

LING 7800

Kira Hall

This graduate seminar draws from perspectives across the diverse subfields of sociocultural linguistics to understand profanity as a discursive practice that is complexly embedded in culture and society. The definition of profanity pursued in this course includes any use of language that is ideologically positioned as offensive to taste, sensibilities, and/or classes of persons, such as curse words, sexual registers, youth slang, verbal taboo, vulgar language, pornography, hate speech, derogatory gestures, or expletives. A central goal of the seminar is to bring together social theoretical work regarding the interdependency of censorship and profanity with the situated empirical study of