

Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

2210	Taboo and Transgression in British	Wed (3)	GER 37
2410	Literature from the Renaissance to		
3210	the Present		
3410			
73110			
201210			
202510			
V + KI	3 KP (requirements to be announced in class)		
V	1 KP (requirements to be announced in class)		

The lecture on taboo and transgression in British literature from the Renaissance to the present develops a lucid yet sophisticated and innovative overview of the interdisciplinary theoretical approaches to the topic that have emerged in recent years. Alongside exemplary model analyses of key periods and representative primary texts, the approach adopted in this lecture traces the complex dynamic and ongoing negotiation of notions of transgression and taboo as an essential though often neglected facet to understanding the development, production and conception of literature and literariness from the Elizabethan period through to contemporary postmodern debates.

The lecture is subdivided into a first part in which an introduction to theories of taboo and transgression as well as a socio-historical and socio-cultural survey of these phenomena in British culture is presented. In the second part, the link between censorship, literature, transgression and taboo will be discussed with a view to textual excerpts taken from key authors such as Shakespeare, Webster, Swift, Pope, Gay, Sterne, Lewis, Radcliffe, George Eliot, Swinburne, Browning, Tennyson, Meredith, McEwan, Martin Amis and D.M. Thomas.

An extensive bibliography will be provided at the beginning of the term.

The first session will take place in week two.