

Queer Histories

ENGL 388: Topics in LGBTQ Studies
Prof. Farina; TuTh 1:00-2:15

This course in LGBTQ Studies explores what it means for people in often marginalized sexual groups to have a history and how literature enables or inhibits our historical narratives. We will work to challenge the assumption that past cultures didn't allow for sexual diversity and that sex and gender categories have been rigidly binary until very recently. The course will introduce students to historically variable categories of sexual identity and will explore whether identification is necessary for the connection of "queer" people over time. Topics will include: premodern, early modern, and Indigenous theories of gender; intersex identities; same-sex desire in early period literature; trans narratives; adaptation and historical reclamation; colonization and historical revision; historical amnesia; homo-nationalism; and queerness as anti-identity.

Readings may include works by Plato, Ovid, Hildris of Cornwall, Margery Kempe, Christopher Marlowe, Virginia Woolf, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, David Henry Hwang, Gloria Anzaldúa, Jeanette Winterson, Tommy Pico, Qwo-Li Driscoll, and Chrystos. Films may include: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Orlando*, *Edward II*, *The Watermelon Woman*, *M. Butterfly*, and/or *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*.

Students will do a research paper on a topic and text of their choice, one that relates the writing of past eras to present-day LGBTQ experience.

