

GEOG 507: QUEER GEOGRAPHIES

Winter 2018

Mondays 2:35-5:25, Burnside 429

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Course description: Over the last few decades, geographers have been engaging with queer theory to explore the relationship between sexuality and space. The resulting body of work has greatly expanded our understanding of the spatial productions and expressions of sexual identities. But this important contribution is somewhat paradoxical since queer theory advances a critique of the idea of sexual identity. In this seminar, we will consider the ways in which queer theory can be used in concert with postcolonial, critical race, feminist, and materialist theories to advance a queer approach to space. Moving away from a literal sexual referent, we will consider how broad constellations of power involving dynamics of race, gender, class, colonialism, geopolitics, migration, nationalism, and globalization are central to expressions of heteronormativity and homonormativity.

Though our focus is on developing understanding of queer geographies, the questions we will explore are thoroughly interdisciplinary. As such, the reading list comes from various fields including geography, sociology, cultural studies, law, history and anthropology.

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor. No geography background necessary. This course qualifies as complementary for undergraduates enrolled in the gender, sexuality and feminist studies major or minor, and for graduates participating in the option in gender and women's studies.

Readings: Readings will be made available on myCourses.

Evaluation:

Requirement	Value	Date
Participation and Reading Responses	50%	Ongoing
Essay proposal	10%	March 12
Essay	40%	April 16

Participation

I expect that you will engage with all course materials and attend all classes. As our meetings will be entirely discussion-based, the success of the seminar depends on the quality and thoughtfulness of your critical questions and comments. The fundamental requirement is therefore that you do the readings, think carefully about them, and participate fully in class discussions.

To facilitate our discussions, you are required to submit a short statement (1-2 pages) in reaction to the week's readings followed by three questions for potential discussion during class. This task is to be completed for eight of our nine meetings between weeks 2 to 8 and 10 to 11. You may choose to focus on one or two specific readings or to draw out themes across all of them. Do not summarize the articles. Instead, provide a *critical and analytical* response to them. The aim is to clarify, elaborate, complicate or critique key issues and arguments in the material that you find interesting.

These reading responses must be e-mailed to me by 5 pm on the day before the class to which they relate. They should be saved as a Word document, and the file titled 'LastnameWeek#' (eg. OswinWeek2). Late submissions will not be accepted.

Your participation grade will be based on the quality and clarity of both your weekly written responses and in-class participation.

Essay proposal

On **March 12**, you will submit a 3-4 page essay proposal. The proposal will present your plan for the final essay, including a description of what you intend to write about, a short review of the existing literature on the topic, a statement of its significance in relation to the course and our readings, and a brief overview of your potential argument. The proposal must include a bibliography of sources you will be drawing upon from the course, and any preliminary library research you have conducted.

Essay

The essay can be on any topic insofar as it engages with the themes of the course. You may wish to conduct a critical literature review that either expands on one of the themes directly examined in class or a complementary one of your choosing. Alternatively, you could explore a relevant case study related to a current event, an urban site, a film or a piece of fiction. You are welcome to meet with me to discuss your ideas.

The word limit is 3500-4000 for undergraduates and 5000-5500 for graduates (excluding the bibliography).

Language: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

For information on university and department policies for student assessment, please go to <http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment>

Class schedule and readings:

1. Jan 8 Introduction to the course

- Eng, David L. with Judith Halberstam and Jose Munoz (2005) 'What's queer about queer studies now?' *Social Text* 23(3-4): 1-17.

2. Jan 15 Queer as critique

- Foucault, Michel (1990 [1978]) *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Volume 1*. Translated by Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 1-13, 92-114.
- Butler, Judith (1993) 'Critically Queer,' *GLQ* 1(1): 17-32.
- Cohen, Cathy (1997) 'Punks, bulldaggers, and welfare queens: The radical potential of queer politics?' *GLQ* 3(4): 437-465.
- Berlant, Lauren and Michael Warner (1998) 'Sex in Public,' *Critical Inquiry* 24(2): 547-66.
- Munoz, Jose Esteban (1999) 'Performing disidentifications', in his *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1-25.
- Ferguson, Roderick (2004) 'Introduction', in his *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1-23.

3. Jan 22 Queer time

- Edelman, Lee (2004) 'The future is kid stuff', chapter one of his *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1-32.
- Hoad, Neville (2000) 'Arrested development or the queerness of savages: resisting evolutionary narratives of difference,' *Postcolonial Studies* 3(3): 133-158.
- Arondekar, Anjali (2005) 'Without a trace: Sexuality and the colonial archive,' *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 14(1-2): 10-27.
- Smith, Andrea (2010) 'Queer theory and Native studies: The heteronormativity of settler colonialism,' *GLQ* 16(1-2): 42-68.
- Shakhsari, Sima (2014) 'The queer time of death: Temporality, geopolitics and refugee rights,' *Sexualities* 17(8): 998-1015.

4. Jan 29 National desires

- Livermon, Xavier (2012) 'Queer(y)ing freedom: Black queer visibilities in postapartheid South Africa,' *GLQ* 18(2-3): 297-323.
- Dave, Naisargi (2011) 'Indian and lesbian and what came next: Affect, commensuration and queer emergences,' *American Ethnologist* 38(4): 650-665.
- Wahab, Amar (2012) 'Homophobia as the state of reason: The case of postcolonial Trinidad and Tobago,' *GLQ* 18(4): 481-505.
- Friedman, Sara L. (2017) 'Stranger anxiety: Failed legal equivalences and the challenges of intimate recognition in Taiwan,' *Public Culture* 29(3): 433-455.
- Finley, Chris (2011) 'Decolonizing the queer Native body (and recovering the Native bull-dyke) Bringing 'sexy back' and out of Native studies' closet,' in Driskill, Finley, Gilley and Morgensen (eds) *Queer Indigenous Studies: Critical Interventions in Theory, Politics and Literature*, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 31-42.

