

Queer Theory

Course Information

Course Number:	WGST 445
Course Title:	Queer Theory
Section:	501
Time:	3pm -6pm, Wednesdays, Spring 2025
Location:	TEAG 326
Credit Hours:	3

Instructor Details

Instructor:	Koyel Khan
Office:	LASB 355
Phone:	979-845-5133
E-Mail:	kkhan@tamu.edu
Office Hours:	12 noon to 2:30pm, Wednesdays. Please email in advance and make an appointment (If you would like to meet over zoom please email me and I'll send you a link.)

Course Description

Examines origins of theories of gender and sexual diversity and their intersections with feminist theories; considers foundational and contemporary texts that address queer theory.

Course Prerequisites

6 hours in Women's and Gender Studies; senior classification or approval of instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- To describe queer theory and its emergence, as well as its relationship with other theoretical perspectives related to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and disability.
- To identify the core texts and debates that have shaped the field.
- To apply queer theory to various social issues and analyze how queer theory contributes to our understanding of society.
- To interrogate and debate the meaning of the term “queer”.

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Feminist and Queer Theory: An Intersectional and Transnational Reader. Edited by L. Ayu Saraswati and Barbara Shaw. OUP.

Queer Theory Now. Authors- Hannah McCann and Whitney Monaghan. Bloomsbury.
(Note: This book can be accessed as an e-book through TAMU library)

Apart from the required books, other required materials will be used. These other required course materials will be provided.

This course uses CANVAS as our learning management system. You can access canvas at canvas.tamu.edu.

Grading Policy

Memos (80 points- 8 memos x 10 points each):

Students are required to write memos based on the assigned readings of each class.

Exams (50 points total):

Two exams need to be completed for this class. Each exam is worth 25 points.

Exam 1: Wednesday, February 19

Exam 2: Wednesday, April 2

Participation (30 points):

Students are required to participate meaningfully in the class every week.

Discussion Leader (20 points):

Students will offer a 20–30-minute introduction of the readings of one unit and actively lead a 20–30-minute discussion about it.

Term Paper (Total 100 points):

Students will write a 2000-word (Times New Roman, font size 12, double-spaced) term paper.

Paper Presentations (20 points total):

Students will present their final papers to the class.

Grading: This course has 300 possible points. Students will receive a grade based on the points earned by them. The breakdown is given below.

A= 270-300
B= 240-269
C= 210-239
D= 180-209
F= 179 and below

Late Work Policy

Late work (submitting an assignment after the deadline) is not accepted unless the student has an excused absence as defined by the university. If a student is unable to submit an assignment due to reasons that are excused, make-up assignments will be provided. Please see [Student Rule 7](#).

Technology Policy

Students are expected to bring a laptop or device through which they can access Canvas and university library resources. Laptops are available at the library and can be borrowed by the students if needed.

Course Schedule

Note 1: This schedule is subject to change. If changes are made to this schedule, it will be communicated to students in class and/or through Canvas.

Note 2: Students should come to class having prepared the readings assigned for that day.

Note 3: Citations and references for memos and papers should use the ASA (American Sociological Association) style.

Week 1

Wed 1/15: Overview of Policies and Syllabus.

Week 2

Introduction to Queer Theory

From Pathology to Pride

Week 3

Sex, Sexuality and Feminism

Transgender and Queer Studies

Week 4

Impact of AIDS

Week 5

Class discussion of proposal and peer-review session

Week 6

Exam 1

Week 7

Outing the Closet

Sapphistries

Week 8

Asexuality, Queerness, and Representation

Week 9

Wed 3/12: **Spring Break, No Class**

Week 10

Global Identities, Sexualities, and Desires

Queer Migration, Queer Visibility and Invisibility

Week 11

The Erotic as Power and Journey to a Sovereign Erotic

Theory Meets Identity.

Week 12**Exam 2.****Week 13**

Negotiating Intersections

Queer Utopias and Imagined Futures

Week 14

Presentations

Week 15

Presentations

Week 16**Final Paper submission due at 11:59pm**

University Policies

Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

“The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below) Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Disability Resources is located in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University’s [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus

Students who need someone to talk to can contact Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) or call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) or at 988lifeline.org [Links to an external site.](#)

Statement on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records by limiting access to these records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their educational records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Currently enrolled students wishing to withhold any or all directory information items may do so by going to howdy.tamu.edu and clicking on the "Directory Hold Information" link in the Student

Records channel on the MyRecord tab. The complete [FERPA Notice to Students](#) and the student records policy is available on the Office of the Registrar webpage.

Items that can never be identified as public information are a student's social security number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPR or class schedule. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your privacy and to ensure confidential treatment of information associated with or generated by your participation in the class.

Directory items include name, UIN, local address, permanent address, email address, local telephone number, permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, program of study (college, major, campus), classification, previous institutions attended, degrees honors and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, medical residence location and medical residence specialization.