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
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, Haudenausaune, 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.”
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

Week 3: Monday 22 January
Challenging Heteronormative Temporalities 2
*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
2. GRAPHIC NOVEL: Alison Bechdel, Fun Home (2006)

Recommended Reading:
Week 5: Monday 5 February

Queer Nostalgia


Heather Love Interview (2015):
URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBMDSaF1o

Recommended Reading:

Week 6: 12 February

Futurity, the Death Drive and Its Critique

Lee Edelman Interview (2015):
URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjTDLyKP2p0


Week 7: Monday 19-Friday 23 February

READING WEEK

Please read Maggie Nelson’s The Argonauts

Week 8: Monday 26 February

Times of Transition

Maggie Nelson Interview (2017):
URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_PcDssfq1g


Week 9: Monday 4 March

Trans Temporalities


Recommended Readings:

Week 10: Monday 11 March

Queer Necropolitics


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

Week 11: Monday 18 March

Challenging White Temporalities

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

Week 12: Monday 1 April

Queerness and the Posthuman

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