, therefore, complicated); if you need help navigating Canvas the kind folks at TLT (classhelp@utah.edu or (801) 581-6112) can help you. You need to set aside several hours during the week that you dedicate to participating in our class, just as you would in a face-to-face class.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Mon Aug 21, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
Tue Aug 22, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
Wed Aug 23, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
	<u>1.4 Student Information</u> due by 11:59pm
	<u>1.5 Data Collection: Tabooness Survey</u> due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
Thu Aug 24, 2017	<p><u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>1.6 Get to Know Your Posse</u> due by 11:59pm</p> <hr/> <p><u>1.7 Name Your Posse</u> due by 11:59pm</p> <hr/> <p><u>1.8 Do You Have to Use Words Like That?</u> due by 11:59pm</p> <hr/> <p><u>1.9 What's Your Threshold?</u> due by 11:59pm</p>
Fri Aug 25, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
Sun Aug 27, 2017	<p><u>Read Preface</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Read Chapter 5</u></p>
Mon Aug 28, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
Tue Aug 29, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
Wed Aug 30, 2017	<u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u>
Thu Aug 31, 2017	<p><u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>1.11 Sounds are just sounds</u> due by 11:59pm</p>
Fri Sep 1, 2017	<p><u>Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Last day to add or drop classes</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>1.13 Data Collection: Functions of Language</u> due by 11:59pm</p> <hr/> <p><u>1.14 Data Collection: Infixation in States</u> due by 11:59pm</p> <hr/> <p><u>1.15 Data Collection: Slurs for Men and Women</u> due by 11:59pm</p> <hr/> <p><u>1.5 Data Collection: Tabooness</u> due by 11:59pm</p>

Date	Details	
Sun Sep 3, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 1</u>	
	<u>Read Chapter 3</u>	
Mon Sep 4, 2017	<u>Labor Day</u>	
Tue Sep 5, 2017	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
Wed Sep 6, 2017	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
Thu Sep 7, 2017	<u>2.2 Taboos</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>2.4 Notation for the 3 Types of Mention</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>2.5 Stroop Test</u>	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 8, 2017	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
	<u>2.6 Mention, Mention, Mention Quiz</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 11, 2017	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
Tue Sep 12, 2017	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
Wed Sep 13, 2017	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
	<u>Taboo Words & Swearing</u>	
Thu Sep 14, 2017	<u>2.11 Practice for Quiz 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>2.9 Tabooness</u>	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 15, 2017	<u>Taboo Words and Swearing</u>	
	<u>2.12 Quiz 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 17, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 4</u>	

Date	Details	
	<u>Read Chapter 14</u>	
Mon Sep 18, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Tue Sep 19, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Wed Sep 20, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Thu Sep 21, 2017	<u>3.3 Functions of Language Survey Results</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>3.4 Response Cries</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Sep 22, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Mon Sep 25, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Tue Sep 26, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Wed Sep 27, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
Thu Sep 28, 2017	<u>3.10 Practice for Quiz 2</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>3.8 The Context of Slurs</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Sep 29, 2017	<u>Meaning, Meaning, Meaning</u>	
	<u>3.11 Quiz 2</u>	due by 11:30pm
Sun Oct 1, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 12</u>	
Mon Oct 2, 2017	<u>Swearing and the Brain</u>	
Tue Oct 3, 2017	<u>Swearing and the Brain</u>	

Date	Details
Wed Oct 4, 2017	<u>Swearing and the Brain</u>
Thu Oct 5, 2017	<u>Swearing and the Brain</u>
	<u>4.3 Tourette Syndrome</u> due by 11:30pm
	<u>4.6 The Taboo Stroop Test and the Brain</u> due by 11:30pm
	<u>4.7 Practice for Quiz 3</u> due by 11:30pm
Fri Oct 6, 2017	<u>Swearing and the Brain</u>
	<u>4.8 Quiz 3</u> due by 11:30pm
Mon Oct 9, 2017	<u>Fall Break</u>
Tue Oct 10, 2017	<u>Fall Break</u>
Wed Oct 11, 2017	<u>Fall Break</u>
Thu Oct 12, 2017	<u>Fall Break</u>
Fri Oct 13, 2017	<u>Fall Break</u>
Sun Oct 15, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 2</u>
	<u>Read Chapter 8</u>
	<u>Read Chapter 9</u>
Mon Oct 16, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>
Tue Oct 17, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>
Wed Oct 18, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>
Thu Oct 19, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>

Date	Details	
	<u>5.3 Prescriptivists</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>5.6 Results from Infixation of States</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>	
Fri Oct 20, 2017	<u>Last day to withdraw from classes</u>	
	<u>Exam 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Honor Pledge: Exam 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 23, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>	
Tue Oct 24, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>	
Wed Oct 25, 2017	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>	
	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>	
Thu Oct 26, 2017	<u>5.8 Linguistic Versatility</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>5.9 Practice for Quiz 4</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>Grammar, Grammar, Grammar</u>	
Fri Oct 27, 2017	<u>5.10 Quiz 4</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>Read Chapter 6</u>	
Sun Oct 29, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 7</u>	
Mon Oct 30, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
Tue Oct 31, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
Wed Nov 1, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
Thu Nov 2, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	

Date	Details	
	<u>6.10 Asterisks</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>6.2 Euphemisms</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>6.6 X-phemism triplets</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Nov 3, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
Mon Nov 6, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
Tue Nov 7, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
	<u>6.17 Practice for Quiz 5</u>	due by 11:30pm
Wed Nov 8, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
Thu Nov 9, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
	<u>6.13 Oxford English Dictionary</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>6.16 Degeneration</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Nov 10, 2017	<u>Adapting and Changing Language</u>	
	<u>6.18 Quiz 5</u>	due by 11:30pm
Sun Nov 12, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 11</u>	
	<u>Read Chapter 10</u>	
Mon Nov 13, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
Tue Nov 14, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
Wed Nov 15, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
Thu Nov 16, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
	<u>7.4 ESL swearing</u>	due by 11:30pm

Date	Details	
	<u>7.6 Teaching about taboo words in the classroom</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Nov 17, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
Mon Nov 20, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
Tue Nov 21, 2017	<u>7.12 Taboo words in a foreign language</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>7.13 Practice for Quiz 6</u>	due by 11:30pm
Wed Nov 22, 2017	<u>Swearing in Other Languages</u>	
	<u>7.14 Quiz 6</u>	due by 11:30pm
Thu Nov 23, 2017	<u>Thanksgiving Break</u>	
Fri Nov 24, 2017	<u>Thanksgiving Break</u>	
Sun Nov 26, 2017	<u>Read Chapter 13</u>	
	<u>Read Chapter 15</u>	
Mon Nov 27, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
Tue Nov 28, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
Wed Nov 29, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
Thu Nov 30, 2017	<u>8.4 Appropriateness of women swearing</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>8.5 Slurs for Men and Women</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Dec 1, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	

Date	Details	
Mon Dec 4, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
Tue Dec 5, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
Wed Dec 6, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
	<u>8.11 Practice for Quiz 7</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>8.9 Censorship Online</u>	due by 11:30pm
Thu Dec 7, 2017	<u>Swearing and Society</u>	
	<u>8.12 Quiz 7</u>	due by 11:30pm
Fri Dec 8, 2017	<u>Reading Day</u>	
Mon Dec 11, 2017	<u>Exam 2</u>	due by 11:30pm
	<u>Honor Pledge: Exam 2</u>	due by 11:59pm