

# Queer Theories

## GWS 309

Course Syllabus, Fall 2013

Mondays & Wednesdays  
3:00 – 4:15 pm  
Modern Languages Building, room 404

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Gender & Women's Studies Dept.  
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Office Hours information on D2L  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, we will develop skills and concepts for analyzing the social experience and regulation of sexuality, especially as it intersects with race, gender, class, economy, and nation. The goal of the course is to “do theory” — rather than “knowing” or “mastering” it — so as to enable you to develop your own, critical relation to contemporary social relations and political movements. Thus, no attempt will be made to survey the entire field of sexuality theory, even were such a survey possible in one semester (which it isn't!). Instead, I hope that you will come away from the class with a “tool kit” of concepts, authors, problems, and statements to develop your own theoretical and political analyses.

REQUIRED TEXTS: available at the UA Bookstore

1. Cherríe Moraga, *Loving in the War Years*, Second edition (South End Press, 2000).
2. Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction*, Vintage Books edition (Vintage Books, 1990).
3. Janet R. Jakobsen & Ann Pellegrini, *Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance* (Beacon Press, 2004).
4. Samuel R. Delany, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue* (NYU Press, 1999).

GRADING:

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Preparatory Writing Assignments:	20%
3 Midterm Essays:	60%

- A portion of the final grade will be determined by your participation in the class. This will be weighted toward the quality of your participation, including regular

and timely attendance, preparation (i.e., doing the reading, bringing the books), respectful and engaged listening to others, and contributions to discussions. Additionally, some of the work of this class will be done in groups, occasionally outside class. Your contributions to these groups will affect your participation grade.

- You will be asked to complete a number of short, preparatory writing exercises (usually one paragraph or less). These assignments will sometimes be given out ahead of time, sometimes done in class. Because these will be the basis of class discussion, *they will be accepted **only** in the class in which they are due.*
- You are to write three (3) midterm essays dealing with the assigned reading materials, which will be graded. Due dates are listed in the course schedule.
- You must complete a preponderance of the course assignments to receive a passing grade for the course.
- Plagiarism or other academic dishonesty is grounds for **failing the course.**

### COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Enrollment in this class constitutes your agreement to these and all University student policies.

1. Course Readings: Assigned readings are to be completed on the day they are assigned, and you are expected to *have the assigned text with you in class* on the days that it is being discussed.
2. Attendance: Regular and timely attendance is expected and will be factored into your course grade. *More than 4 absences without an extraordinary reason may be grounds for failing the course.* The University recognizes the following:
  - All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion; and
  - Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

*In order to receive credit for any assignment missed because of a religious holiday or Dean's excuse, you **must** make appropriate arrangements with the Dr. Geary **before** the absence.*
3. Late Papers: Midterm essays 1 & 2 will be accepted late, but will not receive comments from me, either written or verbal. Essays later than one week will be graded down 1/3 grade for each day or partial day that they are late. *The final essay, however, will not be accepted after the posted deadline unless you have made an arrangement with me in advance.* (The late paper policy does not apply to the regular written preparation exercises, which must be submitted in the class in which they are used.)
4. Email: In general, email should be restricted to simple, yes-no questions or emergency information. Questions requiring extensive answers should be reserved for the classroom or addressed to me during office hours. It is my policy to respond to email messages *only if* they are addressed and signed properly, with at least passable grammar. Additionally, normal turn-around time for email from me may be as long as 48 hours.

5. Academic Integrity — Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using the ideas or words of someone else without acknowledging them as the other person's. Plagiarism on any assignment is grounds for a *failing grade for the course*.
  - You bound by the Code of Academic Integrity:  
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policiesandcodes/codeofacademicintegrity>.
  - This course will following the official academic integrity and plagiarism policies of the UA History Department. You should read these policies and ask questions if you are unclear. <http://history.arizona.edu/node/757>.
  - There are a number of plagiarism tutorials and informational links available through the University Library's website:  
<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.
6. Classroom Behavior: The following, normative expectations hold for this class. Dr. Geary reserves the right to ask you to leave the class if you routinely or egregiously flout them.
  - You are bound by the Student Code of Conduct:  
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policiesandcodes/studentcodeofconduct>.
  - Timeliness: As a rule, you are expected to arrive and seat yourself in the classroom at or before the official beginning of the class period. Additionally, you are not to depart or prepare to depart prior to the official end of the class period.
  - Cell phones, pagers, instant-messaging programs, and all other communication devices *must be turned off or silenced* during the period of the class. **Laptops are not to be used during class.**
  - Threatening Behavior: All forms of threatening behavior are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and are unwelcome in this class. Threatening behavior will result in your immediate removal from the class, and you will have to petition Dr. Geary to be re-instated. See the University's policy on threatening behavior at [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/safety\\_related\\_policies](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/safety_related_policies).
  - Harassment and Intimidation: Any form of harassment or intimidation, including but not limited to threatening behavior, is also in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and unwelcome in the class. Harassment or intimidation may result in removal from the class, at which point you would have to petition Dr. Geary to be re-instated. See the University's policy on harassment and intimidation at [http://equity.arizona.edu/non-discrimination\\_anti-harassment](http://equity.arizona.edu/non-discrimination_anti-harassment).
7. Disabilities Accommodations: Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must register with the Disability Resource Center. If you qualify for services through DRC, bring your letter of accommodations to Dr. Geary as soon as possible.

