Course Description

“Queer” is a slur, a form of activism, and an area of academic inquiry; an umbrella term for the QUILTBAG population and an identity category in its own right; a noun, an adjective, and a verb. This course explores the interplay between these forms of “queer” in popular culture—popular culture that is about queers, that is queer, and the process of queering it. It is organized around, but also troubles, the traditional division of media studies into production, text, and audience, looking at how queers produce media, how queer media is produced, and how media production is queer; how texts are about queers or are queer or queering/disorienting; queer folks as audiences, audiences for queer texts, or audiences as queering ostensibly “straight” texts; as well as how with digital media things get quite queer with drawing sharp categorical distinctions between these three sites at all.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a foundational understanding of queer studies
- Gain familiarity with production, text, and audience approaches to popular cultural study
- Understand and be able to conduct queer analysis of popular culture
- Acquire familiarity with the fundamentals of academic publishing

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Questions (15%, 15 points x 10): In 10 of 15 weeks of their choice, students will send me 3 discussion questions by email, due 2 hours before class time.

Journal Review (25%, 250 points): Students will review the most recent 3 years of a journal of their choice for how queer popular culture/queer analysis of popular culture features in the scholarship it publishes.

Paper Proposal (10%, 100 points): A 2-3 page proposal of a research question and a plan for how the student intends to answer it.
**Paper Draft** (10%, 100 points): Students will produce a full draft of their paper for peer review.

**Peer Review** (10%, 2 x 50 points): Students will perform double-blind peer review on two other students’ papers.

**Final Paper** (30%, 300 points): Based on the feedback from the reviews, students will revise their final paper and submit it.

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**Required Reading**
The reading for this course is relatively light (~100 pgs/week) and focused (specific chapters rather than entire books).

**Books to Purchase:**


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**August 25 - Foundations I: Queer Theory/Studies**
Sweeney, Miriam E. “How to Read for Grad School.” 2012. [http://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/](http://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/)


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**September 1 - Foundations II: Queer Reading**


September 8, Queer/ing Production: Introduction
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 4, 10

September 15, Queer/ing Production Processes
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 16

September 22, Producing Queer Celebrity Images
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 17

September 29, Queer/ing Text
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 13, 14, 15
October 6, Queer/ing Text
Henderson, Lisa. *Love and Money: Queers, Class, and Cultural Production*. NYU Press, 2013, 1, 2, 3, 6, Conclusion

Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 2, 19

**Journal Assignment Due**

October 13, Queer/ing Text
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 5, 6, 7, 8, 9


October 20 - Queer/ing Audiences: Introduction


October 27 - Queer Audiences


Muñoz, José Esteban. “‘Gimme Gimme This... Gimme Gimme That’ Annihilation and Innovation in the Punk Rock Commons.” *Social Text* 31, no. 3 116 (2013): 95–110. doi:10.1215/01642472-2152855.


**Paper Proposal Due**
November 3 – Audiences Queering “Straight” Texts
Lothian, Alexis, Kristina Busse, and Robin Anne Reid. “‘Yearning Void and Infinite Potential’: Online Slash Fandom as Queer Female Space.” English Language Notes 45, no. 2 (2007): 103-11.

November 10 – Queering the Production-Text-Audience Triad on the Web: Introduction

November 17 – Queer/ing Social Media

November 24 – No Class, Paper Draft Due
December 2 – Queer/ing Gaming and Mobile Media

December 9 – Paper Presentations, Peer Review Due

December 16 – Final Paper Due