

QUEER STUDIES

WMST 303 / ENGL 395

An interdisciplinary study of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) experiences that introduces students to personal, cultural, and political aspects of queer life while examining social forces such as heteronormativity, social construction of gender, and homophobia.

Focuses on issues of particular importance to LGBTQ people while exploring gender and encouraging examination of the many ways in which sexuality intersects with gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, ability and other identities.

How do we define queer? Who/how is queer? What are the benefits/limitations of the concept of queer? What tensions exist between lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movements? How do race/gender/class intersect with sexuality? How and why have queer histories, experiences, activities, and knowledge been rendered invisible?



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Office Hrs: Tues 12:30-3:30pm

ACCESSIBILITY

I am committed to ensuring the full participation of all students, so please notify me within the first week of class if you need an accommodation for a disability. I will be happy to work with you. ODU also has many support services, including the Writing Center and peer tutoring, that are available to all students.



PARTICIPATION

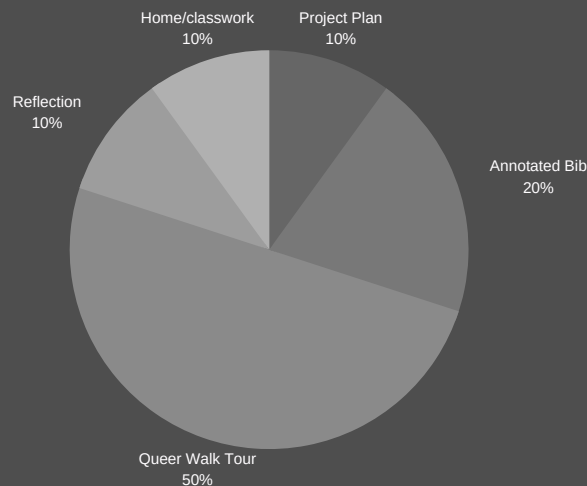
You are expected to participate in discussions, to thoughtfully analyze and question reading materials and ideas covered in class. If you have difficulty speaking in class, see me as soon as possible, and I will help you strategize methods for participating.



Discussions should be supportive so that we can disagree while remaining respectful of others' ideas and contributions. Do not disrespect or belittle classmates or the instructor, interrupt while others are talking, make comments under your breath or to a neighbor while someone is speaking, or dominate discussion.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

See Blackboard for assignment details.



A	93 - 100 - 90 - 92 + 88 - 89
B	83 - 87 - 80 - 82 + 78 - 79
C	73 - 77 - 70 - 72 + 68 - 69
D	63 - 67 - 60 - 62
F	< 60

TEXTBOOKS

Readings designated as (BB) are on Blackboard. Always bring a copy of the readings to class on the day they will be discussed.

Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies (3rd edition)
by Alexander, Meem, Gibson
ISBN: 9781506337401

When Brooklyn Was Queer (WBWQ on this syllabus)
by Hugh Ryan
ISBN: 9781250169914

Major assignments accepted late at my discretion. No late homework.

For absences longer than a week (illness, family emergency, etc.) contact Student Support Services at www.odu.edu/ssc.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of class and is part of your participation grade.

No make-up quizzes. When available, extra credit (see Blackboard) replaces missed quizzes.

Your success is important to me. See me if you have trouble completing assignments, meeting deadlines, coming to class, or have other extenuating circumstances. Try to let me know ahead of time.

