



Queer Histories

ENGL 388: Topics in LGBTQ Studies

Prof. Lara Farina, MWF 12:30-1:20

This course explores what it means for people in marginalized sexual groups to lay claim to a history. Toward that end, we will look at representations of queer, trans, and/or intersex figures in literary history, particularly as these are depicted by figures who could be considered sexually nonconforming themselves. This material challenges the assumption that past cultures didn't allow for sexual diversity and that sex and gender categories have been rigidly binary until very recently. Topics include: premodern, early modern, and indigenous theories of gender; same-sex desire in early literature; trans narratives; adaptation and historical reclamation; colonization and historical revision; historical amnesia; and queerness as anti-identity.

Possible readings:

Plato's *Symposium*
Silence, a Thirteenth-Century Romance
Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*
Claude McKay's *Romance in Marseille*
Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands*
Natalie Diaz's *Postcolonial Love Poem*
Jenn Shapland's *My Autobiography of Carson McCullers*
Justin Torres's *Blackouts*