

English 2028F Topics in Literature and Film

Queer Futurity: Intersections of Sexuality & Gender

Department of English and Cultural Studies | Huron University College | Instructor: Dr. Frederick D. King
Email: fking2@uwo.ca | Class and Screening Rm: HC-W116 | Class Schedule: Mon 6:00-9:00pm | Office: TBA
| Screenings: *Wed 6:00-9:00pm (*as scheduled below) | Office Hours: TBA |
Antirequisite(s): The former English 125E. | **Prerequisite(s):** N/A

Course Description

This class will explore queer intersections of gender and sexuality in literature and film from both historical and multicultural perspectives. With texts ranging from the nineteenth- to the twenty-first centuries, we will study the various ways in which sex and gender intersect with each other and with cultural constructs of race, family, nation, economics, and spirituality. We will take our lead from José Esteban Muñoz who defines queerness as “the rejection of a here and now and an insistence on potentiality or concrete possibility for another world” (1). The fiction and films studied will reimagine the queer experience, not simply as a rejection of heteronormative ideologies of sex and gender but as a means of imagining a future in which such ideological norms no longer apply. We will simultaneously attend to the political conflicts and consequences of such imaginative reinventions of sex and gender by paying particular attention to potential consequences and dangers associated with the rejection of the heteronormative in queer subcultures. Students will also be asked to reconsider ahistorical and Anglo-American conceptions of LGBTQ cultural consensus by reading books and watching films that question how African American, Asian, Middle Eastern, Indigenous, South Asian, and Trans concepts of sexuality and gender are transforming what it means to be queer yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Learning Objectives

- Read and interpret diverse cultural and individual experiences of the relationship between sex and gender.
- Critically respond to and engage with the discourse of sexual and gender diversity with written assignments and class participation.
- Question an Anglo-American-centric discourse of sexual and diversity by engaging with texts from other cultural perspectives.

Class Methods

The University classroom is an active learning environment in which students not only prepare for class by reading required materials, but also by making notes (highlighting key ideas) based on that reading. Once in class, the instructor is there not only to lecture, but to facilitate your discussion of the materials you’ve read. Students are encouraged to actively participate in those discussions. To enable your participation, assigned books being discussed must be brought to class. Students are also asked to take notes during screenings and to bring them to class when an assigned film is being discussed. Pen and paper are your instructor’s preferred technology and students are strongly encouraged to emulate this practice. However, laptops are permitted for taking notes. Other activities on your laptop (social media, email, etc.) are **not permitted** because they distract your instructor. **Cell phones are not permitted in class.** Turn cell phones off and store them in your bag. Recording devices and photography, even if used for making notes, are **not permitted** in class. Remember, that **lectures are the instructor’s intellectual property** and while you have permission to take notes, you do not have

permission to sell your notes from those lectures for profit. In addition, know that absenteeism is strongly discouraged, but that it is also the individual student's responsibility.

Trigger Warning

This class will require students to watch films, read books, and engage in discussions about diverse experiences of sexuality and gender. Issues that our texts will address include such topics as gay bashing, child sex abuse, prostitution, domestic violence, rape, and murder. Because the texts we will read are intended as works of art, they deal with their subject matter in provocative, creative ways (ex. irony, satire) that some people may find offensive. If you are not comfortable reading, watching, and discussing such material, then this course may not be right for you. Please discuss your concerns with your professor immediately and be aware of final drop dates if necessary.

Required Texts

* Critical works are available on OWL; all other texts are available for sale at the bookstore.

Butler, Judith "Critically Queer" (available on OWL under Resources)

Barker, Susan *The Incarnations* (Touchstone)

Crisp, Quentin *The Naked Civil Servant* (Penguin Classics)

Irani, Anosh *The Parcel* (Knopf Canada)

Muñoz, José Esteban selection from *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* (available on OWL)

O'Hara, Jean *Two-Spirit Acts: Queer Indigenous Performances* (Canadian Playwright's Press)

9781770911840

Rachilde *Monsieur Vénus* (MLA)

Required Films

* Students are required to attend the 5 film screenings listed in course schedule. Films will be screened on Wednesday evening as per the schedule below. Students are expected to attend screenings and make notes during screenings in preparation for class discussions the following week.

- *Before Stonewall*
- *Circumstance*
- *Different from the Others*
- *Group of Seven Inches*
- *Orlando*
- *Paris is Burning*
- *Stories of Our Lives*

Assignments

Midterm	10%	(Oct. 30 th)
3-page Prose Response	15%	(Oct 4 th OR Nov 15 th *)
3-page Film Response	15%	(Oct 4 nd OR Nov 15 th *)
6-page Research Paper	20%	(Due Dec. 4 th)
Final Exam	35%	(date TBA)

Notes on Assignments

All writing assignments must be submitted to OWL under “assignments” so that the submission’s originality can be verified to be free of plagiarism using TURNITIN. Paper submissions will *not* be accepted. Online submissions are due NO LATER than 11:55pm on the due date listed on the course schedule below

*Either the fiction response or the film response *must* be submitted by Oct. 4th. Whichever of the two not submitted on Oct. 4th must be submitted on Nov 15th.

