

## LING 6300: Language, Autism, and Sociality

Instructor : Kira Hall

This exploratory graduate seminar seeks to contribute a sociocultural linguistic perspective to academic research on language behaviors associated with the autism spectrum. By drawing on research in linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, and conversation analysis as well as disability studies, medical anthropology, and critical science studies, the seminar seeks to uncover what autism suggests about the intertwining of sociality and language practice. Students interested in a more detailed course description should email Kira Hall at [kira.hall@colorado.edu](mailto:kira.hall@colorado.edu).

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## LING 6300: Formal Foundations of Linguistics

Instructor : Mans Hulden

This course is an introduction to the formal and mathematical foundations of language study. The course is designed specifically for linguistics students with no prior mathematical background. The purpose is to provide an overview of significant applications of formal methods widely employed in different subfields of linguistics, such as phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and computational linguistics. The course covers four major areas: (1) foundations, including set theory, relations, and functions; (2) logic, including propositional logic, predicate logic, and lambda calculus; (3) formal language theory and (4) probability and statistics. The course approaches each area from a theoretical perspective and then explores through examples how each concept is used in different areas of linguistics.

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## LING 7800: Bad Words: Language, Censorship, and Profanity

Instructor : 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 profanity (and its avoidance) in specific social contexts. To this end, the seminar will introduce students to current developments in linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, and varied forms of discourse analysis. Texts in poststructuralist, feminist, and anthropological theory will be read alongside empirical and ethnographic studies on social and interactional uses of profanity in order to gain a holistic understanding of how taboo forms come into being and gain their power from constraints placed on expression. Students interested in a more detailed course description should email Kira Hall at [kira.hall@colorado.edu](mailto:kira.hall@colorado.edu).

## LING 7800/CSCI 7000: Computational Lexical Semantics

Instructor : Martha Palmer

Lexical semantics is becoming an increasingly important part of Natural Language Processing (NLP), as the field is beginning to address semantics at a large scale. This graduate seminar will cover key issues in computational lexical semantics. We will start with an introduction to theoretical models of lexical semantics and events, considering both their adequacy as linguistic models and their place in NLP. We will focus particularly on computational lexical resources such as PropBank, VerbNet and the Generative Lexicon, and examine their strengths and limitations with respect to NLP applications. We will introduce approaches to developing automatic classifiers that are intended to make use of these resources and to offer richer representations of sentences in context. These techniques can be fully supervised (requiring hand-labeled training data), semi-supervised, or unsupervised (learning lexical information from unlabeled text).