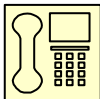


POLSCI 451: Queer Political Theory
T/Th 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.
Wheatley 1, 57

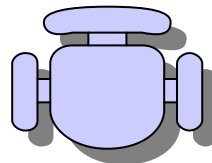


“The deconstruction of identity is not the deconstruction of politics; rather, it establishes as political the very terms through which identity is articulated.”

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (148)



Prof. Heike Schotten
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Office Hours:
Wheatley 5, 62
T/Th 2-3:30 p.m.
★ and by appointment

Course Description

Queer Theory is a field of study that critically examines sex, gender, sexuality, and sexual desire from a dissident and/or “gay affirmative” (Sedgwick) perspective. Its primary aims are the de-naturalization of (hetero)sexuality and (hetero)normative gender categories, identities, and expression.

This course in Queer Theory is specifically focused on *politics*. In the course of the semester, we will do a number of fun and important things, albeit none of them completely. First, we will engage in a brief overview of the “essence” of queer theory and consider some contemporary debates surrounding its globalization (Weeks 1-4). Then, we will do a rough genealogy of Queer Theory’s roots in feminism, lesbian feminism, and the multiple feminist conflicts therein (Weeks 5-8). Immediately after Spring Break we’ll do a quick, close read of Butler and Foucault, foundational texts of Queer Theory, and consider how these provide the grounds for the surpassing of identity categories altogether (Weeks 9-11). Finally, the last part of the term will be devoted to more practical political questions — e.g., what *is* “queer politics”? Is being “queer” political? What is being challenged in asserting “queerness,” and what kind of political values, commitments, and goals follow from Queer Theory’s mode of thinking and “doing” gender and sex/uality?

Required Texts:

- ❑ Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*(0415389550)
- ❑ Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. I*, trans. Robert Hurley (0679724699)
- ❑ Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory: An Introduction*(0814742343)
- ❑ Suzanne Kessler, *Lessons From the Intersexed*(0813525292)
- ❑ E. Patrick Johnson and Mae G. Henderson, Eds. *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology* (0822336189)

Recommended Texts:

- ❑ Jasbir Puar, *Territorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*(082234114X)
- ❑ Michael Warner, *The Trouble With Normal*(0674004418)

*please note: all required and recommended texts are on reserve at the Healey Library, except Butler and Johnson & Henderson, which are e-books

*if you choose to buy your books online, you can support public higher education by starting here: <http://www.phenomonline.org/> and clicking, “Buy Books while Supporting PHENOM at no Extra Cost” on the left side of the page

Additional readings to be accessed online:

- ❑ <http://www.faculty.umb.edu/heike.schotten/>
 - Always print these out for class
 - login ID: schotten / password: theory

Weeks 1-2 Introduction: What is Queer Theory?

- Jan 25 Course Introduction
- Jan 27 Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Chapter 1: Introduction
Lisa Duggan, "Making It Perfectly Queer" (online)
- Feb 1 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Chapter 2: Theorizing Same-Sex Desire
*Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Axiomatic," pp. 1-36 *only* (online)
- Feb 3 *Richard Dyer, "The Matter of Whiteness" (online)
Alice Walker, "Definition of Womanist" (to be distributed to you in class)
*E. Patrick Johnson, "'Quare' Studies, or (Almost) Everything I Know About Queer Studies I Learned From My Grandmother" (*Black Queer Studies*)

Weeks 3-4 Globalizing Gay

- Feb 8 *Joseph Massad, "Re-Orienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World" (online)
Gil Hochberg, "Introduction: Israelis, Palestinians, Queers: Points of Departure" (online)
Jasbir Puar, "Israel's Gay Propaganda War" (to be e-mailed to you)
- Read this statement: <http://queerswithoutborders.com/wpmu/blog/2009/08/21/queers-respond-to-tel-aviv-homophobic-violence-call-for-bds-against-israel/>

Discussion/Forum: LGBTQ Human Rights in Palestine

Abeer Mansour, Aswat

Haneen Maikay, Al-Qaws for Sexual & Gender Diversity in Palestinian Society

6:30 pm, Harvard Kennedy School, Starr Auditorium
Belfer Building, 4th floor (corner of JFK and Elliot Streets)