Late assignments and missed tests will receive a failing mark (“0”) unless supported by an academic accommodation request submitted to your professor from an Academic Counselor in your Dean’s office. Please see Huron University College’s policies below for details on how to qualify for and access an academic accommodation.

Midterm | 10% | In-class Oct. 30th

Students will be given 60 minutes of class time on Monday, October 23rd to provide short answer responses to 10 questions based on readings, films, and course lectures and discussions up to that date. Answers should average 4-6 sentences and demonstrate an understanding of the books/films/lectures/discussions referenced in the question asked.

Prose Response | 3 Pages | 15% | Due on either Oct 4th OR Nov 15th

Students are asked to write a response that is no shorter than 3 double-spaced pages to one of the long works of prose assigned in the class. The response must be organized around an original thesis statement and be based on a close reading of the text discussed. Response must meet the formatting requirements of MLA

(<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>). Additional sources are not required but students are encouraged to draw on the theories of either Butler or Muñoz discussed in class.

Film Response | 3 Pages | 15% | Due on either Oct 4th OR Nov 15th (whichever date the Prose Response was not submitted)

Students are asked to write a response that is no shorter than 3 double-spaced pages to one of the films screened for the class. The response must be organized around an original thesis statement and be based on a close reading of the text discussed. Response must meet the formatting requirements of MLA

(<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>). Additional sources are not required but students are encouraged to draw on the theories of either Butler or Muñoz discussed in class.

Research Paper | 6 pages | 25% | Due Dec. 4th

Students are asked to write a research paper that compares and contrasts one film and one prose work studied in the course and not already written on in one of the response papers. The paper must be organized around an original thesis statement, include reference to either the Butler or the Muñoz discussed in class, include three additional peer reviewed academic sources, and feature close readings of the film and the book chosen. Papers must meet the formatting requirements of MLA (<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>).

Final Exam | 35% | Date TBA

Students will be provided three hours to answer 30 short answer questions based on the books, theory readings, films, lectures, and class discussions throughout the term. Answers should average 4-6 sentences in length and demonstrate an understanding of the materials they are asked to discuss in each question.

Course Schedule

M Sept 11	José Esteban Muñoz from <i>Cruising Utopia</i> (OWL) IN-CLASS SCREENING: Kent Monkman <i>Group of Seven Inches</i>
M Sept 18	Jean O'Hara et al. <i>Two-Spirit Acts: Queer Indigenous Performances</i>
W Sept 20	SCREENING: Richard Oswald <i>Different from the Others</i>
M Sept 25	Richard Oswald <i>Different from the Others</i> Judith Butler "Critically Queer" (OWL)
M Oct 2	Rachilde <i>Monsieur Vénus</i>
W Oct 4	RESPONSE 1 DUE no later than 11:55pm on OWL under Assignments
M Oct 9	READING WEEK & THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS OR SCREENING
M Oct 16	Susan Barker <i>The Incarnations</i>
W Oct 18	SCREENING: The Nest Collection <i>Stories of Our Lives</i>
M Oct 23	The Nest Collective <i>Stories of Our Lives</i>
W Oct 25	SCREENING: Greta Schiller & Robert Rosenberg <i>Before Stonewall</i>
M Oct 30	Greta Schiller & Robert Rosenberg <i>Before Stonewall</i> MIDTERM (10 short answer questions, 60 min.)
M Nov 6	Quentin Crisp <i>The Naked Civil Servant</i>
W Nov 8	SCREENING: Sally Potter <i>Orlando</i>
M Nov 13	Sally Potter <i>Orlando</i>
W Nov 15	RESPONSE 2 DUE no later than 11:55pm on OWL under Assignments
M Nov 20	Anosh Irani <i>The Parcel</i>
W Nov 22	SCREENING: Jennie Livingston's <i>Paris is Burning</i>
M Nov 27	Jennie Livingston <i>Paris is Burning</i>
W Nov 29	SCREENING: <i>Circumstance</i>
M Dec 4	Maryam Keshavarz <i>Circumstance</i> RESEARCH PAPER DUE no later than 11:55pm on OWL under Assignments
Date TBA	FINAL EXAM (30 short answer response questions, 3 hours)



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Provost and Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf,

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed

that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

(c) Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;

Helping someone else cheat;
Unauthorized collaboration;
Fabrication of results or sources;
Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Provost and Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Provost and Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Provost and Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website,

<http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> (“Class Cancellations”).

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services (huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/Academics/FacultyofArtsandSocialScience>