

BAD WORDS AND TABOO TERMS

LING 1069

Spring 2020

Instructor: Randall Eggert

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Office: LNCO 1401

Office Hours: M 1:30-2:30, W 10:30-11:30

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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.

https://catalog.utah.edu/#/policy/By9byDmRz?bc=true&bcCurrent=Attendance%20Policy&bcGroup=Registration&bcltemType=policieshttp://catalog.utah.edu/content.php?catid=8&navoid=633#Attendance_Policy (Links to an external site.)

<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 deadline extensions**, 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 exams **may be accepted at my discretion**, but up to 10% of the grade will be deducted for each day it is late.

<https://catalog.utah.edu/#/policy/B12v3LX0G?bc=true&bcCurrent=Grading%20Policies&bcGroup=Grade%20Information&bcltemType=policies> (Links to an external site.)

Extra Credit

Students can earn up to two extra credit points for participation in Linguistics studies this semester; you will receive one credit for each study you participate in. For more

information and to sign up for linguistics studies, please visit <http://speechlab.utah.edu/participate.php> (Links to an external site.).

- If you need accommodation of any kind, have a question about accommodation, and/or prefer to complete an alternative assignment for any reason, please create a Sona account and then email us at speechlab@lists.utah.edu. Arrangements for alternative assignments must be made before the current semester's add/drop deadline.
- If no study appointments are available, check back later, as new appointments are added periodically.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Linguistics Study Pool or the Sona sign-up system, please contact the Linguistic Study Pool coordinators at speechlab@lists.utah.edu.

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. All course material is intended to be accessed through [Modules](#).

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. Contributions that do not contribute meaningfully to assignments will not receive credit.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Our classrooms provide opportunities to embrace diversity and promote equity. As educators, we commit to engaging all students in higher education. This commitment requires that we are willing to listen, learn and change; that our classrooms challenge assumptions; and that all members of our community are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe space for learning and growth. Respectful debate and civil disagreement are encouraged and expected; mocking, belittling, and bullying will not be tolerated.

University Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** 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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
2. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
3. ***University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit utah.edu ([Links to an external site.](#)).

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 Jan 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
	Assignment	1.0 Read: Preface & Ch. 5	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 7, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
Wed Jan 8, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
Thu Jan 9, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
	Assignment	1.4 Student Information	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	1.5 Data Collection: Tabooness	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	1.6 Get to Know Your Posse	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	1.7 Name Your Posse	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	1.8 Do You Have to Use Words Like That?	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 10, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
Mon Jan 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am

Date	Details		
Tue Jan 14, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
Wed Jan 15, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
Thu Jan 16, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
	Assignment	1.11 Sounds are just sounds	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 17, 2020	Calendar Event	Introduction to the Class: You Can't Use Words Like That	12am
	Calendar Event	Last day to add/drop classes	12am
	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
	Assignment	1.13 Data Collection: Functions of Language	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	1.14 Data Collection: Infixation in States	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	1.15 Data Collection: Slurs for Men and Women	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	2.0 Read: Chapters 1 & 3	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 19, 2020	Assignment	2.0 Read: Chapters 1 & 3	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 20, 2020	Calendar Event	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	12am
Tue Jan 21, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
Wed Jan 22, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am

Date	Details		
Thu Jan 23, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
	Assignment	2.2 Taboos	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	2.4 Notation for the 3 Types of Mention	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	2.5 Stroop Test	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 24, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words and Swearing	12am
	Assignment	2.6 Mention, Mention, Mention Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 27, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
Tue Jan 28, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
Wed Jan 29, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words & Swearing	12am
Thu Jan 30, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words and Swearing	12am
	Assignment	2.11 Practice for Quiz 1	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	2.9 Tabooness	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 31, 2020	Calendar Event	Taboo Words and Swearing	12am
	Assignment	2.12 Quiz 1	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2020	Assignment	3.0 Read: Chapters 4 & 14	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 3, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
Tue Feb 4, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
Wed Feb 5, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am