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**The student is hereby notified that information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the Professor.**

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[R] = Essay in the Course Reader

**COURSE SCHEDULE:***Formations of Desire*

- M, 26-Aug
- review Syllabus and Course Schedule
  - Audre Lorde, “The Uses of the Erotic” [R]
- W, 28-Aug
- *re-read* Audre Lorde, “The Uses of the Erotic” [R]
  - Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement” [R]
  - Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” [R]
  - Amber Hollibaugh, “Defining Desires and Dangerous Decisions” [R]
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- M, 2-Sep
- *No Class Meeting – Labor Day*
- W, 4-Sep
- Anne Fausto-Sterling, “The problem with sex/gender and nature/nurture” [R]
  - Anne Fausto-Sterling, “Frameworks of Desire” [R]
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- M, 9-Sep
- Ellen Ross & Rayna Rapp, “Sex and Society” [R]
  - *re-read* Audre Lorde, “The Uses of the Erotic”
- W, 11-Sep
- Cherríe Moraga, *Loving in the War Years*, pp. vii - 68
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- M, 16-Sep
- Cherríe Moraga, *Loving in the War Years*, pp. 69-138
- W, 18-Sep
- in-class screening: “Tongues Untied,” by Marlon Riggs
  - Audre Lorde, “Poetry is Not a Luxury” [R]
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- M, 23-Sep
- review “Tongues Untied,” by Marlon Riggs (on D2L)
- W, 25-Sep
- Robert Reid-Pharr, “Dinge” [R]
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- M, 30-Sep
- C. Jacob Hale, “Leatherdyke Boys and their Daddies” [R]
- W, 2-Oct
- Essay #1 Assignment workshop – required
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- M, 7-Oct
- Judith Halberstam, “Transgender Butch” [R]
  - Lisa Duggan & Kathleen McHugh, “A fem(me)inist manifesto” [R]

*Sexuality and/as Power*

- W, 9-Oct • Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, “We ‘Other Victorians’” & “The Incitement to Discourse” (pp. 1-35)

**Friday, October 11th****Midterm Essay #1 due at 9:00 pm**

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- M, 14-Oct • Foucault, “The Perverse Implantation” & “Scientia Sexualis” (pp. 36-74)
- W, 16-Oct • Foucault, “The Deployment of Sexuality” (pp. 75-131)
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- M, 21-Oct • Foucault, “Right of Death and Power over Life” (pp. 133-159)
- W, 23-Oct • Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex” [R]
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- M, 28-Oct • Cathy Cohen, “Punks, Bulldaggers & Welfare Queens” [R]
- W, 30-Oct • Lisa Duggan, “The New Homonormativity” [R]
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- M, 4-Nov • Janet Jakobsen & Ann Pellegrini, *Love the Sin*, Preface – ch. 1 (pp. ix - 44)

*Sexual Acts, Sexual Politics*

- W, 6-Nov • Essay #2 Assignment workshop – required
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- M, 11-Nov • *No Class Meeting – Veteran’s Day*
- W, 13-Nov • Jakobsen & Pellegrini, ch. 2 (pp. 45-73)

**Friday, November 15****Midterm Essay #2 due at 9:00 pm**

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- M, 18-Nov • Jakobsen & Pellegrini, chs. 3-4 (pp. 75-126)
- W, 20-Nov • Jakobsen & Pellegrini, ch. 5-conclusion (pp. 127-151)  
• Michel Foucault, “Friendship as a Way of Life” [R]

M, 25-Nov • Samuel R. Delany, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*, Preface & “Times Square Blue” (pp. xi – 108)

W, 27-Nov • *No Class Meeting – Thanksgiving Break*

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M, 2-Dec • Delany, “... Three, Two, One, Contact” (pp. 111-152)

W, 4-Dec • Delany, “... Three, Two, One, Contact” (pp. 153-199)

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M, 9-Dec • Essay #3 Assignment workshop – required

W, 11-Dec • Judith Butler, “Remarks on ‘Queer Bonds’” [R]

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**Monday, December 16      Midterm Essay #3 due at 9:00 pm**