

GWS 495: Researching Queer Culture

Spring 2009

Tu Th 10-11:20

Gregory Hall 325

Professor Siobhan Somerville

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Office hours: Tu 11:30-1:00 or by appointment

Office: English Building, Room 266

SYLLABUS (REVISED)

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to learn different methods for researching “queer culture,” with a special focus on our local context. Our guiding questions will include: What are the various ways of defining “queer”? What counts as “culture”? Where do we find queer culture? How is queer culture produced, sustained, or transformed? How do institutions (such as universities) help to produce or erase queer culture? What roles do race, class, and/or gender play in the production and/or visibility of queer culture?

We will explore two research methods in depth: history and ethnography. One of the most exciting aspects of this course is that you will be producing your own original research based on genuine gaps in existing knowledge. This course gives you an opportunity to learn both received knowledge about queer culture, as well as that which we do not yet know. By the end of this course, we will collectively produce new knowledge about queer culture at UIUC.

A special feature of this course is that it is part of the Ethnography of the University Initiative. By taking the course, you are also participating in a campus-wide research project about the university itself. More information about EUI is available at www.eui.uiuc.edu/index.html.

Course Texts/Materials:

Books – Available at local campus bookstores (Illini Union Bookstore, TIS, and Follett’s). For now, there is only one required book that you need to buy (Ann Bannon’s *Odd Girl Out*) but I may decide to order other texts later in the semester.

Documents/Essays/Images – Most of the required readings will be available online via the course Moodle website. Thus you will need to have access to a computer, internet, and a printer. Unless I tell you otherwise, you should always print out a copy of the assigned text(s), read them before class, and *bring them with you to class*. (I will check!)

Films/Videos – We will watch a number of videos/films in class, but these will be available on reserve at the Undergraduate Library Media Center if you would like to watch them more than once.

Course Schedule:

Tu Jan 20		Introductions
Th Jan 22	Readings due: Assignment due:	Michael Warner, <i>Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics and Social Theory</i> (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press, 1993), introduction, pp. vii-xxxi. Boyer Commission, <i>Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities</i> (1998), pp. 1-8, 12-13. Make a list of any terms that you come across in the readings that are unfamiliar to you. Bring this list to class, along with the readings. These will become building blocks for a glossary that we will collectively author throughout the course.

Queering Popular Culture: The 1950s

Tu Jan 27	Readings due: Assignment due:	Ann Bannon, <i>Odd Girl Out</i> (1957; San Francisco, CA: Cleis Press, 2001), pp. 1-82. Browse the Kinsey Institute website before class: http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/ Print and read carefully the following two pages: http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/research/ak-data.html#Scope http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/research/ak-hhscale.html Exercise #1: Who is Ann Bannon? (See Moodle for details.)
Th Jan 29	Readings due:	Ann Bannon, <i>Odd Girl Out</i> (pp.83-147). John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity," (1983), in <i>The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader</i> , ed. Henry Abelove, et al. (New York: Routledge, 1993), 467-478. Excerpts from Lorraine Hansberry's letters to the <i>Ladder</i> at: http://www.outhistory.org/wiki/Lorraine_Hansberry:_To_%22The_Ladder,%22_May,_August_1957
Tu Feb 3	Readings due: Assignment due:	Ann Bannon, <i>Odd Girl Out</i> , pp. 148-212. Before class, please watch <i>Forbidden Love</i> (dir. Aerlyn Weissman and Lynn Fernie, 1994, 86 min.) at Undergrad Library Media Center. Exercise #2: Pulp Fiction/Queer History

Th Feb 5	Readings due: <i>Assignment due:</i>	Before class, complete all three modules of the tutorial on primary sources at: https://www-s2.library.uiuc.edu/bluestem-docs/villages/primarysource/index.htm Exercise #3: Analyzing Primary Sources
Tu Feb 10	**Note location**	Presentation by Dr. Ellen Swain, Archivist for Student Life and Culture We will meet at the Archives Research Center , room 105, at 1707 S. Orchard Street, Room 105, in Urbana, Illinois, 61801. (This is in the former Horticulture Field Laboratory Building, just east of the U of I President's house. For a map, go to Moodle or http://www.library.uiuc.edu/archives/slc/about/HFLmap.pdf . It's a 20 minute walk from the quad or a short bus ride. <i>Please be on time.</i>

