

AMST/ENGL/HIST 6500 *Queer Pasts, Presents, and Futures*

Micki McElya, WGSS & History

Spring 2018—Thursdays, 1:00-3:30 pm

WGSS Seminar Room, Beach 4th Floor

Office Hours/Contact info:

Office Hours: Thursdays, 11:00-12:30, and by appointment

419 Beach Hall

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Course Description:

This American Studies special topics seminar examines the increasing centrality of the temporal and/or conditions of temporality within Queer theorizing, scholarship, and cultural production in the late-twentieth and twenty-first centuries. While focusing largely on recent works, the class will consider earlier iterations and the deeper American histories of this recent “temporal turn” in LGBTQ scholarship and cultural practices, while simultaneously looking to destabilize—or queer—some of its national and nationalist contours. Connected to this, we will situate the trend in relation to diverse feminisms, intersectionality, postcolonial theory, and Queer of Color Critique.

Requirements and Class Policies:

- **Attendance and Participation:** Each student is expected to attend every class meeting, to be on time, to have read completely and with care all assignments, and to engage actively and intelligently in our discussions.
- **Leading class discussion twice with a partner:** Discussion leaders are expected to open the class with brief comments that introduce the text(s) and its author(s), draw out key themes, contributions, and concerns, and link the readings to one another and the wider issues of the course. They should conclude their introduction by offering a set of 4-5 questions to be taken up in discussion. Please make these available in hardcopy for the class and as a document to posted on HuskyCT after.
- **A book review of 5 pages on one of the supplemental texts:** These are due at the end of class during the week for which the book is listed as a supplemental text. Students will be expected to offer a description of their texts to the class and incorporate their comments into our discussion. Note: The lists of supplemental readings are by no means exhaustive, but designed to highlight some major recent works in the area or period.
- **A critical review essay of 18-20 pages on 4 or 5 books:** This should be directed toward an audience of scholars on a topic of interest to the student that falls within the scope of the course. Students should select their own texts in consultation with the professor, some or all of which can be drawn from supplemental lists, although that is not a requirement of the

assignment. For examples of collective, critical book reviews that can serve as useful models, students should look at the *American Quarterly* or *Reviews in American History*. Before settling on a topic, students must discuss the paper with Prof. McElya **no later than Thursday, March 8.** **This paper is due via e-mail by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 4**

Course Policy: NO EXTENSIONS OR INCOMPLETES barring extreme and extenuating circumstances.

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Participation/Leading Discussion	=	40%
Short Review	=	20%
Final Paper	=	40%

Accessibility: To request accommodations for a disability you must first contact the Center for Students with Disabilities. Located in room 204 of the Wilbur Cross Building, you can also reach them at 860.486.2020, csd@uconn.edu, or on the web at <http://www.csd.uconn.edu>. You must have the appropriate forms from this office before we can arrange accommodations.

Readings:

The following texts are required for the course:

- Dorothy Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina* (1992)
- Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (Duke, 2004)
- Elizabeth Freeman, *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories* (Duke, 2010)
- Jack Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (Duke, 2005)
- Film: *Looking for Langston* (1987, dir. Isaac Julien) [on reserve in Babbidge]
- Heather Love, *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History* (Harvard, 2007)
- Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke, 2015)
- Dana Luciano, *Arranging Grief: Sacred Time and the Body in Nineteenth-Century America* (NYU, 2007)
- José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* (NYU, 2009)
- Hiram Pérez, *A Taste for Brown Bodies: Gay Modernity and Cosmopolitan Desire* (NYU, 2015)
- Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke, 2007)
- Mark Rifkin, *Beyond Settler Time: Temporal Sovereignty and Indigenous Self-Determination* (Duke, 2017)

FOUNDATIONS

These are not required, but you may find it useful to read or revisit the following books for this class:

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction* (1976, in English, 1978)
_____, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 2: The Use of Pleasure* (1984, in English, 1985)

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (1990)
_____, *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex* (1993)
Lisa Duggan, *The Twilight of Equality: Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics, and the Attack on Democracy* (2003)
Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States* (2011)

Thursday, January 18: Foundations 1 (Queer Theory Origin Stories)

- > *QUEERS READ THIS*, published anonymously by Queers (1990) [pdf]
- > Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Introduction: Axiomatic," in her *Epistemology of the Closet* (California, 1990) [pdf]
- > Lisa Duggan, "Making It Perfectly Queer," *Socialist Review* 22, 1 (Jan-Mar 1992) [pdf]
- > Judith Butler, "Imitation and Gender Insubordination," in Abelove, et. al. eds., *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* (Routledge, 1993) [pdf]
- > Michael Warner, "Introduction" to his edited collection, *Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics and Social Theory* (Minnesota, 1993) [pdf]

Thursday, January 25: Foundations 2 (Other Origins)