Date	Details		
Thu Feb 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
	Assignment	3.3 Functions of Language Survey Results	due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	3.4 Response Cries	due by 11:30pm
Fri Feb 7, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
Sun Feb 9, 2020	Assignment	4.0 Read: Chapter 12	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 10, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
Tue Feb 11, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
Wed Feb 12, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
Thu Feb 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
	Assignment	3.10 Practice for Quiz 2	due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	3.8 The Context of a Slur	due by 11:30pm
Fri Feb 14, 2020	Calendar Event	Meaning, Meaning, Meaning	12am
	Assignment	3.11 Quiz 2	due by 11:30pm
Mon Feb 17, 2020	Calendar Event	Presidents' Day	12am
Tue Feb 18, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and the Brain	12am
Wed Feb 19, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and the Brain	12am
Thu Feb 20, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and the Brain	12am
	Assignment	4.3 Tourette Syndrome	due by 11:30pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment	4.6 The Taboo Stroop Test and the Brain due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	4.7 Practice for Quiz 3 due by 11:30pm
Fri Feb 21, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and the Brain 12am
	Assignment	4.8 Quiz 3 due by 11:30pm
Sun Feb 23, 2020	Assignment	5.0 Read: Chapters 2, 8, & 9 due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 24, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Tue Feb 25, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Wed Feb 26, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Thu Feb 27, 2020	Assignment	5.3 Prescriptivists due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	5.6 Results from Infixation of States due by 11:30pm
Fri Feb 28, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Mon Mar 2, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Tue Mar 3, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Wed Mar 4, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
Thu Mar 5, 2020	Assignment	5.8 Linguistic Versatility due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	5.9 Practice for Quiz 4 due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	Honor Pledge: Exam 1 due by 11:30pm

Date	Details	
Fri Mar 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Grammar, Grammar, Grammar 12am
	Assignment	5.10 Quiz 4 due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	Exam 1 due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 9, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break 12am
Tue Mar 10, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break 12am
Wed Mar 11, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break 12am
Thu Mar 12, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break 12am
Fri Mar 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Spring Break 12am
Sun Mar 15, 2020	Assignment	6.0 Read: Chapters 6 & 7 due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 16, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am
Tue Mar 17, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am
Wed Mar 18, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am
Thu Mar 19, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am
	Assignment	6.10 Asterisks due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	6.2 Euphemisms due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	6.6 X-phemism triplets due by 11:30pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am
Mon Mar 23, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am
Tue Mar 24, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language 12am

Date	Details		
Wed Mar 25, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language	12am
	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language	12am
Thu Mar 26, 2020	Assignment	6.13 Oxford English Dictionary	due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	6.16 Degeneration	due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	6.17 Practice for Quiz 5	due by 11:30pm
Fri Mar 27, 2020	Calendar Event	Adapting and Changing Language	12am
	Assignment	6.18 Quiz 5	due by 11:30pm
Sun Mar 29, 2020	Assignment	7.0 Read: Chapters 11 & 10	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 30, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
Tue Mar 31, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
Wed Apr 1, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
Thu Apr 2, 2020	Assignment	7.4 ESL swearing	due by 11:30pm
	Assignment	7.6 Teaching about taboo words in the classroom	due by 11:30pm
Fri Apr 3, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
Mon Apr 6, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
Tue Apr 7, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am
Wed Apr 8, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages	12am

Date	Details	
Thu Apr 9, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages
	Assignment	7.12 Taboo words in a foreign language
	Assignment	7.13 Practice for Quiz 6
Fri Apr 10, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing in Other Languages
	Assignment	7.14 Quiz 6
Sun Apr 12, 2020	Assignment	8.0 Read: Chapters 13 & 15
Mon Apr 13, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and Society
Tue Apr 14, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and Society
Wed Apr 15, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and Society
Thu Apr 16, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and Society
	Assignment	8.11 Practice for Quiz 7
	Assignment	8.4 Appropriateness of women swearing
	Assignment	8.5 Slurs for Men and Women
Assignment	8.9 Censorship Online	
Fri Apr 17, 2020	Calendar Event	Swearing and Society
	Assignment	8.12 Quiz 7
Tue Apr 21, 2020	Assignment	Honor Pledge: Exam 2
Wed Apr 22, 2020	Calendar Event	Reading Day

Date**Details**

Thu Apr 23, 2020

Assignment

[Exam 2](#)

due by 11:59pm