- Feb 10 *Jin Haritaworn, et al, "Gay Imperialism: Gender and Sexuality Discourse in the 'War on Terror'" (to be e-mailed to you in a pdf)
*Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages*, Chapter 2: "Abu Ghraib and U.S. Sexual Exceptionalism" (also online)
Read this website's statement and the June 16th USSF statement: <http://pqbds.wordpress.com/>
Watch this video: <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=695535366111>
Watch this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBS719b0uSo&feature=player_embedded
- Feb 15 E. Patrick Johnson, excerpts from *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales* (online)
★ Guest Lecturer: Prof. E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University



Performance:

Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales

E. Patrick Johnson

7pm, CC Ballroom

- Feb 17 *Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages*, Chapter 3: "Intimate Control, Infinite Detention: Rereading the Lawrence Case"

Weeks 5-8 Queer Theory: A Partial/Feminist Genealogy

- Feb 22 *Catharine MacKinnon, "Sexuality" (online)
- Feb 24 *Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (online)
Radicalesbians, "The Woman-Identified Woman"
<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/womid/> [please print out for class]
Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Chapter 5: Lesbian Feminism
- Mar 1 Charlotte Bunch, "Lesbians in Revolt"
<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/furies/> [please print out for class]
*Janice Raymond, "Sappho by Surgery: The Transsexually Constructed Lesbian Feminist" (online)
- Mar 3 *Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality," Parts I-IV (online)
- Mar 8 *Rubin, "Thinking Sex," Parts V-VI (online)
- Mar 10 *Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (online)
*——, "An Open Letter to Mary Daly" (online)
*Pat Califia, "Feminism and Sodomasochism" (online)
*——, "A Secret Side of Lesbian Sexuality" (online)

Spring Break!

Weeks 8-9 Queer Theory: The Foundational Texts

- Mar 22 Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*, Chapter 1 (skip section iii)
- Mar 24 Butler, *Gender Trouble*, Chapter 3, just sections iii, iv, and the conclusion
- Mar 29 Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, Parts I-III
- Mar 31 Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, Part IV, Chapters 1-4

Weeks 10-11 Queer Theory: Beyond Identity

- Apr 5 *Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, pp. 150-159
Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Chapter 6: Limits of Identity
- Apr 7 *Sandy Stone, "The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto" (online)
Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Chapter 7: Queer"

****Thursday, April 7th – Pass/Fail and Course Withdraw Deadline****

Apr 12 *Suzanne Kessler, *Lessons From the Intersexed*, Chapters 2-4

Apr 14 *Kessler, *Intersexed*, Chapters 5-6

Friday, April 15th – Butler/Foucault paper due!

Weeks 12-14 Queer Politics: Assimilationism and the LGBT Movement

Apr 19 *Michael Warner, *The Trouble With Normal*, Chapter 1: The Ethics of Sexual Shame (also online)
*Andrew Sullivan, *Virtually Normal*, Chapter 5: A Politics of Homosexuality (online)

Apr 21 *Pat Califia, “Public Sex” (online)
*Tim Dean, “Breeding Culture” (online)

Apr 26 *Advocate*, “Gay is the New Black: The Last Great Civil Rights Struggle” (distributed in class or via e-mail)
Color Lines, “A Fragile Union: Why Racial Justice Matters in the Fight for Gay Marriage” (distributed in class or via e-mail)
*Alexandra Chasin, “How Money Moves the Movement” (online)
Charlie Anders, “Dear LGBT Activist” (online)

Apr 28 *Cathy Cohen, “Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?” (*Black Queer Studies*)
“Where Has Gay Liberation Gone?” An interview with Barbara Smith (online)

May 3 Marlon Bailey, et al, “Is Gay Marriage Racist?” (to be e-mailed to you in a pdf)
*Kevin Mumford, “The Miscegenation Analogy Revisited: Same-Sex Marriage as a Civil Rights Story” (to be emailed to you in a pdf)
*Charles Nero, “Why Are all the Gay Ghettos White?” (*Black Queer Studies*)