Queering Political Culture: The 1970s

Th Feb 12	Readings due:	Before class, please browse the following website, with special attention to the information on Champaign and Urbana: http://www.genderadvocates.org/links/Commissions.html Martin Duberman, <i>Stonewall</i> (New York: Dutton, 1993), excerpts Scott Bravmann, "Queer Fictions of Stonewall," in <i>Queer Cultures</i> , ed. Deborah Carlin and Jennifer DiGrazia (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2004), pp. 561-592.
Tu Feb 17	<i>Assignment due:</i>	In class: <i>The Times of Harvey Milk</i> (dir. Rob Epstein, 1984, 88 min.) Exercise #4: Finding Primary Sources (Student Archives)
Th Feb 19	<i>Assignment due:</i>	In class: <i>The Times of Harvey Milk</i> (dir. Rob Epstein, 1984, 88 min.) Exercise #5: Finding Primary Sources (Newspapers)
Tu Feb 24	Readings due:	Jonathan Katz, <i>Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the U.S.A.: a Documentary</i> (New York: Crowell, 1976), excerpts Alisa Klinger, "Resources for Ethnographic Research in the Lavender Archives," in <i>Same-Sex Cultures and Sexualities: An Anthropological Reader</i> , ed. Jennifer Robertson (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005), pp. 73-88. Ann Cvetkovich, "In the Archives of Lesbian Feelings: Documentary and Popular Culture," <i>Camera Obscura</i> 49 (Volume 17.1) (2002): 107-147. Browse the following websites: Gerber/Hart Library: http://www.gerberhart.org/ Lesbian Herstory Archives: http://www.lesbianherstoryarchives.org/

		<p>Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library: http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/librarylocations/main/glc/glc.htm One National Gay and Lesbian Archives: http://www.onearchives.org/</p>
Th Feb 26	<p>Readings due:</p> <p><i>Assignment due:</i></p>	<p>Scott Herring, "Out of the Closets, Into the Woods: RFD, Country Women, and the Post-Stonewall Emergence of Queer Anti-Urbanism," <i>American Quarterly</i> 59.2 (June 2007): 341-372.</p> <p>"Critical Reading toward Critical Writing"</p> <p>Exercise #6: Analyzing Secondary Sources</p>

Culture, Sexuality, and Class: The Early Twentieth Century

Tu Mar 3	<p>Readings due:</p>	<p><i>John Gregg Allerton Memoir</i>, Interview by Nancy M. Becker, 1984. Muriel Scheinman, <i>A Guide to Art at the University of Illinois</i>, pp. 95-140. Before class, please browse: http://www.continuinged.uiuc.edu/oce-sites/allerton/history.cfm</p>
Th Mar 5	<p>Readings due:</p> <p><i>Assignment due:</i></p>	<p>George Chauncey, "Introduction," <i>Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940</i> (New York: Basic, 1995), pp. 1-29. Chad Heap, "The City as a Sexual Laboratory: The Queer Heritage of the Chicago School," <i>Qualitative Sociology</i> 26.4 (2003): 457-487. "Homosexual Complexion Perverts in St. Louis: Note on a Feature of Psychopathy," <i>Alienist and Neurologist</i> (1907), reprinted in <i>American Queer: Now and Then</i>, ed. David Shneer and Caryn Aviv (Boulder, CO: Paradigm, 2006), pp. 57-58. Henry Gerber, "The Society for Human Rights: 1925," <i>One</i> (September 1962)</p> <p>Exercise #7: Primary Documents in Context</p>

Queer Ethnography

Tu Mar 10	<p>Readings due:</p>	<p>In-Class: Presentation on IRB requirements by Heese Kim</p> <p>Greg Benham, "Minority Times Two": A look at life for an LGBT student of Asian descent on campus," found on the IDEALS website at: http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/3630. Click on the PDF at the bottom of the page for the full report.</p> <p>"Checklist for Human Subjects Research"</p> <p>"Rules and Guidelines for the Ethical Student Researcher"</p>
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Th Mar 12	Readings due: Assignment due:	David M. Fetterman, <i>Ethnography: Step by Step</i> (Newbury Park: Sage, 1989), pp. 1-15. Carol Stack, "Burdy's Bend," <i>Call to Home: African-Americans Reclaim the South</i> (New York: Basic, 1995), pp. 1-7. Ramona Faith Oswald, Eileen Gebbie, Linda Sue Culton, "Report to the Community: Rainbow Illinois: A Survey of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People in Central Illinois" (2001). "Campus Climate Project Executive Summary, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Final Report" (2006). Browse: "Campus Climate Project, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Final Report" (2006) at http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/lgbt/downloads/lgbtcampusclimatefinalreport.pdf Exercise #8: Formulating Research Questions
Tu Mar 17	Readings due: Assignment due:	Will Roscoe, "Writing Queer Cultures: An Impossible Possibility?," in <i>Out in the Field: Reflections of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists</i> , ed. Ellen Lewin and William Leap (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1996), pp. 200-211. Esther Newton, "My Best Informant's Dress: The Erotic Equation in Fieldwork," in <i>Out in the Field: Reflections of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists</i> , ed. Ellen Lewin and William Leap (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1996), pp. 212-235. Samuel R. Delaney, "Times Square Blue," in <i>Times Square Red, Times Square Blue</i> (New York: NYU Press, 1999), pp. 3-19. Exercise #9: Mapping/Observation
Tu Mar 19	Readings due: Assignment due:	Samuel R. Delaney, "Times Square Blue," in <i>Times Square Red, Times Square Blue</i> (New York: NYU Press, 1999), pp. 20-108. Initial Research Question
Mar 23-27		SPRING BREAK