- Will continue with Butler, Duggan & Warner from Week One*
- > *Looking for Langston* (1987, dir. Isaac Julien) [on reserve in Babbidge]
 - > Judith Butler, "Critically Queer," in her *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of 'Sex'* (Routledge, 1993) [pdf]
 - > Kobena Mercer, "Dark, and Lovely, Too: Black Gay Men in Independent Film," in Gever, Parmar & Greyson, eds., *Queer Looks: Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Film and Video* (Routledge, 1993) [pdf]
 - > Cathy J. Cohen, "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?" *GLQ* 3 (1997) [pdf]

Highly recommended; part of original assignment:

- > David L. Eng & Alice Y. Hom, "Intro—Q&A: Notes on a Queer Asian America," in their edited collection, *Q&A: Queer in Asian America* (Temple, 1998) [pdf]
- > Harper, McClintock, Muñoz & Rosen, "Queer Transexions of Race, Nation, and Gender," *Social Text* 52/53 (Fall/Winter 1997) [pdf]

Thursday, February 1: Foundations 3 (History, Time & Temporality)

- > Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke, 2015)
- > Prashant Kidambi, "Time, Temporality, and History," in Gunn & Lucy Faire, eds., *Research Methods in History, second edition* (Edinburgh, 2016) [pdf]

QUEER TEMPORALITIES—PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Thursday, February 8: Historical Fictions

- > Dorothy Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina* (1992)
- > Dorothy Allison, "A Question of Class," in her *Skin: Talking About Sex, Class, and Literature* (Firebrand Books, 1994) [pdf]

Supplemental Texts:

Alan Bennett, *The History Boys* (2004)
Caleb Crain, *Necessary Errors: A Novel* (2013)
The Watermelon Woman (1995, dir. Cheryl Dunye)
Garth Greenwell, *What Belongs to You: A Novel* (2015)
Poison (1990, dir. Todd Haynes)
Tony Kushner, *Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches & Part 2: Perestroika* (1992)
Éduard Louis, *The End of Eddy* (2014, first U.S. 2017)
Audre Lorde, *Zami: A Biomythography* (1982)
Mia McKenzie, *The Summer We Got Free* (2013)
Eileen Myles, *Chelsea Girls* (1994)
April Sinclair, *Coffee Will Make You Black* (1994)
Justin Torres, *We the Animals* (2011)
Edmund White, *A Boy's Own Story* (1982); *The Beautiful Room is Empty* (1988); and
The Farewell Symphony (1997)

Thursday, February 15:

- > Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (Duke, 2004)
- > Eng, Halberstam & Muñoz, "What's Queer About Queer Theory Now?" *Social Text* 84-85 (Fall/Winter 2005) [pdf]
- > Roderick A. Ferguson, introduction to his *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (Minnesota, 2004) [pdf]

Supplemental Texts:

Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others* (Duke, 2006)
Lauren Berlant, *The Queen of America Goes to Washington City: Essays on Sex and Citizenship* (Duke, 1997)
Leo Bersani, *Homos* (Harvard, 1996)
Elizabeth Grosz, *The Nick of Time: Politics, Evolution, and the Untimely* (Duke, 2004)
David M. Halperin, *How to Do the History of Homosexuality* (Chicago, 2002)
José Esteban Muñoz, *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics* (Minnesota, 1999)
Kathryn Bond Stockton, *The Queer Child, or Growing Sideways in the Twentieth Century* (Duke, 2009)
Michael Warner, *The Trouble with Normal* (Harvard, 1999)

Thursday, February 22: no class McElya at CAA

Thursday, March 1:

- > Dana Luciano, *Arranging Grief: Sacred Time and the Body in Nineteenth-Century America* (NYU, 2007)

Supplemental Texts:

Peter Coviello, *Tomorrow's Parties: Sex and the Untimely in Nineteenth-Century America* (NYU, 2013)

Sharon Patricia Holland, *Raising the Dead: Readings of Death and (Black) Subjectivity* (Duke, 2000)
J. Samaine Lockwood, *Archives of Desire: The Queer Historical Work of New England Regionalism* (UNC, 2015)
Molly McGarry, *Ghosts of Futures Past: Spiritualism and the Cultural Politics of Nineteenth-Century America* (California, 2008)
Valerie Rohy, *Anachronism and Its Others: Sexuality, Race, Temporality* (SUNY, 2009)

Thursday, March 8:

> Heather Love, *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History* (Harvard, 2007)
> Elizabeth Freeman, *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories* (Duke, 2010)

Supplemental Texts:

