

**Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research**  
**WS 2243F: Feminist Topics in Sexuality Studies**  
**Canadian Queer Culture**  
**Winter 2016**

**Course Information:** Wednesdays 1:30-4:30

**Contact Information:** Prof. Wendy Pearson, Lawson 3233, x. 89211  
wpearson@uwo.ca

**Course Description:** This course aims to examine the diverse and complex issues within recent Canadian queer culture. The course will begin with a brief background queer theory, gender presentation, and sexuality studies in the Canadian context. This will provide students with the necessary tools to analyze and critically engage with contemporary queer cultural production ranging across performing arts, literature, art, music, drag performance, dance and a variety of other art practices within the Canadian landscape. The course will also look at how arts can and are be used as activist practices and the relationship between queer culture and social and legal change within Canada.

**Course Objectives:**

- To introduce students to and/or enrich their knowledge of Canadian artistic and cultural production as well as queer scholarship relating to it
- To consider how the study of Canadian artistic and cultural production benefits from an attention to interdisciplinary perspectives
- To consider the relationship between socio-historical and legal contexts and Canadian queer arts and culture
- To consider how sexuality operates as a contemporary site of social control through discourses such as citizenship, as well as through practices of violence and homophobia
- Understand how sexuality intersects with gender, race, class, age, ability, ethnicity, and cultural production
- To assist students in developing their critical thinking and writing skills through online discussion and other forms of written work
- To develop research and analytical skills (including close reading of both primary and secondary texts)
- To cultivate the development of students' unique intellectual voices within the rubric of Canadian queer culture

**Evaluation:**

**1. Participation and contribution (10%):** Students will participate in classroom discussion and other activities and will be graded on the quality of their contribution to the course.

**2. Response Assignment (20%):** Students should pick **one** of the assignments given in the lectures during the **second half** of the course. These will involve short critical essays or reflection papers. Detailed guidelines will be available on OWL

**3. Case Study (20%):** Working in small groups, students will present a case study of a particular piece of art or culture in line with the topic of the week. This will be a piece of students' choosing and will complement, but not duplicate, the examples used in lecture for the week. Detailed guidelines will be available on OWL.

**4. Research Essay (50%):** This assignment must be an argumentative and analytic essay that demonstrates critical thinking skills, the development of an original argument, and the utilization of relevant secondary sources as well as textual details to evince the contentions made in a clearly laid out thesis statement. The thesis statement should be followed by body paragraphs arranged in a coherent order to further develop and elaborate the central argument. Students are required to use a *minimum of three* secondary sources, and at *least one* of your sources must be from a reading covered in class. These sources must be acknowledged and properly cited in a format of your choosing. **Please Note:** secondary sources should be used to help develop a point or lay out a scholarly debate that you intend to situate your argument in. The idea is for them to help you develop your own ideas and argument.

Students will choose and respond to **one** of eight topics. Students may also develop their own essay topic in consultation with the professor. Your topic should be specific, not general. Do remember, you need not answer all of the questions they pose. These questions are, again, intended to aid you in formulating your own argument.

## **OR**

**5. Research Essay (30%)** – following general guidelines above, but shorter in length – and **Creative Work (20%)** – in which students, working individually or in small groups, will create and critically explain their own piece of queer Canadian art or culture. Detailed guidelines will be available on OWL.

## **Class Schedule:**

**TBA**

## **Course Policies**

**Attendance Requirement:** Please see the “Information for Students” sheet distributed by the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research. Circumstances requiring academic accommodation should be addressed with the Academic Counselor in the student’s faculty of registration.

**Participation:** Upper year courses depend on student participation in order to provide a great learning experience. It is important that you do the readings on time and come to class prepared to participate in classroom discussion. This involves not only having something to say about the topic, but also listening carefully and respectfully to others in the class. Good discussion involves acknowledging that there may be other perspectives on the topic and acknowledging that the experiences of others may be different from your own. The classroom should be a space in which students are free to experiment with ideas and even to make mistakes, change their minds, and re-think. Debate should be lively, but also courteous.

**Late Policy:** Students will be permitted one free extension, of no more than five working days, on any written assignment; the extension request must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline by email to the instructor. Other than that, late assignments will be penalized unless there is a valid medical or other reason and documentation has been filed with the Office of the Dean of the student’s faculty. This extension may only be used once per term.

**Women’s Studies Essay Drop Box:** Assignments not submitted in class must be deposited in the essay drop box, located beside from the Main Office doors, Lawson Hall 3260.

Please note the drop box protocol: papers received between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday will be stamped with the current days date; 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. Monday to Friday will be stamped with the

previous days date; before 3:30 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Monday will be stamped with Fridays date. No essays will be stamped with the previous days date after 8:30 a.m.

**Use of Electronic Resources:** Mobile phones are not permitted in class at any time. Laptop computers may be used solely for course purposes; other uses of a laptop will result in the student being banned from laptop use within the classroom.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Email:** Email is my preferred method of contact. Please allow 48 hours for response; after that, you may wish to query (politely) whether your email has been received. To ensure reception, please use your UWO email account and include the course number in the subject line. Emails from addresses like sexykitten69@gmail.com tend to be re-directed by the university's spam filter. Please note that your emails will likely not be answered on weekends.

**Etiquette:** When addressing professors you don't know, it is always most courteous to address that person as "Professor [Last Name]." Once your instructors get to know you, they may invite you to address them by a first name – or they may not. No-one who has put years of effort into obtaining a doctorate wishes to be addressed as "Miss" or "Mr." This is not high school. "Hey Prof" is also not an advisable mode of address if you wish to be taken seriously.

**Turnitin:** "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 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 licencing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>.)"

(<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

### **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 website:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/schloff.pdf>

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>"

**Note for students with disabilities:** Please contact [ws-ugrad@uwo.ca](mailto:ws-ugrad@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

This outline may be subject to change with sufficient notice.