Tu Mar 31	Readings due:	Robert M. Emerson, Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw, "Participant Observation and Fieldnotes," in <i>Handbook of Ethnography</i> , ed. Paul Atkinson, et al. (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2001), pp. 352-368. Kath Weston, "The Monkey Cage and the Red Desert," in <i>Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship</i> (New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), pp. 1-20.
Th Apr 2	Readings	Robert S. Weiss, "Interviewing," <i>Learning From Strangers: The Art and</i>

	due: <i>Assignment due:</i>	<i>Method of Qualitative Interview Studies</i> (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995), pp. 61-119. Initial Research Plan
Tu Apr 7	Readings due:	No class meeting Use this time to collect data (by observation or interview)
Th Apr 9	Readings due: <i>Assignment due:</i>	Rod Michalko and Tanya Titchkosky, "Putting Disability in Its Place: It's Not a Joking Matter," <i>Embodied Rhetorics: Disability in Language and Culture</i> , ed. James C. Wilson and Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2001), pp. 237-250. Eli Clare, "Stolen Bodies, Reclaimed Bodies: Disability and Queerness," <i>Public Culture</i> 13.3 (2001): 359-365. Exercise 7: Data Gathering

Tu Apr 14	Readings due: <i>Assignment due:</i>	Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" (1988), in <i>Feminist Frontiers</i> , Eighth Edition, ed. Verta Taylor, Nancy Whittier, Leila J. Rupp (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2009), pp. 12-18. Cherríe Moraga, "La Güera," in <i>This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color</i> , ed. Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa (1981; Latham, NY: Kitchen Table Press, 1983), 27-34. EUI Spring Conference Application
Th Apr 16	Readings due: <i>Assignment due:</i>	Rebekah Nathan, "Welcome to 'AnyU,'" and "As Others See Us," in <i>My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student</i> (New York: Penguin, 2005), pp. 1-18, 67-89. Revised Research Question and Research Plan
Tu Apr 21	Readings due:	Sherrie A. Inness, "Lost in Space: Queer Geography and the Politics of Location," in <i>Queer Cultures</i> , ed. Deborah Carlin and Jennifer DiGrazia (Upper Saddle River, NY: 2004), pp. 255-279. Amelia María de la Luz Montes, "Tortilleras on the Prairie: Latina Lesbians Writing the Midwest," <i>Journal of Lesbian Studies</i> 7.3 (2003): 29-46. Colin R. Johnson, "Rural Space: Queer Theory's Final Frontier," <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> (January 13, 2006), B15-16.

Th Apr 23	Readings due: <i>Assignment due:</i>	Alisa Solomon, "Love Hurts," <i>Village Voice</i> (April 19, 1994). Judith Halberstam, "The Brandon Archive," in <i>In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives</i> (New York: NYU Press, 2005), pp. 22-46. David Valentine, "We're 'Not about Gender': The Uses of 'Transgender,'" in <i>Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology</i> , ed. Ellen Lewin and William L. Leap (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 2002), pp. 222-245. <i>Fieldnotes</i>
Tu Apr 28	Readings due:	Martin F. Manalansan IV, "In the Shadows of Stonewall: Examining Gay Transnational Politics and the Diasporic Dilemma," in <i>The Politics of Culture in the Shadow of Capital</i> , ed. Lisa Lowe and David Lloyd (Durham: Duke UP, 1997), 485-505. Lionel Cantú, "De Ambiente: Queer Tourism and the Shifting Boundaries of Mexican Male Sexualities," <i>GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies</i> 8(1-2): 139-166 (2002).
Th Apr 30	<i>Assignment due:</i>	<i>Research Presentation – practice in class</i> 3-8pm Presentations at EUI Spring Student Mini-Conference (specific panel times and locations to be announced).
Tu May 5	<i>Assignment due:</i>	<i>Exercise #10: Peer Review</i>
W May 13	<i>Assignment due:</i>	<i>Final Projects due on Moodle by 4:30pm</i>

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Active Participation in Discussion** (in class and on Moodle): 20%
 - a. Preparation and Discussion: You are expected to read and think critically about the assigned texts before class and to come prepared to discuss the readings in detail. If necessary, I may also include quizzes or in-class writing assignments in this part of your grade.
 - b. Attendance: You are also expected to attend all class meetings. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Absences will not be excused without serious and compelling reasons. If you are ill, please e-mail me or leave a telephone message before class and bring a doctor's note when you return to class. If the reasons for your absence raise privacy concerns, please ask the Dean of Students Office to help you document your absences and notify me.

Unexcused absences will significantly lower your participation grade. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your final participation grade will be lowered by half a letter grade for each absence thereafter.

2. **Short assignments** (10): 50% (5 points each)

You will complete ten short exercises, in which you will get practice using specific research skills. Details of each assignment will be posted on the course Moodle. See the course schedule for specific due dates.

3. **Final Project:** 30%

You will design a final project that uses ethnographic and historical methods to do original research on some aspect of queer culture at UIUC. You will be evaluated on the following parts of the project:

Research Question/Research Plan (5%)

Data/Fieldnotes (10%)

Analysis (10%)

Presentation (5%)

Part of the project involves sharing your research in a brief (7-minute) presentation at the student conference organized by the Ethnography of the University Initiative. You will submit each part of the other parts of your project on the course Moodle. See the course schedule for specific due dates. More details will be provided later in the semester.