

## *Summer 2019*

**AP/EN 4011 3.0 (S2)**

### ***Queer Theory***

**Course Director:**

Torsten Kathke  
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**Delivery Format:**

Lecture/Seminar

**Time:**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2-5 pm

**Description:**

What is queer? Is queer always based on sexuality? How is queer different from gay/lesbian? This course will consider the historical conditions for the emergence of queer theory and the intellectual/political/cultural uses of and stakes in queer theory. To this end, we will read texts by theorists working under the label of “queer theory” as well as those whose works have influenced the emergence of queer theory. We will look at what contexts queer theory emerged out of, what debates have shaped it internally as well as externally, and what criticisms have been brought against the concept. To understand the potential uses of queer theory, we will look at cultural objects, including “serious” fiction as well as less expected representations, and source material from various historical contexts. We will engage with the question of what it means to read them in a queer way and how this can further understanding of intentionally queer texts and those ostensibly not queer.

A Note on Terminology and Content:

The terminology employed by the theorists that engage with queer theory – including the word “queer” itself – can be offensive. In order to understand the concepts at play it is, nonetheless, often necessary. In this class we will always endeavor to be respectful to the sensibilities of others.

**Category:**

A

**Historical Requirement:**

N/A

**Requirements:**

Best 3 response papers: 15%

In-class presentation: 20%

Abstract/thesis proposal for research essay (300 words; includes a tentative works cited list; MLA style): 10%

Research essay (2,500 words): 40%

Class participation: 15%

**Reading List:**

Hall, Donald and Annamarie Jagose, eds. *The Routledge Queer Studies Reader* . Routledge, 2012. (Paperback version: ISBN-13: 978-0415564113)  
Jagose, Annamarie. *Queer Theory: An Introduction* . New York University Press, 1997. (ISBN-13: 978-0814742341)  
Rabinow, Paul. *The Foucault Reader* . Vintage, 1984. (ISBN-13: 978-0394713403)  
Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Left Hand of Darkness* . Ace Books, 2010. (ISBN-13: 978-0-441-47812-5).

**Open To:**

Honours Year 4