

This course aims to familiarize students with the core texts and key debates that have shaped queer theory. This is an upper-division course that presumes a background in sexuality, gender, and feminist theory. We will trace the expansion of the term “queer” from its early contestation with LGBT identities and politics to its current use as a broad framework that designates non-normative modes of knowledge, cultural practices, and political activism. Central to our investigation are the intersections between queer theory and feminism and critical race theory. Weaving analyses of foundational queer and feminist texts, we will explore an expansive and radical contemporary queer politics, pushing beyond narrow constructions of identity politics, anti-discrimination policy, and rights-based reforms. This class will ultimately engage Queer Theory by means of a rich philosophical and political interrogation of the meaning and content of “queer.”

Topic 1. Introduction to Queer Theory

Topic 2. Nature vs Nurture debates. Construction of homosexuality. History of sexuality.

Topic 3. Sexualities and laws. Sexual citizenship

Topic 4. AIDS and Queer Nation. Social movements

Topic 5. Feminist critique

Topic 6. Queer of color

Topic 7. Body politics

Topic 8. Queer against. Right agenda

Assignments and course evaluation: 30% participation, 25% homework, 15% abstract (proposal) of final essay, 30% final essay.