American Studies 650/ Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies 681
Queer/ing Popular Culture
Fall 2015

Instructor: Mel Stanfill
Time: T 4:30-7:20
Place: Heavilon Hall, Room G4

Office Hours: By appointment
Office Location: Heavilon Hall, Room G2A
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Course Description

"Queer" is a slur, a form of activism, and an area of academic inquiry; an umbrella term for the QUILTBAG population and an identity category in its own right; a noun, an adjective, and a verb. This course explores the interplay between these forms of "queer" in popular culture— popular culture that is *about* queers, that *is* queer, and the process of queer*ing* it. It is organized around, but also troubles, the traditional division of media studies into production, text, and audience, looking at how queers produce media, how queer media is produced, and how media production is queer; how texts are about queers or *are* queer or queering/disorienting; queer folks as audiences, audiences for queer texts, or audiences as queering ostensibly "straight" texts; as well as how with digital media things get quite queer with drawing sharp categorical distinctions between these three sites at all.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:
- Have a foundational understanding of queer studies
- Gain familiarity with production, text, and audience approaches to popular cultural study
- Understand and be able to conduct queer analysis of popular culture
- Acquire familiarity with the fundamentals of academic publishing

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Questions (15%, 15 points x 10): In 10 of 15 weeks of their choice, students will send me 3 discussion questions by email, due 2 hours before class time.

Journal Review (25%, 250 points): Students will review the most recent 3 years of a journal of their choice for how queer popular culture/queer analysis of popular culture features in the scholarship it publishes.

Paper Proposal (10%, 100 points): A 2-3 page proposal of a research question and a plan for how the student intends to answer it.

Paper Draft (10%, 100 points): Students will produce a full draft of their paper for peer review.

Peer Review (10%, 2 x 50 points): Students will perform double-blind peer review on two other students' papers.

Final Paper (30%, 300 points): Based on the feedback from the reviews, students will revise their final paper and submit it.

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Required Reading

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The reading for this course is relatively light (~100 pgs/week) and focused (specific chapters rather than entire books).

Books to Purchase:
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*.
    Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. ISBN: 9781137272966
Doty, Alexander. *Making Things Perfectly Queer: Interpreting Mass Culture*. Minneapolis:
    University of Minnesota Press, 1993. ISBN: 0816622450
Henderson, Lisa. *Love and Money: Queers, Class, and Cultural Production*. NYU Press, 2013. ISBN:
    9780814790571
Royster, Francesca T. *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul
    Era*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780472051793

August 25 - Foundations I: Queer Theory/Studies
Sweeney, Miriam E. "How to Read for Grad School." 2012.
    http://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/
Berlant, Lauren, and Michael Warner. "What Does Queer Theory Teach Us about X?" *PMLA:
    Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 110, no. 3 (1995): 343–49.
Butler, Judith. *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex."* New York, NY: Routledge,
    1993: "Introduction," "Critically Queer" – on Blackboard
Cohen, Cathy J. "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer
    Politics?" *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 3, no. 4 (1997): 437–65. – on
    Blackboard
McRuer, Robert. "Introduction: Compulsory Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence."
    Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability. New York: NYU Press, 2006: pp. 1-
    32 – Full text available through Ebrary
Warner, Michael. "From Queer to Eternity: An Army of Theorists Cannot Fail." *Village Voice
    Literary Supplement*, June 1992. – on Blackboard

September 1 - Foundations II: Queer Reading
Doty, Alexander. *Making Things Perfectly Queer: Interpreting Mass Culture*. Minneapolis:
    University of Minnesota Press, 1993: Introduction, Ch 1, Ch 3
Russo, Julie Levin. "Sex Detectives: *Law & Order: SVU*'s Fans, Critics, and Characters Investigate
    Lesbian Desire." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 3 (2009). doi:10.3983/twc.v3i0.155
    http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/155
Warner, Michael. "Publics and Counterpublics." *Public Culture* 14, no. 1 (2002): 49–90.

September 8, Queer/ing Production: Introduction

Havens, Timothy, Amanda D. Lotz, and Serra Tinic. "Critical Media Industry Studies: A Research Approach." *Communication, Culture & Critique* 2, no. 2 (2009): 234–53. doi:10.1111/j.1753-9137.2009.01037.x.

Joyrich, Lynne. 2014. "Queer Television Studies: Currents, Flows, and (Main)streams." *Cinema Journal* 53 (2): 133–39. doi:10.1353/cj.2014.0015.

Miller, Quinn. 2014. "Queer Recalibration." *Cinema Journal* 53 (2): 140–44. doi:10.1353/cj.2014.0018.

Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 4, 10

Aslinger, Ben. 2009. "Creating a Network for Queer Audiences at Logo TV." *Popular Communication* 7 (2): 107–21. doi:10.1080/15405700902776495.