5. Feb 5 Metronormativities I

- Bell, D. and J. Binnie (2004) 'Authenticating queer space: Citizenship, urbanism and governance', *Urban Studies*, 41: 1807-1820.
- Tongson, Karen (2011) 'Introduction', to her *Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries*. New York: NYU Press, pp. 1-27.
- Ware, Syrus Marcus (2017) 'All power to all people? Black LGBTTI2QQ activism, remembrance, and archiving in Toronto,' *Transgender Studies Quarterly* 4(2): 170-180.
- Andersson, Johan (2015) 'Wilding in the West Village: Queer space, racism, and Jane Jacobs Hagiography,' *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39(2): 265-283.
- Bailey, Marlon (2014) 'Engendering space: Ballroom culture and the spatial practice of possibility in Detroit,' *Gender, Place and Culture* 21(4): 489-507.
- *Kiki* (2016) [documentary to be shown in class]

6. Feb 12 Metronormativities II

- Delaney, Samuel (1999) Part I: Times Square Blue, of his *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*, New York: New York University Press, pp. 1-108.
- Stanley, Eric (forthcoming) 'The affective commons: Gay shame, queer hate, and other collective feelings', *GLQ*.
- Duggan, Áine (2011) "'Nobody Should Ever Feel the Way That I Felt": A Portrait of Jay Toole and Queer Homelessness,' *Scholar & Feminist Online* 10 (1-2). <http://sfonline.barnard.edu/a-new-queer-agenda/nobody-should-ever-feel-the-way-that-i-felt-a-portrait-of-jay-toole-and-queer-homelessness/>

7. Feb 19 The global gay

- Altman, Dennis (1997) 'Global gaze/ Global gays,' *GLQ* 3(4): 417-436.
- Manalansan, Martin (2015) 'Queer worldings: The messy art of being global in Manila and New York' *Antipode* 47(3): 566-579.

- Benedicto, Bobby (2008) 'The haunting of gay Manila: Global space-time and the specter of *Kabaklaan*,' *GLQ* 14(2-3): 317-338.
- Schroeder, William F. (2012) 'On cowboys and aliens: Affective history and queer becoming in contemporary China,' *GLQ* 18(4): 425-452.
- Newton, Natalie (2016) 'Contingent invisibility: Space, community, and invisibility for *Les* in Saigon,' *GLQ* 22(1): 109-136.

8. Feb 26 Queer migrations I

- Weston, Kath (1995) 'Get Thee to a Big City: Sexual Imaginary and the Great Gay Migration,' *GLQ* 2(3): 253-278.
- Luibheid, Eithne (2008) 'Sexuality, migration, and the shifting line between legal and illegal status,' *GLQ* 14(2-3): 289-315.
- Aizura, Aren (2010) 'Feminine Transformations: Gender reassignment surgical tourism in Thailand,' *Medical Anthropology: Cross-cultural studies in health and illness* 28(4): 424-443.
- Catungal, John Paul (2017) 'Toward queer(er) futures: Proliferating the 'sexual' in Filipinx Canadian sexuality studies,' in *Diasporic intimacies: Queer Filipinos and Canadian imaginaries*. Diaz, Largo and Pino (eds), Chicago: Northwestern University Press, pp. 23-40
- Chavez, Karma (2017) 'From sanctuary to a queer politics of fugitivity,' *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking* 4(2): 63-70.

*** Reading break March 5-9 ***

9. March 12 Queer migrations II

- *Paper dolls* (2006) [documentary to be shown in-class]

No Readings *** Essay proposals due

10. March 19 Reproductive and intimate justice

- Briggs, Laura (2017) Introduction, and Chapters 3, 4 and 5, in her *How all Politics Became Reproductive Politics*, Oakland: University of California Press, pp. 1-18, 75-187.
 - Luibheid, Eithne, Rosi Andrade and Sally Stevens (2017) 'Intimate attachments and migrant deportability: lessons from undocumented mothers seeking benefits for citizen children,' *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 41(1): 17-35.
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11. March 26 Criminalization and incarceration

- Kunzel, Regina (2010) 'Lessons in being gay', chapter six of her *Criminal Intimacy: Prison and the Uneven History of Modern American Sexuality*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 191-223.
 - Pasko, Lisa (2010) 'Setting the record "straight": Girls, sexuality, and the juvenile correctional system,' *Social Justice* 37(1): 7-26.
 - Shabazz, Rashad (2015) 'Ghost mapping: The geography of risk in Black Chicago,' chapter five of his *Spatializing Blackness: Architectures of Confinement and Black Masculinity in Chicago*, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, pp. 97-113.
 - Spade, Dean and Craig Willse (2014) 'Sex, gender, and war in an age of multicultural imperialism,' *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking* 1(1): 5-29.
 - *Cruel and Unusual* (2006) [documentary to be shown in-class]
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12. April 9 Wrap up

- Munoz, Jose Esteban (2010) 'The future is in the present: Sexual avant-gardes and the performance of utopia,' chapter three of his *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*, New York: NYU Press, pp. 49-64.
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13. April 16 No class

** Essays due