May 5 *Michael Warner, *The Trouble With Normal*, Chapter 3: Beyond Gay Marriage
*John D’Emilio, “Capitalism and Gay Identity” (online)
[see also D’Emilio, “The Marriage Fight is Setting us Back”:
<http://www.glreview.com/issues/13.6/13.6-demilio.php>]
read this statement: <http://makezine.enoughenough.org/prop8.html>

Week 15 Uncertain Conclusion

May 10 *Jane Ward, “Dude-Sex: White Masculinities and ‘Authentic’ Heterosexuality Among Dudes Who Have Sex With Dudes” (online)
Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Chapter 8: “Contestations of Queer”

Requirements:

Writing Assignments + Class Participation (66% of final grade):

You will be required to write 8 1 page, single-spaced, analytic argument papers during the semester – at least two of which must be turned in before Spring Break. Your task in these papers is to state the argument being made by the author in the reading as clearly and succinctly as possible. You can choose which texts you want to write on, and you will sign up for them at the beginning of the semester. Your paper is due at the *beginning* of class the day we are discussing that reading – no exceptions. Although I will not accept re-writes of papers, you are welcome to turn in additional analytic argument papers at your own prerogative; if you submit more than 8 papers during the semester, I will count your highest 8 scores toward your final course grade. You'll notice on the syllabus that various readings are marked with an asterisk; any starred reading is eligible for this analytic writing exercise. Please do *not* turn in analytic argument papers on non-starred readings.

On the days in which you submit analytic argument papers, you are responsible for taking a lead role in facilitating class discussion and carrying a greater weight in class discussion overall. Writing the papers is a natural preparation for this role, and all of us will look to you as the class's resident "expert" in the reading material for that day (although you will always share this responsibility with me, along with any other students who have written papers for that day as well). Half of the grade on your analytic argument paper will be an assessment of your in-class participation as a discussion leader. We will discuss the grading criteria for both the writing and participation components of these papers in class.

No papers will be accepted late for readings covered in an earlier class without prior permission. No papers will be accepted after the last day of this class, May 10th. For additional clarification, please see the policy on late assignments below.

Short Paper (13% of final grade):

I will ask you to write a 6-8 pp. paper on either Butler or Foucault, due Friday, April 15th, at a time and location to be determined by us as a class. I will give you a list of paper topics to choose from but also welcome you to suggest a topic of your own choosing. If you choose to write on your own topic, your proposal *must* be discussed with me first and I must *approve* it no later than Thursday, April 7th.

Final Paper (21% of final grade)

A final paper of 12-15 pp. is also required, the details of which we will discuss together after Spring Break. We will decide as a class when and where the final papers will be due.

Late Assignment Policy

In general, I do not accept late work. In cases of truly exceptional circumstances (e.g., a death in the family or personal medical emergency), please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss the matter and make appropriate arrangements. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of this class.

Academic Integrity Policy

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course, and is a violation of Student Rights and Responsibilities as outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students should be aware that, at the discretion of the instructor, assignments may be submitted to plagiarism detection software programs for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism. Students in this course must be prepared to submit an electronic version of any written assignment upon request of the instructor. Regardless of how it is discovered, **the consequence for academic dishonesty is failure** of the specific assignment, or (if a repeat offense), the course as a whole.

Please speak to me directly if you have any questions about plagiarism. Students found to be dishonest will be subject to the disciplinary procedures as outlined the sections on Academic Standards, Cheating, and Plagiarism, sections II and IV, and V of the Code of Student Conduct in the University Undergraduate Catalog.

Disability Policy

I will happily accommodate students with disabilities enrolled in this course, as specified to me by the Ross Center for Disabilities. This is the resource for students with disabilities at UMass Boston, and I encourage you to consult them if you have any questions or concerns regarding disability issues (<http://www.rosscenter.umb.edu/text/sh5.htm>). Please contact me as early in the semester as possible so we can discuss the best ways to accommodate your academic needs in this course. Please also see the Student Rights and Responsibilities page on the Ross Center for Disabilities website detailed information regarding UMass Boston's procedure for handling disabilities.