

INTRODUCTION TO QUEER STUDIES
Spring 2020 Revised

GST 202

SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR	Julie R. Enszer, PhD
CLASS TIME	Online
OFFICE HOURS	Fridays 2-4 p.m.; available by telephone, Skype, Facetime
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OFFICE TELEPHONE	813/502-5549

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of queer and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) studies. This course examines the historical and social contexts of personal, cultural and political aspects of queer/LGBT life, and it explores LGBT liberation movements in relation to families, religion, laws, and society using intersectional lenses that consider gender, ethnicity, race, class, and ability. We will consider the status, roles, and experiences, of lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgender people, using a variety of sources from fields such as anthropology, history, literature, sociology, and women's studies. Through the readings, discussions, and assignments, you will develop critical analytical skills to consider social change movements with particular attention to how sex, gender, race, class, sexuality, sexual orientation, and other systems of power shape people's everyday lives.

COURSE GOALS

Upon the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify, understand, and interrogate the role of institutional and individual power in relationship to constructions of sexual orientation, gender identity, and systems of sex/gender.
- Understand and explicate the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality in the lives of lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgender people.
- Articulate concepts, theories, and methods of queer/LGBT Studies scholarship as they relate to the humanities.
- Outline a rudimentary history of LGBT people in the United States and its cultural and historical context in relationship to the status, roles and experiences of LGBT people—and explicate your relationship to the LGBT story.
- Understand, develop, and articulate an analysis of power, inequality, and social and economic justice.

- Situate queer/LGBT studies as an academic location and as a site for liberatory social change.

SKILLS

I assume that you enter this class with the following skills:

- Read for speed and retention,
- Ability to summarize key points in a book, article, or visual object, and
- Write clear and cogent sentences, paragraphs, and essays.

We will work to develop these skills through this class:

- Close reading of a variety of texts,
- Analysis of meaning of a variety of texts,
- Engage in activism,
- Analyze the effectiveness of activism,
- Build and defend arguments, and
- Think critically.

TEACHING/LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

I believe that learning is a lifelong, shared experience among people committed to accessing and creating the knowledge that they need to transform their lives. Knowledge enables us to fulfill our responsibilities to one another and to live with integrity in relationship to the core beliefs and principles that shape our lives.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

This class is an online, asynchronous class. It is reading, writing, and thinking intensive. Doing online education in an asynchronous environment requires self-discipline to keep up with the material and challenge yourself to learn. This class proceeds in a manner very similar to your face-to-face courses. Each week you will be responsible for reading the assigned material, discussing it with other members of the class, and analyzing the course materials with class members. Expect to spend 5-6 hours reading each week and an additional 3-4 hours working in Blackboard. Do not get behind! If I see you falling behind, I will reach out to you to schedule a meeting. Feel free to reach out to me and let me know what is going on for you if you fall behind.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

I endeavor to respond to all telephone calls and email messages within 24 hours during the work week. I do not respond to messages on weekends.

ABOUT GENDER STUDIES at OLE MISS

The Isom Center offers a Gender Studies Minor, an interdisciplinary course of study that will help students understand how and why notions of “masculinity” and “femininity” have changed at different times and in different cultures. Analysis of gender also

includes attention to other social categories, such as race, ethnicity, class, nationality, ability, age, and sexual orientation. Students can select from a variety of cross-listed courses taught by some of the best and most innovative teachers from the departments of African-American Studies, Classics, English, History, Modern Languages, Political Science, Philosophy & Religion, Psychology, Sociology & Anthropology, and Southern Studies. A minor with an emphasis in Sexuality & Queer Studies is also available. All students are encouraged to see Dr. Jaime Harker, Director of the Isom Center, to enroll in the minor.

COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE STATEMENT

Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

M-BOOK SUMMARY

The University of Mississippi is dedicated to supporting and sustaining a safe and scholarly community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence inside and outside of the classroom. Each student has a duty to become familiar with University values and standards reflected in University policies, and each student has a duty to honor University values and standards reflected in University policies. These policies are outlined in the M Book. For a complete listing of policies, please visit the University Policy Directory.

STUDENT PRIVACY POLICY

The University of Mississippi protects the privacy of all students, including online and distance learning students, through adherence to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) through compliance with other institutional policies and procedures governing the management and security of protected information of faculty, staff, and students, and by outlining the expectations of privacy for the university community as regards to electronic information. [Student Privacy Policy](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

University policy provides for reasonable accommodations to be made for students with verified disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis as specified under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Students with disabilities who believe they may benefit from classroom or other accommodations should contact the Office of Student Disability Services for information: 234 Martindale, 662-915-7128 (Telephone), 662-915-7907 (TTY), sds@olemiss.edu.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Please inform me of any intended absences for religious observance by the end of the third week of classes. Please note that I will be unavailable during the Jewish Holidays that occur during the semester. Generally, these are twenty-four hour observances; you may see a delay in email responsiveness during these holidays, and I do not schedule student meetings during the holidays.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Think/Analyze: Class Discussion (25% of course grade) 250 points

Students are expected to login to Blackboard and participate in class discussions regularly. Consistent participation offers the opportunity to all students to gain command of the concepts and materials of their courses of study. Check courseware and email regularly for important information, changes, and instructions. Each week, students are required to post to the Think/Analyze Class Discussion by 5 p.m. on Wednesday and to post responses to two classmates' contributions by 5 p.m. on Friday.