Ng, Eve. 2013. "A 'Post-Gay' Era? Media Gaystreaming, Homonormativity, and the Politics of LGBT Integration." *Communication, Culture & Critique* 6 (2): 258–83. doi:10.1111/cccr.12013.

Russo, Julie Levin. Forthcoming. "Many Copies: Cylon Television and Hybrid Video." - on Blackboard

September 15, Queer/ing Production Processes

Henderson, Lisa. *Love and Money: Queers, Class, and Cultural Production*. NYU Press, 2013: Intro, Ch 5.

Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 16

Loist, Skadi. 2011. "Precarious Cultural Work: About the Organization of (queer) Film Festivals." *Screen* 52 (2): 268–73. doi:10.1093/screen/hjr016.

Beirne, Rebecca. "New Queer Cinema 2.0? Lesbian-Focused Films and the Internet." *Screen* 55, no. 1 (2014): 129–38. doi:10.1093/screen/hjt058.

Moore, Candace. 2013. "Distribution Is Queen: LGBTQ Media on Demand." *Cinema Journal* 53 (1): 137–44. doi:10.1353/cj.2013.0066.

David, Emmanuel. 2015. "Purple-Collar Labor Transgender Workers and Queer Value at Global Call Centers in the Philippines." *Gender & Society* 29 (2): 169–94. doi:10.1177/0891243214558868.

September 22, Producing Queer Celebrity Images

Royster, Francesca T. *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012: Introduction, Ch 1, 5

Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 17

Cerankowski, Karli June. 2013. "Queer Dandy Style: The Cultural Politics of Tim Gunn's Asexuality." *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 41 (1): 226–44. doi:10.1353/wsq.2013.0059.

September 29, Queer/ing Text

Royster, Francesca T. *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012: Ch 2, 3, 4

Nyong'o, Tavia. "Queer Hip Hop and Its Dark Precursors." *Palimpsest: A Journal on Women, Gender, and the Black International* 2, no. 2 (2013): 144–46.

Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 13, 14, 15

October 6, Queer/ing Text
Henderson, Lisa. *Love and Money: Queers, Class, and Cultural Production*. NYU Press, 2013, 1, 2, 3, 6, Conclusion
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 2, 19
Journal Assignment Due

October 13, Queer/ing Text
Demory, Pamela, and Christopher Pullen, eds. *Queer Love in Film and Television: Critical Essays*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013: Ch 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Puar, Jasbir K., and Amit S. Rai. "Monster, Terrorist, Fag: The War on Terrorism and the Production of Docile Patriots." *Social Text* 20, no. 3 (2002): 117–48.
Jacobs, Jason. "Raising Gays: On Glee, Queer Kids, and the Limits of the Family." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 20, no. 3 (2014): 319–52. doi:10.1215/10642684-2422692.

October 20 - Queer/ing Audiences: Introduction
Radway, Janice A. (1991). "Introduction: Writing Reading the Romance." *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy and Popular Literature*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P: pp. 1-18
Hall, Stuart. (1980) "Encoding/Decoding." In Durham, M.D. and Kellner, D.M., eds. *Media and Cultural Studies: KeyWorks*. Malden, MA: Blackwell: pp. 166-176.
Peters, Wendy. 2011. "Pink Dollars, White Collars: Queer as Folk, Valuable Viewers, and the Price of Gay TV." *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 28 (3): 193–212. doi:10.1080/15295036.2011.559478.
Coppa, Francesca. "Women, 'Star Trek,' and the Early Development of Fannish Vidding." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 1 (2008): n.p. http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/viewArticle/44
Green, Shoshanna, Cynthia Jenkins, and Henry Jenkins. "Normal Female Interest in Men Bonking: Selections from the Terra Nostra Underground and Strange Bedfellows." In *Theorizing Fandom: Fans, Subculture and Identity*, edited by Cheryl Harris and Alison Alexander, 9–38. Creskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 1998.

October 27 - Queer Audiences
Jenkins, Henry, and John Campbell. "'Out of the Closet and into the Universe': Queers and Star Trek." In *Fans, Bloggers, and Gamers: Exploring Participatory Culture*, edited by Henry Jenkins, 89–112. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2006.
Farmer, Brett. "The Fabulous Sublimity of Gay Diva Worship." *Camera Obscura* 20, no. 59 (2005): 164–95.
Muñoz, José Esteban. "'Gimme Gimme This... Gimme Gimme That' Annihilation and Innovation in the Punk Rock Commons." *Social Text* 31, no. 3 116 (2013): 95–110. doi:10.1215/01642472-2152855.
Marwick, Alice, Mary L. Gray, and Mike Ananny. 2014. "'Dolphins Are Just Gay Sharks' Glee and the Queer Case of Transmedia As Text and Object." *Television & New Media* 15 (7): 627–47. doi:10.1177/1527476413478493.
Meyer, Michaela D. E., and Megan M. Wood. 2013. "Sexuality and Teen Television: Emerging Adults Respond to Representations of Queer Identity on Glee." *Sexuality & Culture* 17 (3): 434–48. doi:10.1007/s12119-013-9185-2.
Paper Proposal Due

November 3 – Audiences Queering "Straight" Texts

Russo, Julie Levin. "Textual Orientation: Queer Female Fandom Online." In *The Routledge Companion to Media & Gender*, edited by Cynthia Carter, Linda Steiner, and Lisa McLaughlin, 450–60. Routledge, 2013.

