

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
GSWS9572/THEOCRIT9653
Queer Temporalities
Winter 2024

Professor: Chris Roulston

Class: Mondays 1:30-4:30 pm

Location: LWH2205

Email: croulsto@uwo.ca

Office hours: By appointment on Zoom

Course Description

Is there such a thing as queer time? In recent years, much queer scholarship has focused on the idea of queer temporalities, opposing queer time to heteronormative time, from both individual and historical perspectives. The idea of queer time as being "at best contrapuntal, syncopated, and at worst, erratic, arrested" (McCallum and Tukhanen, 2011), has led queer scholarship to consider the implications of being out of sync. This course will examine the "beginnings" of queer time, from Bersani and Edelman's responses to AIDS and their challenge to reproductive futurism, to Halberstam's and Freeman's critiques of hetero-temporality. It will then move on to considerations of the queer archive and queer nostalgia, asking the question of what it means to "look backward" (Love) to a history that is often shameful, elusive and opaque. The last section of the course will examine queer futurities and intersectionalities, including discourses on trans temporalities, queer necropolitics and the queer posthuman. Throughout the course, we will be asking whether thinking temporality through a queer lens offer a way of challenging linear models of progress and normativity, and what might be meant by such a challenge.

Course Objectives

This course will enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of queer theory in relation to questions of temporality
- Understand the role queer theory plays in contemporary critical thinking
- Recognize political and ethical issues in relation to queer theory
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills

Course Assignments for WS9572B

1 oral presentation (30 mins)	30%
Paper conference presentation (10 mins)	10%
Final paper (15-18 pages & bibliography)	60%
Total	100%

DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS:**LEADING A SEMINAR (30%)**

You will lead a sustained exploration (approx. 30 minutes, plus discussion. Total time: 1 hour) of the assigned text or texts (your choice) for that week. Please do not simply summarize the readings but assess the work(s) and make links to other concepts or readings in the course.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION (10%) (Monday 8 April)

In the final class, each student will present their Final Paper topic in the form of a short conference presentation (10 mins).

FINAL PAPER (15-18 PAGES) (60%)

(DUE 30 APRIL 2024)

Course Policies

E-mail Policy: Emails by the instructor will be responded to within 48 hours.

Medical Policy: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg1117.html> and <http://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Turnitin.com: All assignments for this course must be submitted to turnitin.com on or before the assignment due date. Submissions can be made via link on the course OWL

page. "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 licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com. (<http://www.turnitin.com>) (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

Scholastic 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 Web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg113.html>.

Plagiarism: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see the 'Scholastic Offense Policy' in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking." - U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism.

Student Accessibility Services: Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Statement of Recognition

“Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada.”

GSWS9572/THEOCRIT9653 *Queer Temporalities*
Course Schedule (Winter 2024)

**PLEASE NOTE: THE STARRED READINGS MUST BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE WELDON LIBRARY JOURNAL CATALOGUE OR BOOK CATALOGUE
 THE ARGONAUTS IS AVAILABLE AT UWO BOOKSTORE**

Week 1: Monday 8 January

Introduction: Thinking about queer time

Week 2: Monday 15 January

Challenging Heteronormative Temporalities 1

*1. Dinshaw, Edelman, Ferguson, Freccero, Freeman, Halberstam, Jagose, Nealon, Hoang, "Theorizing Queer Temporalities: A Roundtable Discussion," *GLQ* 13:2-3 (2007): 177-195.

*2. Judith Halberstam, "Queer Temporality and Postmodern Geographies," in *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (New York: New York University Press, 2005), 1-21. [Weldon Online]

Week 3: Monday 22 January

Challenging Heteronormative Temporalities 2

*1. Elizabeth Grosz, *The Nick of Time*, Introduction and Conclusion (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004), 1-14, 244-261. [Weldon Online]

*2. Elizabeth Freeman, Preface to *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010), ix-xxiv. [Weldon Online]

Week 4: Monday 29 January

Queering the Archive

*1. Valerie Rohy, "In the Queer Archive: *Fun Home*," *GLQ: Gay and Lesbian Journal Quarterly* 16.3 (2010): 340-361. [Weldon Journals]

2. GRAPHIC NOVEL: Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (2006)

Recommended Reading:

Arondekar, Cvetkovich, Hanhardt, Kunzel, Nyong'o, Rodriguez, Stryker, "Queering Archives: A Roundtable Discussion," *Radical History Review*, 122 (2015): 211-231.

