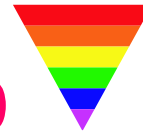




WS 5663.50



# Queer Theories



100% online

The course will use Blackboard (Bb) and Second Life (SL) as platforms for instruction.

**Queer:** Adj.

- "1. strange or odd, unusually different.
- 2. of a questionable nature or character; suspicious; shady.
- 3. not feeling physically right or well.
- 4. mentally unbalance or deranged."

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language, 1584

**Queer:** Adj.

"1508, Scottish, probably borrowed from Low German (perhaps Brunswick) *queer* oblique, off-center, related to German *quer* oblique, perverse, odd, from Old High German *twerh* oblique; see THWART. The sense of homosexual is first recorded in 1922. --v. 1812, to spoil, ruin, probably from the adjective. An earlier sense of trick, swindle, cheat, is recorded in 1790. --n. 1935, homosexual, from the adjective."

Dictionary of Etymology: The origins of American English Words, 626

The course explores queer theories and the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other queer formations. The course will discuss scholarly writings and critically examine academic theories about queerness, sexuality, as well as society's commonly held assumptions about LGBT people. We will explore how queer sexual identities intersect with race, class, gender, ethnicity, ethics, science, politics, and age. We will acquire this knowledge not only through the context of academic research--e.g., the assigned readings and other studies that students might bring into the discussions--but also by examining current social issues around heterosexuality, homosexuality, and transgender identities in popular culture.

## Required Course Material

### Books:

1. Queer Theory/Gender Theory by Riki Wilchins. (ISBN: 1-55583-798-0)
2. The History of Sexuality by Michel Foucault. (ISBN: 0-679-72469-9)
3. Cruising Utopia by Jose Esteban Munoz. (ISBN 13: 978-0-8147-5728-4)
4. Gender Trouble by Judith Butler. (ISBN: 0-415-92499-5)
5. Queer Wars by Paul Robinson. (ISBN: 0-226-72200-7)
6. Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality edited by John Corvino. (ISBN: 0-8476-8482-2)
7. Students will seek permission from the instructor for an extra book they will read.

### Articles:

1. "Thinking of Sex: Notes for Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" by Gayle S. Rubin.
2. "Epistemology of the Closet" by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.
3. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" by Adrienne Rich.
4. "Capitalism and Gay Identity" by John D'Emilio.
5. "Freud, Male Homosexuality, and the Americas" by Henry Abelove.
6. "Homophobia: Why bring it up?" by Barbara Smith.
7. "The Bow and the Burden Strap: A New Look at Institutionalized Homosexuality in Native North America" by Harriet Whitehead.
8. "Silences: 'Hispanics,' AIDS, and Sexual Practices" by Ana María Alonso and María Teresa Koreck.
9. "Eloquence and Epitaph: Black Nationalism and the Homophobic Impulse in Responses to the Death of Max Robinson" by Phillip Brian Harper.
10. "Hijras as Neither Man Nor Woman" by Serena Nanda.

Students will be required to buy the books, but the articles will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Also, since this is a 100% internet course, students must have at least two the following:

1. **A functional computer with working microphone and Internet connection. (Required)**
2. Their own AVATAR in Second Life. Go to <http://secondlife.com/>, create your own avatar, and download the Second Life viewer. The AVATARS and a basic account are free. **I will use this program to hold office hours.** Second Life has the following minimum System requirements: 1) Cable/DSL connection, 2) XP, Vista, or Windows 7 (32-bit only), 3) 800 MHz Pentium III or Athlon, or better 4) 512 MB or more, 5) a screen resolution of 1024x768 pixls, 6) Graphics Card for XP: NVIDIA GeForce 6600 or better OR ATI Radeon 8500, 9250 or better OR Intel 945 chipset. **(Optional)**
3. If you do not want to use Second Life, then I would recommend for you to download Blackboard IM. **(Optional)**