



Course # 18858: HUM 4823
“Queer Theory in the Humanities”
Spring 2018
Dr. Claudia Schippert
Office: PSY241
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm
and by appointment

Course Description:

What is queer theory? What does it do? Is queer theory only for queers? What makes a theory queer? Queer theory is one of the most influential intellectual developments in academic scholarship emerging in the last decade of the 20th century and continuing to spark debates in literature, art, history, philosophy, religion, and other humanities. Challenging what is ‘natural’ or ‘normal’ in various realms of culture and scholarship, queer theoretical approaches are continuing to provoke conflict and challenge in academic scholarship and beyond.

This upper level Humanities course will introduce students to queer theory by studying some of the key works by influential queer theorists. We will also engage from a queer theoretical perspective work by scholars, activists, performers, and visual artists that fundamentally challenged and continues to influence ways to think, read, write, and act within and beyond the academy. Students will learn about, and practice how to evaluate, issues in popular culture from a queer theoretical perspective.

This Humanities course is interdisciplinary and it requires students to be willing to read at times difficult theoretical texts and to explore areas of scholarship that might be at the boundaries or beyond their own disciplinary training or interest. Some prior training in theory and/or humanities research and an ability and willingness to think and write critically are necessary for success in this course. Critical in-class discussions based on regular and extensive reading and writing are central components of the requirements. Furthermore, as a 4000 level HUM course, completion of a research paper is required.

In studying scholarly work that is written from queer perspectives, the material discussed in this course often assumes the perspective of lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, intersexed, or otherwise non-normative people. Students are not required to share any particular identity, sexuality, or to agree with any specific intellectual position. However, a critical openness to the material is required. If a student feels uncomfortable with the content of the course, the student should discuss this with the instructor within the first week of the semester.

TEXTS:

- Muñoz, José E. *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*. University of Minnesota Press, 1999. ISBN: 0816630151
- Halberstam, Judith Jack. *The Queer Art of Failure*. Durham, Duke University Press, 2011. 978-0822350453
- Puar, Jasbir K. *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*. Duke University Press, 2007. ISBN: 082234114X.
- Eng, David. *The Feeling of Kinship: Queer Liberalism and the Racialization of Intimacy*. Duke University Press, 2010. ISBN:0822347326
- **Other articles, video clips, or additional material will be available through the website.**

Requirements

In this web course, students will explore the material by reading books and online texts, discussing the required readings, taking brief content quizzes, contributing to discussions and responding to other students' and instructor comments and developing their own perspective by proposing, drafting, revising, and completing a paper utilizing queer theory.

Specific requirements are listed in each Module Introduction. Below you find a summary:

Module	Week	Topic	Requirements	Points
0	1	Introduction	Introductory Posting	5
			Take Quiz	4
			Are you Here-Quiz	1
1	2	Background: Foucault and Queer Theory	1.0 Read Spargo. <i>Foucault and Queer Theory</i> (online)	10
			1.1 Take Quiz 1	
			1.2 Discussion Post about reading	20
1.3 Response to another student's posting				
2	3-4	Disidentifications	2.0 Read Muñoz. <i>Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics</i> .	

			<p>2.1 Posting: First Discussion Post about Introduction+ Chapters 1+3+4. (2 optional)</p> <p>2.1 Response: Engage and Respond to First Discussion Postings</p> <p>2.2 Posting: Second Discussion Post about Chapters 5+6 (7+8 optional)</p> <p>2.2 Response to Second Post</p> <p>2.3 Quiz about required module readings</p>	<p>20</p> <p>20</p> <p>10</p>
3	5-6	Queer Art of Failure	<p>3.0 Read Halberstam. <i>The Queer Art of Failure</i>.</p> <p>3.1 Posting: First Discussion Post about Introduction + Chapters 1+2+3</p> <p>3.1 Response: Engage and Respond to First Discussion Postings</p> <p>3.2 Posting: Second Discussion Post about Chapters 4+5+6</p> <p>3.2 Responses to Second Post</p> <p>3.3 Quiz about Module</p>	<p>20</p> <p>20</p> <p>10</p>
Research Proposal	7	Write and submit a proposal and brief description of your research paper topic		10
4	8-9	Terrorist Assemblages	<p>4.0 Read Puar. <i>Terrorist Assemblages</i></p> <p>4.1 Posting: First Discussion Post about Introduction - Chapters 1+2</p> <p>4.1 Response: Engage and Respond to First Discussion Postings</p>	<p>20</p> <p>20</p>

			4.2 Posting: Second Discussion Post about Chapters 3+4+Conclusion 4.2 Responses to Second Post 4.3 Quiz about Module	10
Research Draft	10-11	Produce draft, peer-review and revise draft of Research Paper		10 5 10
5	12-13	The Feeling of Kinship	5.0 Read Eng. <i>The Feeling of Kinship</i> 5.1 Posting: First Discussion Post about Introduction + Chapter 1+2 5.1 Response: Engage and Respond to First Discussion Postings 5.2 Posting: Second Discussion Post about Chapters 3+4+5 5.2 Responses to Second Post 5.3 Quiz about Module	20 20 10
6	14-15	Conclusion and Final Research Paper	6.1 Final Discussion Postings Final Research Paper	5 20

IMPORTANT NOTES (THE FINE PRINT)

MAKE-UP WORK / EXTRA CREDIT

As a rule, no make-up assignments or extra credit will be given. Discussions, Assignments, and Quizzes will not reopen after they have closed. Plan to do the necessary work to succeed on your assignments by the deadline clearly stated.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All work that you submit for this class must be your own, and it must be written exclusively for this course. Also, any sources consulted for your writing must be properly documented. "Rewriting," in which a student consults a source, changes a few words, and presents the ideas as his/her own, is plagiarism. All of the following activities constitute plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
 - copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
 - failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
 - giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
 - changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
 - copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not
- Note: it is even possible to plagiarize yourself if you turn in work that you have written previously, or that you are using for another class, as if it is original for this class. If you want to use work for more than one class, you should *always* discuss this with both professors before you submit the work.

The standard punishment for plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment is an "F" for the assignment or even for the entire course. Plagiarism and cheating subjects a student to referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>). I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, do not cheat by giving answers to others or by taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so do not expect me to change your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

TURNITIN.COM

The instructor may ask you to submit your written assignments to turnitin.com.

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of

the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular

weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. This service is free, so you should take advantage of it. 407-823-2197 <http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/>

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.