Week 5: Monday 5 February*Queer Nostalgia*

1. Svetlana Boym, "Taboo on Nostalgia?," xiii-xix, "The Angel of History: Nostalgia and Modernity," 19-32, in *The Future of Nostalgia* (New York: Basic Books, 2001). [Course Pack]
2. Heather Love, "Introduction" (1-30) in *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007).
Heather Love Interview (2015):
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBMDSaF1o>

Recommended Reading:

Heather Love, "Epilogue: The Politics of Refusal," 146-163.

Week 6: 12 February*Futurity, the Death Drive and Its Critique*

- *1. Lee Edelman, "The Future Is Kid Stuff," *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004), 1-33. [Weldon Online]
Lee Edelman Interview (2015):
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjTDLyKP2p0>
- *2. Andrea Smith, "Queer Theory and Native Studies: The Heteronormativity of Settle Colonialism," *GLQ*, 16.1-2 (2010): 41-68. [Weldon Online]

Week 7: Monday 19-Friday 23 February**READING WEEK**

Please read Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts*

Week 8: Monday 26 February*Times of Transition*

1. Maggie Nelson, *The Argonauts* (Minneapolis: Graywolf Press, 2015)
Maggie Nelson Interview (2017):
URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_PcDssf1g
- *2. Robyn Wiegman, "In the Margins with the Argonauts," *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* 23.1 (2018): 209-213.
- *3. Andrea Fontenot, "Unpacking Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts*," *KCET Cultural Journalism*, Los Angeles, July 13, 2015

Week 9: Monday 4 March*Trans Temporalities*

*1. Atalia Israeli-Nevo, "Taking (My) Time: Temporality in Transition, Queer Delays and Being (in the) Present," *Somatechnics* 7.1 (2017): 34-49.

*2. Trish Salah, "Time Isn't After Us: Some Tiresian Durations," *Somatechnics* 7.1 (2017): 16-33.

Recommended Readings:

*Kadji Amin, "Temporality," *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 1.1-2 (2014): 219-222.

T Fleischmann, *Time Is the Thing a Body Moves Through* (Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2019), 1-30.

Week 10: Monday 11 March*Queer Necropolitics*

*1. Jasbir Puar, "Introduction: Homonationalism and Biopolitics," *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007, 2017), 1-36. [Weldon Online]

*2. Judith Butler, "Precarious Life, Grievable Life," in *Frames of War* (London: Verso, 2010), 1-32. [Weldon Online]

Recommended Readings:

New Yorker Interview with Judith Butler (9 February 2020):

URL: <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-new-yorker-interview/judith-butler-wants-us-to-reshape-our-rage>

Scott Lauria Morgensen, "Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities," *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 16.1-2 (2010): 105-131.

Week 11: Monday 18 March*Challenging White Temporalities*

1. Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (1987)

*2. Jose Esteban Munoz, Introduction to *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* (New York: New York University Press, 2009), 1-18. [Weldon Online]

Week 12: Monday 1 April*Queerness and the Posthuman*

*1. Claire Colebrook, "Feminist Extinction" (7-22), "Difference, Time, and Organic Extinction" (126-136), in *Sex After Life: Essays on Extinction, Vol. 2* (Ann Arbor: Open Humanities Press, 2014). [Weldon Online]

Claire Colebrook Interview with Jessica Caroline, The Brooklyn Rail (September 2016):

URL: https://brooklynrail.org/2016/09/art_books/claire-colebrook-with-jessica-caroline

VIDEO: Janelle Monae, *Dirty Computer* (2018)

Week 13: Monday 8 April
Conference Presentations

Term ends Monday 8 April 2024