SCHEDULE

8/26 WHAT IS QUEER STUDIES? GENDER AND SEXUALITY PRIMER Finding Out: Introduction WBWQ: prologue and introduction BB: Bulldykes, Faggots, and Fairies, Queer 101	9/2 LABOR DAY No class	9/9 BEFORE IDENTITY Finding Out: Ch. 1 BB: Eighteenth-Century Fantasy and the Lesbian Image WBWQ: Chapters 1 and 2 Homework due on BB by 4pm: Why Queer Studies and Allusionist
9/16 WORKING WITH ODU'S LGBTQ ARCHIVES Meet in Perry Library Special Collections – be on time and plan to stay for the entire class period BB: Blazing Trails With Pink Triangles and Rainbow Flags Before class, read QWT assignment and bring a <i>printed</i> list of 3 topics you are interested in exploring for that assignment.	9/23 SEXOLOGY Finding Out: Ch. 2 and Capitalism and Gay Identity (pp. 51 – 54) BB: A Worm in the Bud WBWQ: Chapter 3 In class Film: Paragraph 175 (81 mins) Due on BB by 11pm: Research Project Plan	9/30 WORKING IN NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES Meet in Slover Library lobby. Be on time because we won't wait for you. Presentation of the Sargeant Memorial Collection and time to research after. You must get your free library card before this date. Directions + parking info: https://www.sloverlibrary.com/directions-parking .
10/7 INHABITING QUEER SPACES/QUEER STORYTELLING Meeting location TBA. Bring your laptop/tablet if you have one and/or a notebook. You should also bring any research you've gathered for the QWT assignment.	10/14 FALL BREAK No class	10/21 TOWARD LIBERATION Finding Out: Ch. 3 BB: A Hundred Years of Transgender History WBWQ: Chapters 4 - 6 In class Film: Before Stonewall (87 mins) Homework due on BB by 4pm: #transHealthFail
10/28 QUEER WALKING TOUR WORK DAY Meet in the classroom. Upload your finalized QWT script to Google Drive before class, + bring 2 printed copies to class. We will critique your script. Attendance is mandatory; if you are absent I'll assume you are not attending the QWT and will eliminate your stop from the itinerary.	11/3 QUEER WALKING TOUR OF NORFOLK Meet outside BAL entrance that faces the library. The bus leaves at 1pm, so don't be late! Bus returns to ODU by 4pm. Attendance is mandatory. There are no opportunities to make up this assignment.	11/4 QUEER NORMALIZATION AND BEYOND Finding Out: Ch. 4 BB: What's Wrong With Normal; Stonewall Uprising (82 mins) WBWQ: Chapter 7
11/11 NATURE, NURTURE, AND IDENTITY Finding Out: Ch. 5 BB: You Say Nature I Say Nurture Due on BB by 11pm: Annotated Bibliography	11/18 QUEER DIVERSITIES Finding Out: Ch. 6 BB: Denying Complexity: The Dismissal and Appropriation of Bisexuality Due on Wordpress by 11pm: QWT assignment	11/25 INTERSECTIONALITIES Finding Out: Ch. 7 BB: Black Gay Man: Intro In class Film: Paris is Burning (71 mins) Due on Google Drive by 11pm: QWT timeline assignment
12/2 FILM AND TELEVISION Finding Out: Ch. 10 BB: What is Queer Film? In class Film: Celluloid Closet (101 mins)	12/9 EXAM PERIOD (3:45PM - 6:45PM) Finish Celluloid Closet and related discussion Due on BB by 4pm: Reflection Letter	



ESSAY FORMAT

Double or single-spaced (unless specified)
 12-point Times New Roman
 1-inch margins
 Save as .doc, .docx, or .rtf
 Use MLA documentation guidelines



WRITING HELP

I encourage you to visit the Writing Center for help with your assignments. Their services are free and invaluable.

Learning Commons Room 1208, 683-4013



PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's work as your own. Many students struggle to fully understand what plagiarism is, so familiarize yourself with ODU's Honor Code and Pledge and review the plagiarism tutorial on Blackboard. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; anyone suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Council. If you have questions, come see me or visit the Writing Center.



EMAIL POLICY

I try to respond to emails within 48 hours. Please send email inquiries only after checking Blackboard and the syllabus for an answer to your question. Talking in person is usually much more effective than email, so let's meet face to face if possible.

If you miss class, refer to the schedule and contact a classmate. I'm happy to meet in my office to discuss what you missed but will not answer those questions via email.



EMERGENCIES

If I must cancel class I will alert you in class or via email. Inclement weather closings come directly from ODU administration, so check the ODU website or call 683-3000. Work is due unless I tell you otherwise.