Scott Bravmann, *Queer Fictions of the Past: History, Culture, and Difference* (Cambridge, 1997)
Carolyn Dinshaw, *Getting Medieval: Sexualities and Communities, Pre- and Postmodern* (Duke, 1999)
Carla Freccero, *Queer/Early/Modern* (Duke, 2005)
Victoria Hesford, *Feeling Women's Liberation* (Duke, 2013)
Christopher Nealon, *Foundlings: Lesbian and Gay Historical Emotion Before Stonewall* (Duke, 2001)
Rebecca Schneider, *Performing Remains: Art and War in Times of Theatrical Reenactment* (Routledge, 2011)
Sarah Schulman, *The Gentrification of the Mind: Witness to a Lost Imagination* (California, 2013)
Valerie Traub, *The Renaissance of Lesbianism in Early Modern England* (Cambridge, 2002)

Thursday, March 15: no class, Spring Break

Thursday, March 22: no class, McElya at Storyfort (Treefort Music Festival)

Thursday, March 29: Archives

> Jack Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (Duke, 2005)
> Nan Alamilla Boyd, "Bodies in Motion: Lesbian and Transsexual Histories," in Martin Duberman, ed., *A Queer World: Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* (NYU, 1997)
> Sara Edenheim, "Lost and Never Found: The Queer Archive of Feelings and Its Historical Propriety," *differences* 24, 3 (2014) [pdf]
> Arondekar, Cvetkovich, Hanhardt, Kunzel, Nyong'o, Rodríguez & Stryker, "Queering Archives: A Roundtable Discussion," *Radical History Review* 122 (May 2015) [pdf]
> Kadji Amin, "Haunted by the 1990s: Queer Theory's Affective Histories," *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 44, 3/4 (fall/winter 2016) [pdf]

Supplemental Texts:

Melissa Adler, *Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge* (Fordham, 2017)
Heike Bauer, *The Hirschfeld Archives: Violence, Death, and Modern Queer Culture* (Temple, 2017)
Jean Bessette, *Retroactivism in the Lesbian Archives: Composing Pasts and Futures* (Southern Illinois, 2017)
Judith Butler, *Undoing Gender* (Routledge, 2004)
Christopher Castiglia & Christopher Reed, *If Memory Serves: Gay Men, AIDS, and the Promise of the Queer Past* (Minnesota, 2012)
Ross Chambers, *Untimely Interventions: AIDS Writing, Testimonial, and the Rhetoric of Haunting* (Michigan, 2004)
Ann Cvetkovich, *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures* (Duke, 2003)
Abigail De Kosnik, *Rogue Archives: Digital Cultural Memory and Media Fandom* (MIT, 2016)
Lynne Huffer, *Mad for Foucault: Rethinking the Foundations of Queer Theory* (Columbia, 2009)
Dagmawi Woubshet, *The Calendar of Loss: Race, sexuality, and Mourning in the Early Era of AIDS* (Johns Hopkins, 2015)

Thursday, April 5: no class, McElya at AAH/UK

Thursday, April 12:

> Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke, 2007)
> Jennifer Doyle *On Current Events and Queer Theory* Duke University Press blog, July 29, 2016 [weblink]

Supplemental Texts:

Paul Amar, *The Security Archipelago: Human Security-States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism* (Duke, 2013)
Amy L. Brandzel, *Against Citizenship: The Violence of the Normative* (Illinois, 2016)
Mel Y. Chen, *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect* (Duke, 2012)
Ramzi Fawaz, *The New Mutants: Superheroes and the Radical Imagination of American Comics* (NYU, 2016)
Jin Haritaworn, *Queer Lovers and Hateful Others: Regenerating Violent Times and Places* (Pluto, 2015)
Scott Lauria Morgensen, *Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization* (Minnesota, 2011)
Chandan Reddy, *Freedom with Violence: Race, Sexuality, and the U.S. State* (Duke, 2011)

Thursday, April 19:

> Hiram Pérez, *A Taste for Brown Bodies: Gay Modernity and Cosmopolitan Desire* (NYU, 2015)

Supplemental Texts:

Kadji Amin, *Disturbing Attachments: Genet, Modern Pederasty, and Queer History* (Duke, 2017)
Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism* (Duke, 2011)

Kathrine Frank, *Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality* (NYU, 2015)
Jack Halberstam, *The Queer Art of Failure* (Duke, 2011)
Sharon Patricia Holland, *The Erotic Life of Racism* (Duke, 2012)
Eng-Beng Lim, *Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias* (NYU, 2013)
Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*
(Routledge, 1995)
Juana María Rodríguez, *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings* (NYU, 2014)
Héctor Domínguez Ruvalcaba, *Translating the Queer: Body Politics and Transnational
Conversations* (Zed, 2016)
C. Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity* (Minnesota, 2017)

Thursday, April 26:

Mark Rifkin, *Beyond Settler Time: Temporal Sovereignty and Indigenous Self-Determination*
(Duke, 2017)

Thursday, May 3???: Still Looking for Extra Time To Meet

José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* (NYU, 2009)