Guidelines for class discussions:

- Read carefully and consider all of the materials for each course meeting.
- Take notes as you read/watch/observe/absorb.
- Bring questions to class to help clarify your understanding of the texts.
- Bring questions that help us engage more deeply with the texts and the ideas they present.
- Identify important themes & concepts in the readings
- Demonstrate specific knowledge of each of the readings.
- Make connections between readings, class lectures, films, and your own personal observations, thoughts, and insights.
- Draw thoughtful conclusions.
- Discuss how course materials make you feel and include your own perspectives supported by the texts or other authoritative sources.

Points for class discussion will be given in three increments:

- Up to 100 points will be awarded for class participation from the beginning class through March 2nd, based on the number of contributions to the class discussion and the quality of the contributions.
- Up to 25 points will be awarded for participating in the midterm meeting/discussion with other class members and the instructor.
- The final 125 points will be awarded at the conclusion of the semester reflecting all of the class discussions over the course of the full semester.

2. 5 Quizzes (25% of course grade) 250 points total; 50 points for each quiz

- Quiz 1 covers the syllabus and introductory activities and must be complete by Tuesday, January 28th at 11:59 p.m.
- Quiz 2 covers *Queer: A Graphic History* and must be completed by Sunday, February 2nd at 11:59 p.m.
- Quiz 3 covers *Transgender History* and must be completed by Sunday, February 15th at 11:59 p.m.
- Quiz 4 covers *Bastard Out of Carolina* and must be completed by Sunday, March 29th at 11:59 p.m.
- Quiz 5 covers *Pride & Exile* and must be completed by Sunday, April 12th at 11:59 p.m.

The quizzes will cover the content of the readings and include multiple choice questions, short answer, and a brief essay questions. Each quiz will be structured differently. Quizzes will launch about a week before they are due and students can complete them at any point during the week.

The instructor endeavors to grade quizzes within one week of the due date.

3. 3 Short 3-5 Page Papers (25% of course grade) 250 points total; 75 points for Paper 1; 75 points for paper 2; 100 points for paper 3

Paper 1: Compare and contrast *Queer: A Graphic History* and *Transgender History* in a brief essay.

This essay is due by midnight on Monday, February 17, 2020.

Paper 2: Select one scene from *Bastard Out of Carolina* and provide a close reading of the material. Explore in particular the meaning, symbolism, and imagery of the material. Think in particular about the questions, What does this work tell us about queerness? What does this work tell us about the south? *Write* your way through a close reading to a meaningful analysis.

This essay is due by midnight on Monday, March 30, 2020.

Paper 3: What is your stake in the queer story? Throughout the course of this class, we have read, watched, and listened to a variety of stories about queer life in the United States with a particular focus on queer life in the south. Write an essay that tells your stake in the queer story.

This essay is due by midnight on Monday, April 27, 2020.

The instructor endeavors to grade short papers within two weeks of the due date.

4. 2 Minute Final Exam (25% of course grade) 250 points total

Each student will prepare and upload a **two-minute video**. The video can be created in any way s/he/they wish and include any type of media desired, but must have a start button and must end at minute 2. The video should present in some detail the most important thing you learned in GS 202. You will more than likely wish to refer to a passage (or more) that we considered in the class. Remember, you only have two

minutes. Think carefully about this video and how you create it. You will probably want to muse upon any other critical observations, contentions, assertions you encountered over this course of study.

BE IMAGINATIVE and have fun with these videos. The best sort of intellectual work is both fun and creative.

The 2 Minute Final Exam is due on Monday, May 4, 2020 by 12noon.

The instructor will grade the 2 minute final exam and post final grades by Friday, May 8, 2020.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Any edition of the following texts:

Allison, Dorothy. *Bastard Out of Carolina*.
Barker, Meg-John and Julia Scheele. *Queer: A Graphic History*.
Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*.
Clare, Eli. *Pride and Exile*.
Stryker, Susan. *Transgender History*.

(Most of these books are widely available used. Check out [Alibris](#), [AbeBooks](#), and the [Amazon marketplace](#).)

REQUIRED FILM

Rees, Dee. *Pariah*. 2011. Movie is available on a variety of streaming services for free, purchase, or rent at different times including Netflix, Amazon, and iTunes.

REQUIRED PODCAST

Dolly Parton's America. <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/dolly-partons-america>

COURSE OUTLINE

Week of January 21

Welcome
Introductions

Week of January 27

Quiz 1 due on Tuesday, January 28th at 11:59 p.m.

Queer: A Graphic History

Week of February 3

Transgender History

“How To Read” & Thinking, Reading, Writing, and Speaking as a Critically-Engaged Person

Quiz 2 due on Sunday, February 2nd at 11:59 p.m.

Week of February 10

Transgender History

Quiz 3 due on Sunday, February 16th at 11:59 p.m.

Week of February 17

Pariah

Short Paper 1 due on February 17th at 11:59 p.m.

Week of February 24

Video Meetings

Work by E. Patrick Johnson:
Sweet Tea & Black. Queer. Southern. Women.
(Selections available on BlackBoard)

Week of March 2

Video Meetings

Dolly Parton's America

Episode: The Only One for Me, Jolene (36 minutes)
+ One additional episode of your choosing

Week of March 9

Spring Break

Week of March 16

~~*Spring Break 2!*~~

Deleted: *Bastard Out of Carolina*

Week of March 23

Bastard Out of Carolina

Week of March 30

Bastard Out of Carolina

Quiz 4 due on Sunday, April 5th at 11:59 p.m.

Week of April 6

Short Paper 2 due on April 6th at 11:59 p.m.

Pride & Exile

Week of April 13

Pride & Exile

Quiz 5 due on Sunday, April 19th at 11:59 p.m.

Week of April 20

Fun Home

Week of April 27

Short Paper 3 due on Monday, April 27th at 11:59 p.m.

Fun Home

Monday, May 4th by 12noon – 2 minute final exam due

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