Allington, Daniel. "'How Come Most People Don't See It?': Slashing The Lord of the Rings." *Social Semiotics* 17, no. 1 (2007): 43–62. doi:10.1080/10350330601124650.

Flegel, Monica, and Jenny Roth. "Annihilating Love and Heterosexuality without Women: Romance, Generic Difference, and Queer Politics in Supernatural Fan Fiction." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 4 (2010): n.p. doi:10.3983/twc.2010.0133. http://dx.doi.org/10.3983/twc.2010.0133.

Lackner, Eden, Barbara Lynn Lucas, and Robin Anne Reid. 2006. "Cunning Linguists: The Bisexual Erotics of Words/Silence/Flesh." In *Fan Fiction and Fan Communities in the Age of the Internet: New Essays*, edited by Karen Hellekson and Kristina Busse, 189–206. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

Lothian, Alexis, Kristina Busse, and Robin Anne Reid. "``Yearning Void and Infinite Potential'': Online Slash Fandom as Queer Female Space." *English Language Notes* 45, no. 2 (2007): 103-11.

Tosenberger, Catherine. "Homosexuality at the Online Hogwarts: Harry Potter Slash Fanfiction." *Children's Literature* 36 (2008): 185–207. doi:10.1353/chl.0.0017.

November 10 – Queering the Production-Text-Audience Triad on the Web: Introduction

Gray, Mary L. *Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and Queer Visibility in Rural America*. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2009: Ch 4, 5

Paasonen, Susanna. 2010. "Labors of Love: Netporn, Web 2.0 and the Meanings of Amateurism." *New Media & Society* 12 (8): 1297–1312. doi:10.1177/1461444810362853.

Mason, Derritt. 2013. "On Children's Literature and the (Im)Possibility of It Gets Better." *ESC: English Studies in Canada* 38 (3-4): 83–104. doi:10.1353/esc.2013.0000.

Bryson, Mary K., and Lori B. MacIntosh. 2010. "Can We Play Fun Gay? Disjuncture and Difference, and the Precarious Mobilities of Millennial Queer Youth Narratives." *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education* 23 (1): 101–24. doi:10.1080/09518390903447150.

November 17 – Queer/ing Social Media

Fink, Marty, and Quinn Miller. "Trans Media Moments: Tumblr, 2011–2013." *Television & New Media*, 2013. doi:10.1177/1527476413505002.

Renninger, Bryce J. 2014. "'Where I Can Be Myself … Where I Can Speak My Mind' : Networked Counterpublics in a Polymedia Environment." *New Media & Society*, doi:10.1177/1461444814530095

Fox, Jesse, and Katie M. Warber. "Queer Identity Management and Political Self-Expression on Social Networking Sites: A Co-Cultural Approach to the Spiral of Silence." *Journal of Communication* 65, no. 1 (2015): 79–100. doi:10.1111/jcom.12137.

Pedrana A, Hellard M, Gold J, Ata N, Chang S, Howard S, Asselin J, Ilic O, Batrouney C, Stoove M. "Queer as F**k: Reaching and Engaging Gay Men in Sexual Health Promotion through Social Networking Sites" J Med Internet Res 2013;15(2):e25 DOI: 10.2196/jmir.2334

November 24 – No Class, Paper Draft Due

December 2 – Queer/ing Gaming and Mobile Media

Condis, Megan. "No Homosexuals in Star Wars? BioWare, 'gamer' Identity, and the Politics of Privilege in a Convergence Culture." *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies* 21, no. 2 (2015): 198–212. doi:10.1177/1354856514527205.

Lauteria, Evan W. 2012. "Ga(y)mer Theory: Queer Modding as Resistance." *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture* 12, no. 2: 7.

Brubaker, Jed R., Mike Ananny, and Kate Crawford. "Departing Glances: A Sociotechnical Account of 'leaving' Grindr." *New Media & Society*, 2014. doi:10.1177/1461444814542311.

Race, Kane. "'Party and Play': Online Hook-up Devices and the Emergence of PNP Practices among Gay Men." *Sexualities* 18, no. 3 (2015): 253–75. doi:10.1177/1363460714550913.

Roth, Yoel. "Locating the 'Scruff Guy': Theorizing Body and Space in Gay Geosocial Media." *International Journal of Communication* 8 (2014): 21. http://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/2286

December 9 – Paper Presentations, Peer Review Due

December 16 – Final Paper Due